

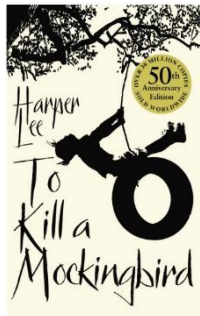
KS4 Reading List

To Kill a Mockingbird

Harper Lee

'Shoot all the bluejays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember it's a sin to kill a mockingbird.'

A lawyer's advice to his children as he defends the real mockingbird - a black man charged with the rape of a white girl. Through the young eyes of Scout and Jem Finch, Harper Lee explores the irrationality of adult attitudes to race and class in the Deep South of the 1930s. The conscience of a town steeped in prejudice, violence and hypocrisy is pricked by the stamina of one man's struggle for justice. But the weight of history will only tolerate so much.



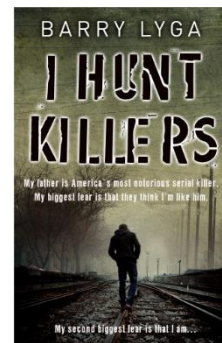
I Hunt Killers

Barry Lyga

You're seventeen years old and your father is the most notorious serial killer America has ever produced.

He brought you up. Taught you everything he knows. Everyone in your ordinary American town knows who you are. So even though Dear Old Dad is safely behind bars, when the killing starts all over again, you are the first person the police come to see...

They don't know whether it's nature or nurture. And neither do you...



Coldest Girl in Coldtown

Holly Black

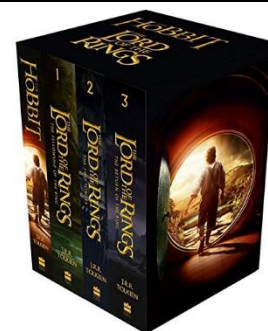
Tana lives in a world where walled cities called Coldtowns exist. In them, quarantined monsters and humans mingle in a decadently bloody mix of predator and prey. It's an eternal party, shown on TV 24 hours a day - gorgeous, glamorous, deadly! Because, once you pass through Coldtown's gates, you can never leave...



The Lord of the Rings/The Hobbit

JRR Tolkien

Immerse yourself in Middle-earth with Tolkien's classic masterpieces behind the films, telling the complete story of Bilbo Baggins and the Hobbits' epic encounters with Gandalf, Gollum, dragons and monsters, in the quest to destroy the One Ring.



The Martian

Andy Weir

I'm stranded on Mars.
I have no way to communicate with Earth.
I'm in a Habitat designed to last 31 days.

If the Oxygenator breaks down, I'll suffocate. If the Water Reclaimer breaks down, I'll die of thirst. If the Hab breaches, I'll just kind of explode. If none of those things happen, I'll eventually run out of food and starve to death.

So yeah. I'm screwed.

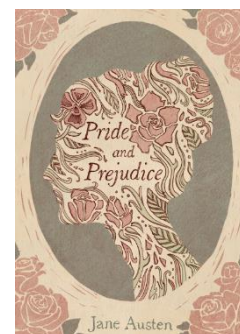


Pride and Prejudice

Jane Austen

Pride and Prejudice, which opens with one of the most famous sentences in English Literature, is an ironic novel of manners. In it the garrulous and empty-headed Mrs Bennet has only one aim - that of finding a good match for each of her five daughters. In this she is mocked by her cynical and indolent husband.

With its wit, its social precision and, above all, its irresistible heroine, Pride and Prejudice has proved one of the most enduringly popular novels in the English language.



The Revenant

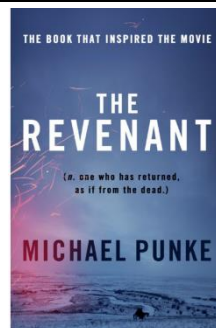
Michael Punke

Hugh Glass isn't afraid to die. He's done it once already.

Rocky Mountains, 1823

When expert tracker Glass is viciously mauled by a bear, death seems inevitable. The two men ordered to remain with him until he dies flee, stripping him of his rifle and hatchet and leaving him to die alone. But soon a grim, horribly scarred figure is seen wandering, asking after two men, one with a gun that seems too good for him...

