



Recommended Reading List

*"Do not read, as children do, to amuse yourself,
or like the ambitious, for the purpose of
instruction. No, read in order to live." Gustave
Flaubert*

Recommended Reading list – The English Faculty Favourites!

Classics (The real old ones!!)

Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte (passionate love story)

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte (an unlikely romance – strong heroine)

Bleak House by Charles Dickens (packed full of great characters)

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens (Coming of Age story)

Dracula by Bram Stoker (the original vampire novel)

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley (heavy moral message on playing God)

The Yellow Wallpaper by Charlotte Perkins Gilman (first feminist piece of literature)

Emma by Jane Austen (annoying but likeable heroine learns lessons the hard way)

The Woman in White by Wilkie Collins (first detective novel)

Contemporary Classics (Old by your standards but not as old as those above!)

1984 by George Orwell (dystopia fiction at its best)

Lord of the Flies by William Golding (dark exploration of how far kids will go without adults)

To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee (everyone should read it)

Modern Stuff – Adult Fiction

The Book of Lost Things by John Connolly (creepy, modern twist on fairy tales)

The Book Thief Marcus Zusak (moving, unique take on Nazi Germany)

Dissolution by C J Sampson (exciting, historical detective story)

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe (a village leader in Africa faces missionary zeal)

Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (powerful and moving story of a young African girl dealing with an abusive, powerful father)

The Kite Runner by Khalid Hossenni (read it and weep!)

God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy (beautifully written exploration of how the small things we do affect our lives)

Unarranged Marriage by Bali Rai (a young man struggles in 21st Century Britain to follow his cultural expectations)

Young Adult Fiction

Chaos Walking Trilogy by Patrick Ness (tense and truly original adventure)

A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness (a moving portrayal of a young boy dealing with grief)

Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman (a tense and exciting love story with a context of racial division and terrorism)

Uglies by Scott Westerfeld (a dystopian world where beauty is everything)

Delirium by Lauren Oliver (where love is illegal, two teenagers must fight to be together)

The Garbage King by (a thought provoking tale of friendship in the absence of family)

The Book of Dead Days by Marcus Sedgwick (a dark, exciting fantasy)

Heroes by Robert Cormier (the harrowing effects of war on a young couple)

How I live Now by Meg Rosoff (A perfect summer explodes into a million pieces)

The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne (a deeply moving look at one of history's most shameful periods of time)

Tales of the Otori Trilogy by Lian Hearn (beautiful yet violent tales of Samurai set against the romantic backdrop of ancient Japan)

The Shell House by Linda Newbery (a sensitive look at love spanning across two generations – will change the way you think)

Remembrance by Theresa Breslin (the devastating effects of the First World War on a group of teenagers who will never be the same again)

Not the End of the World by Geraldine McCaughrean (a beautifully imagined tale of what happened on Noah's Ark according to the women aboard)

Tamar by Mal Peet (when her grandfather dies, he leaves Tamar with a mysterious box of clues which link the old man to a terrifying life as a Nazi-resistance fighter)

The Other Side of Truth by Beverly Naidoo (a brave and compelling tale of what it really means to be a refugee in the UK)

Pandemonium by Lauren Oliver (what would you do if love was made illegal?)

Butter by Erin Lange (an obese teenager faces the challenge of his life. But will it end in his death?)

Love is a Higher Law by David Levithan (three teenagers try to come to terms with the devastating impact of 9/11)

Every Day by David Levithan (every day A wakes up in a different body but in love with the same girl)

GCSE Texts to be studied in class from September 2015 (Year 10 and 11)

Shakespeare:

All Sets – Macbeth

19th Century Novels:

Sets X1 and X2 – Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

All other sets to do Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson

Modern Novels/Plays

Sets X1 and X2 – Never Let me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro

Sets X3, X4, X5 and Y1 – Pigeon English by Stephen Kelman

Sets Y2, Y3 and Y4 – DNA by Dennis Kelly

And if you're up for a challenge why not join year 9 in:

The Reading Challenge

- A book that has been translated into English
- A book written at least 100 years ago
- A book recommended by your teacher/librarian
- A non-fiction book (e.g. an autobiography, a book about a time in history)
- A genre you don't normally read (e.g. fantasy, mystery, romance)
- A book you can read in a day
- A book written by someone under 25
- An LGBT book
- A book set in the future
- A graphic novel (comics)
- A book with non-human characters
- A book written the year you were born

For your challenge, you must read 12 books within twelve months. You can read the books in any order and choose any books to read during the challenge as long as they fit into one of the 12 categories.

For every book you read, you must sum up quickly what it was all about (a couple of sentences will do!) and give a short review. You can also give each book a star rating to go along with your review!

Once you have beaten the challenge, you can hand your booklet in to the English Office where your booklet will be entered into a prize draw.