The Revenant is a remarkable tale of obsession and the lengths that one man will go to for retribution.

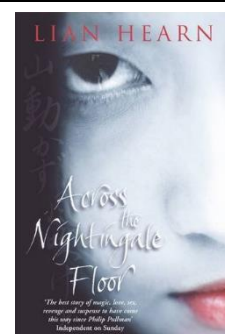


Across the Nightingale Floor

Lian Hearn

In his black-walled fortress at Inuyama, the warlord Iida Sadamu surveys his famous nightingale floor. Constructed with exquisite skill, it sings at the tread of each human foot. No assassin can cross it unheard.

Takeo was born in a remote mountain village among the Hidden, a reclusive and spiritual people who have taught him only the ways of peace. When Takeo's village is pillaged, he is rescued and adopted by the mysterious Lord Otori Shigeru. Under the tutelage of Shigeru, he learns that he possesses the skills of the Tribe. And, with this knowledge, he embarks on a journey that will lead him across the famed nightingale floor—and to his own unimaginable destiny...



What We Left Behind

Robin Talley

What if discovering who you really are means letting go of who you've been? Toni and Gretchen are the couple everyone envied in school. They've been together forever. They never fight. They're hopelessly in love.

When they separate for their first year at college they're sure their relationship will stay rock solid. The reality of being apart, however, is very different. Toni's discovering a new world – and a new gender identity – but Gretchen struggles to remember who she is outside of their relationship. While Toni worries that Gretchen won't understand Toni's shifting identity, Gretchen begins to wonder where she fits in this puzzle. Now they must decide if their love is strong enough to last.



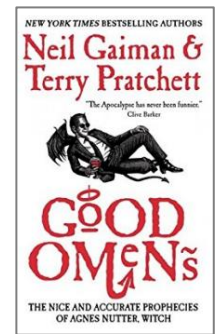
Good Omens

Terry Pratchett/Neil Gaiman

According to The Nice and Accurate Prophecies of Agnes Nutter, Witch (the world's only completely accurate book of prophecies, written in 1655), the world will end on a Saturday. Next Saturday, in fact. Just before dinner.

So the armies of Good and Evil are amassing, Atlantis is rising, frogs are falling, tempers are flaring. Everything appears to be going according to Divine Plan. Except a somewhat fussy angel and a fast-living demon—both of whom have lived amongst Earth's mortals since The Beginning and have grown rather fond of the lifestyle—are not actually looking forward to the coming Rapture.

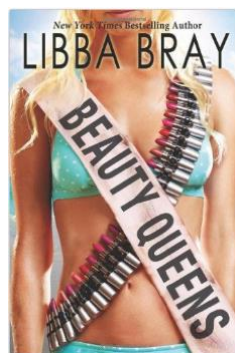
And someone seems to have misplaced the Antichrist...



Beauty Queens

Libba Bray

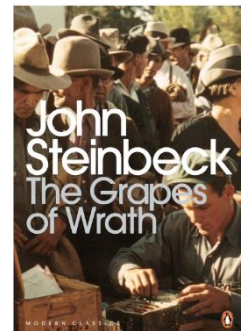
Teen beauty queens. A lost island. Mysteries and dangers. No access to email. And the spirit of fierce, feral competition that lives deep in the heart of every girl, a savage brutality that can only be revealed by a journey into the heart of non-exfoliated darkness. Oh, the horror, the horror! Only funnier. With evening gowns. And a body count.



Grapes of Wrath

John Steinbeck

Shocking and controversial when it was first published, The Grapes of Wrath is Steinbeck's Pulitzer Prize-winning epic of the Joad family, forced to travel west from Dust Bowl era Oklahoma in search of the promised land of California. Their story is one of false hopes, thwarted desires and powerlessness, yet out of their struggle Steinbeck created a drama that is both intensely human and majestic in its scale and moral vision.



Dracula

Bram Stoker

When Jonathan Harker visits Transylvania to help Count Dracula purchase a London house, he makes horrifying discoveries in his castle. Soon afterwards, disturbing incidents unfold: a ship runs aground on the shores of Whitby, its crew vanished; beautiful Lucy Westenra slowly succumbs to a mysterious, wasting illness, her blood drained away; and the lunatic Renfield raves about the imminent arrival of his 'master'.

Bram Stoker created a masterpiece of the horror genre, probing into questions of identity, sanity and the dark corners of Victorian desire.



The Bunker Diaries

Kevin Brooks

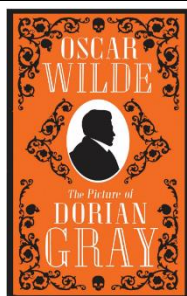
I can't believe I fell for it. It was still dark when I woke up this morning. As soon as my eyes opened I knew where I was. A low-ceilinged rectangular building made entirely of whitewashed concrete. There are six little rooms along the main corridor. There are no windows. No doors. The lift is the only way in or out. What's he going to do to me? What am I going to do? If I'm right, the lift will come down in five minutes. It did. Only this time it wasn't empty...



A Picture of Dorian Gray

Oscar Wilde

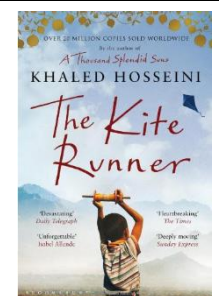
Dorian Gray is having his picture painted by Basil Hallward, who is charmed by his looks. But when Sir Henry Wotton visits, and seduces Dorian into the worship of youthful beauty with an intoxicating speech, Dorian makes a wish he will live to regret: that all the marks of age will now be reflected in the portrait, rather than on Dorian's own face. The stage is now set for a masterful tale about appearance, reality, art, life, truth, fiction and the ultimate burden of conscience.



The Kite Runner

Khaled Hosseini

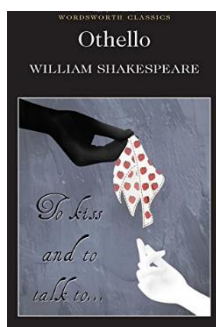
Afghanistan, 1975: Twelve-year-old Amir is desperate to win the local kite-fighting tournament with his loyal friend Hassan. But neither of the boys can foresee what will happen to Hassan that afternoon, an event that is to shatter their lives. After the Russians invade and the family is forced to flee to America, Amir realises that one day he must return to Afghanistan under Taliban rule to find the one thing that his new world cannot grant him: redemption.



Othello

William Shakespeare

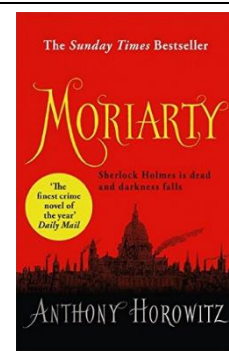
Othello has long been recognised as one of the most powerful of Shakespeare's tragedies. This is an intense drama of love, deception, jealousy and destruction. Desdemona's love for Othello, the Moor, transcends racial prejudice; but the envious Iago conspires to devastate their lives. In its vivid rendering of racism, sexism, contested identities, and the savagery lurking within civilisation, Othello is arguably the most topical and accessible tragedy from Shakespeare's major phase as a dramatist.



Moriarty

Anthony Horowitz

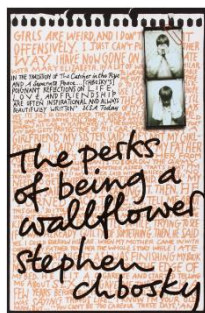
Sherlock Holmes is dead. Days after Holmes and his arch-enemy Moriarty fall to their doom at the Reichenbach Falls, Pinkerton agent Frederick Chase arrives from New York. The death of Moriarty has created a poisonous vacuum which has been swiftly filled by a fiendish new criminal mastermind. The game is afoot ...



The Perks of Being a Wallflower

Stephen Chbosky

Charlie is a freshman. And while he's not the biggest geek in the school, he is by no means popular. Shy, introspective, intelligent beyond his years yet socially awkward, he is a wallflower, caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it. Charlie is attempting to navigate his way through uncharted territory: the world of first dates and mix-tapes, family dramas and new friends; the world of sex, drugs, and The Rocky Horror Picture Show, when all one requires is that perfect song on that perfect drive to feel infinite. But Charlie can't stay on the sideline forever. Standing on the fringes of life offers a unique perspective. But there comes a time to see what it looks like from the dance floor.



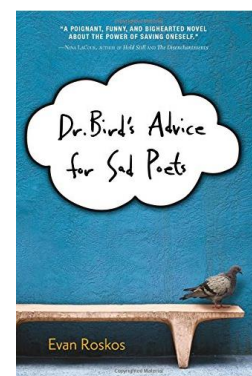
Doctor Bird's Advice for Sad Poets

Evan Roskos

I hate myself but I love Walt Whitman, the kook. Always positive. I need to be more positive, so I wake myself up every morning with a song of myself.

Sixteen-year-old James Whitman has been yawping at his abusive father ever since he kicked his beloved older sister, Jorie, out of the house.

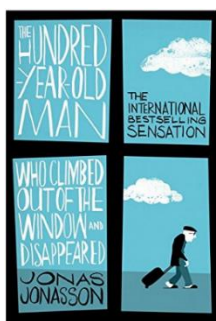
James's painful struggle with anxiety and depression along with his ongoing quest to understand what led to his self-destructive sister's exile make for a heart-rending read, but his wild, exuberant Whitmanization of the world and keen sense of humour keep this emotionally charged debut novel buoyant.



The Hundred Year Old Man Who Jumped Out of the Window and Disappeared.

Jonas Jonasson

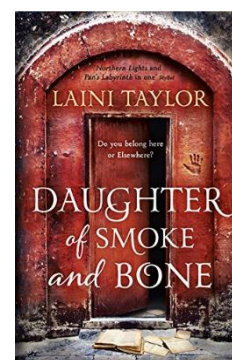
Sitting quietly in his room in an old people's home, Allan Karlsson is waiting for a party he doesn't want to begin. Escaping (in his slippers) through his bedroom window, Allan makes his getaway. And so begins his picaresque and unlikely journey involving criminals, several murders, a suitcase full of cash, and incompetent police. As his escapades unfold, Allan's earlier life is revealed. A life in which - remarkably - he played a key role behind the scenes in some of the momentous events of the twentieth century.



Daughter of Smoke and Bone

Laini Taylor

On the one hand, Karou is a seventeen-year-old art student in Prague; on the other, errand-girl to Brimstone, a monstrous creature who is the closest thing she has to family. Raised half in our world, half in 'Elsewhere', she has never understood Brimstone's dark work - buying teeth from hunters and murderers - nor how she came into his keeping. Now the doors to Elsewhere are closing, and Karou must choose between the safety of her human life and the dangers of a war-ravaged world that may hold the answers she has always sought.

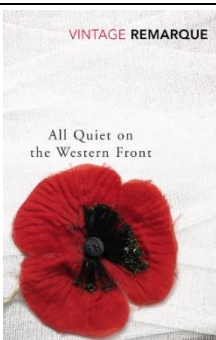


All Quiet on the Western Front

Erich Maria Remarque

One by one the boys begin to fall...

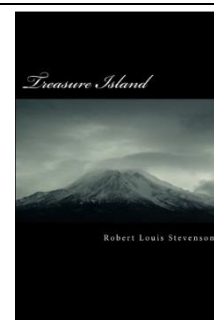
In 1914 a room full of German schoolboys, fresh-faced and idealistic, are goaded by their schoolmaster to troop off to the 'glorious war'. With the fire and patriotism of youth they sign up. What follows is the moving story of a young 'unknown soldier' experiencing the horror and disillusionment of life in the trenches.



Treasure Island

Robert Louis Stevenson

Treasure Island is traditionally considered a coming-of-age story, and is noted for its atmosphere, characters, and action. It is also noted as a wry commentary on the ambiguity of morality-as seen in Long John Silver-unusual for children's literature. It is one of the most frequently dramatized of all novels. Its influence is enormous on popular perceptions of pirates, including such elements as treasure maps marked with an "X", schooners, the Black Spot, tropical islands, and one-legged seamen bearing parrots on their shoulders.

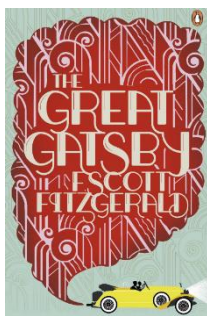


The Great Gatsby

F. Scott Fitzgerald

Generally considered to be F. Scott Fitzgerald's finest novel, *The Great Gatsby* is a consummate summary of the "roaring twenties", and a devastating expose of the "Jazz Age".

Through the narration of Nick Carraway, the reader is taken into the superficially glittering world of the mansions which lined the Long Island shore in the 1920s, to encounter Nick's cousin Daisy, her brash but wealthy husband Tom Buchanan, Jay Gatsby and the mystery that surrounds him.



Asking For It

Louise O'Neil

'A soul-shattering novel that will leave your emotions raw. This story will haunt me forever. Everyone should read it' Guardian
In a small town where everyone knows everyone, Emma O'Donovan is different. She is the special one - beautiful, popular, and powerful. And she works hard to keep it that way. Until that night...

Now, she's an embarrassment. Now, she is nothing. And those pictures - those pictures that everyone has seen - mean she can never forget.



Clockwork Angel

Cassandra Clare

When sixteen-year-old Tessa Gray arrives in England during the reign of Queen Victoria, something terrifying is waiting for her in London's Downworld, where vampires, warlocks and other supernatural folk stalk the gaslit streets. Friendless and hunted, Tessa seeks refuge with the Shadowhunters, a band of warriors dedicated to ridding the world of demons. Drawn ever deeper into their world, she finds herself fascinated by – and torn between – two best friends and quickly realizes that love may be the most dangerous magic of all.



1984

George Orwell

'Who controls the past controls the future: who controls the present controls the past' Hidden away in the Record Department of the sprawling Ministry of Truth, Winston Smith skilfully rewrites the past to suit the needs of the Party. Yet he inwardly rebels against the totalitarian world he lives in, which demands absolute obedience and controls him through the all-seeing telescreens and the watchful eye of Big Brother.

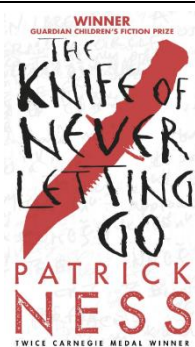
George Orwell's dystopian masterpiece, *Nineteen Eighty-Four* is perhaps the most pervasively influential book of the twentieth century.



The Knife of Never Letting Go

Patrick Ness

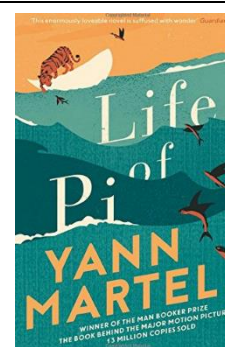
Imagine you're the only boy in a town of men. And you can hear everything they think. And they can hear everything you think. Imagine you don't fit in with their plans... Todd Hewitt is just one month away from the birthday that will make him a man. But his town has been keeping secrets from him. Secrets that are going to force him to run...



The Life of Pi

Yann Martel

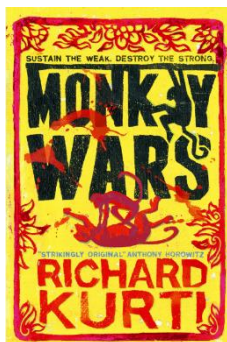
After the tragic sinking of a cargo ship, a solitary lifeboat remains bobbing on the wild, blue Pacific. The only survivors from the wreck are a sixteen year-old boy named Pi, a hyena, a zebra (with a broken leg), a female orang-utan -- and a 450-pound Royal Bengal tiger. The scene is set for one of the most extraordinary and best-loved works of fiction in recent years.



Monkey Wars

Richard Kurti

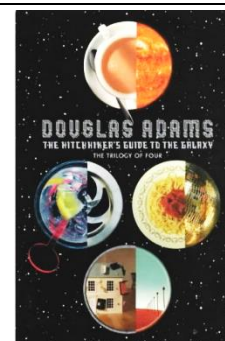
When Rhesus monkeys are brutally massacred on the dusty streets of Kolkata by a troop of power-hungry Langur monkeys, Mico's life is changed for ever. As the young Langur attempts to help the surviving Rhesus, he becomes increasingly entangled in the secrets that lie at the heart of the corrupt Langur leadership. And as more blood is split, Mico begins to realize that choosing between right and wrong will not be as easy as he first thought. Because when monkeys turn on each other, there will be no survivors...



The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy

Douglas Adams

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy: One Thursday lunchtime the Earth gets demolished to make way for a hyperspace bypass. For Arthur, who has just had his house demolished, this is too much. Sadly, the weekend's just begun. The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy: The Trilogy of Four contains the first four parts of the cult classic 'trilogy': *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*, *The Restaurant at the End of the Universe*, *Life, the Universe and Everything*, and *So Long, and Thanks for All the Fish*.



The War of the Worlds

H. G. Wells

The novel is one of the most commented-on works in the science fiction canon. The narrator struggles to return to his wife while seeing the Martians lay waste to the southern country outside London. Book One also imparts the experience of his brother, also unnamed, who describes events as they deteriorate in the capital, forcing him to escape the Martian onslaught.



Side Effects May Vary

Julie Murphy

When sixteen-year-old Alice is diagnosed with leukemia, she vows to spend her final months righting wrongs. So she convinces her best friend to help her with a crazy bucket list that's as much about revenge as it is about hope and sets off a war at school. But just when Alice's scores are settled, she goes into remission, and now she must face the consequences of all she's said and done.



Captain Corelli's Mandolin

Louis de Bernieres

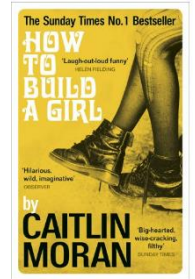
It is 1941 and Captain Antonio Corelli, a young Italian officer, is posted to the Greek island of Cephallonia as part of the occupying forces. At first he is ostracised by the locals, but as a far from fanatical soldier, whose main aim is to have a peaceful war, he proves in time to be civilised, humorous - and a consummate musician. When the local doctor's daughter's letters to her fiancé go unanswered, the eternal triangle seems inevitable. But can this fragile love survive as a savage war gets closer and the lines are drawn between invader and defender?



How to Build a Girl

Caitlin Moran

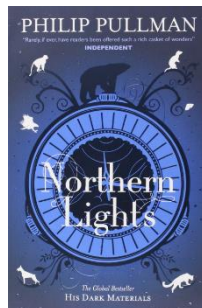
What do you do when you realise what your parents taught you wasn't enough? You must go out and find books and poetry and songs and bad heroes - and build yourself. It's 1990. Johanna, 14, has shamed herself so badly on local TV that she decides that there's no point in being Johanna anymore and reinvents herself as Dolly Wilde. But what happens when Johanna realises she's built Dolly with a fatal flaw? Is a box full of records, a wall full of posters and a head full of paperbacks, enough to build a girl after all?



Northern Lights

Philip Pullman

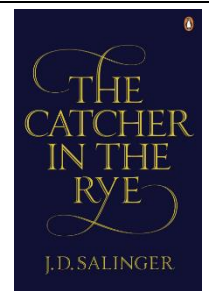
"Without this child, we shall all die." Lyra Belacqua and her animal daemon live half-wild and carefree among scholars of Jordan College, Oxford. The destiny that awaits her will take her to the frozen lands of the Arctic, where witch-clans reign and ice-bears fight. Her extraordinary journey will have immeasurable consequences far beyond her own world...



Catcher in the Rye

D. J. Salinger

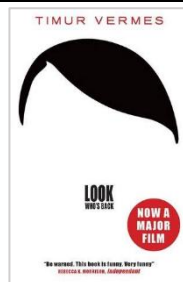
Holden Caulfield is a seventeen-year-old dropout who has just been kicked out of his fourth school. Navigating his way through the challenges of growing up, Holden dissects the 'phony' aspects of society, and the 'phonies' themselves: the headmaster whose affability depends on the wealth of the parents, his roommate who scores with girls using sickly-sweet affection.



Look Who's Back

Timur Vermes

Berlin, Summer 2011. Adolf Hitler wakes up on a patch of open ground, alive and well. Things have changed - no Nazi party, no war. Hitler barely recognises his beloved Fatherland, filled with immigrants and run by a woman. The unthinkable, but inevitable, happens and the ranting Hitler goes viral, becomes a YouTube star and people begin to listen. But the Führer has even greater ambition - to set the country he finds a shambles back to rights.



I'll Give You the Sun

Jandy Nelson

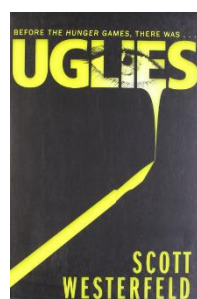
Jude and her twin Noah were incredibly close - until a tragedy drove them apart, and now they barely speak. Then Jude meets a cocky, broken, beautiful boy as well as a captivating new mentor, both of whom may just need her as much as she needs them. What the twins don't realize is that each of them has only half the story and if they can just find their way back to one another, they have a chance to remake their world.



Uglies

Scott Westerfeld

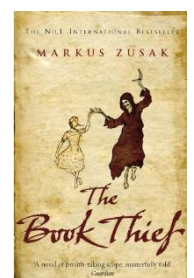
Tally can't wait to turn sixteen and become Pretty. But Tally's new friend, Shay, isn't sure she wants to be Pretty. She'd rather risk life on the outside. When Shay runs away, Tally learns about a whole new side of the Pretty world. The authorities offer Tally the worse choice she can imagine: find her friend and turn her in, or never turn Pretty at all. The choice Tally makes changes her world forever.



The Book Thief

Markus Zusak

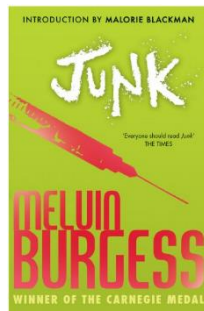
FACT: YOU ARE GOING TO DIE. 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier. Liesel, a nine-year-old girl, is living with a foster family on Himmel Street. Her parents have been taken away to a concentration camp. Liesel steals books. This is her story and the story of the inhabitants of her street when the bombs begin to fall. THIS NOVEL IS NARRATED BY DEATH.



Junk
Melvin Burgess

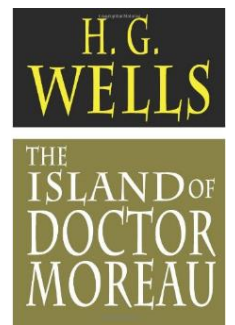
Tar loves Gemma, but Gemma doesn't want to be tied down. She wants to fly. But no one can fly forever. One day, finally, you have to come down. Melvin Burgess' most ambitious and complex novel is a vivid depiction of a group of teenagers in the grip of addiction. Told from multiple viewpoints, Junk is a powerful, unflinching novel about heroin. Once you take a hit, you will never be the same again.

Winner of the Carnegie Medal and the Guardian Children's Fiction Prize.



The Island of Doctor Moreau
H. G. Wells

Adrift in a dinghy, Edward Prendick, the lone shipwreck survivor, is rescued by a vessel carrying a profoundly unusual cargo - a menagerie of savage animals. Tended to recovery by their keeper Montgomery, who gives him dark medicine that tastes of blood, Prendick soon finds himself stranded upon an uncharted island in the Pacific with his rescuer and the beasts. Here, he meets Montgomery's master, the sinister Dr. Moreau - a brilliant scientist whose notorious experiments have caused him to abandon the civilised world.



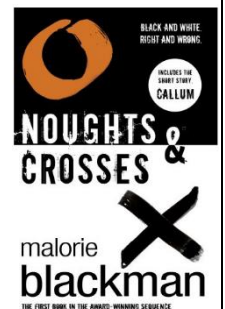
Glory O'Briens History of the Future.
A.S. King

When Glory O'Brien is transformed by a power to see a person's infinite past and future, she's bombarded with visions--and what she sees ahead of her is terrifying: A tyrannical new leader raises an army. Women's rights disappear. A violent second civil war breaks out. And young girls vanish daily, sold off or interned in camps. Glory makes it her mission to record everything she sees, hoping her notes will somehow make a difference. She may not see a future for herself, but she'll do anything to make sure this one doesn't come to pass.



Noughts and Crosses
Malorie Blackman

Sephy is a Cross – a member of the dark-skinned ruling class. Callum is a nought – a 'colourless' member of the underclass who were once slaves to the Crosses. Their society is trying to move towards equality and a limited number of Noughts are allowed into a Cross school. Against a background of prejudice and distrust, intensely highlighted by violent terrorist activity by Noughts, a romance builds between Sephy and Callum – a romance that is to lead both of them into terrible danger.



Heroic
Phil Earle

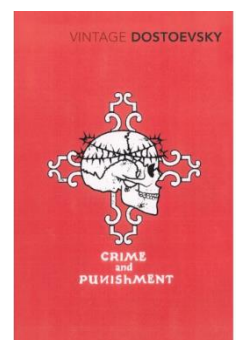
"For the past five weeks I'd prayed that I'd never see my brother's name spelt out in poppies. In the weeks that followed I often wished I had." Jammy and Sonny McGann are brothers, but that's where the similarities end. When Jammy returns from Afghanistan a very different man to the one who left, it's Sonny who is left to hold things together. But just how far will he go to save the brother who always put him first?



Crime and Punishment
Fyodor Dostoevsky

A troubled young man commits the perfect crime - the murder of a vile pawnbroker whom no one will miss. Raskolnikov is desperate for money, but convinces himself that his motive for the murder is to benefit mankind.

So begins one of the greatest novels ever written, a journey into the criminal mind, a police thriller, and a philosophical meditation on morality and redemption.

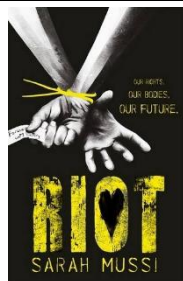


Riot
Sarah Mussi

England 2018, and the recession has brought the country to its knees. The authorities cannot cope. The police are snowed under. The population has maxed out. Something has to give.

The solution: forced sterilisation of all school leavers without secure university plans or guaranteed employment. The country is aghast. But it is all so blatantly unfair - the Teen Haves will procreate, the Teen Havenots won't.

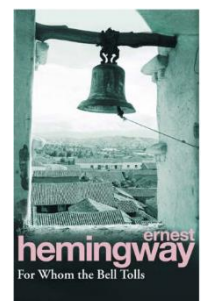
It's time for them to RIOT:
OUR RIGHTS, OUR BODIES, OUR FUTURE.



For Whom The Bell Tolls
Ernest Hemingway

High in the pine forests of the Spanish Sierra, a guerrilla band prepares to blow up a vital bridge. Robert Jordan, a young American volunteer, has been sent to handle the dynamiting. There, in the mountains, he finds the dangers and the intense comradeship of war. And there he discovers Maria, a young woman who has escaped from Franco's rebels.

One of the great novels of the twentieth century, For Whom the Bell Tolls was first published in 1940. It explores the brutality of war, the loss of innocence and the value of human life.



*Some of the books featured are not suitable for younger readers.

*For even more recommendations visit: <http://www.mensaforkids.org/achieve/excellence-in-reading/>