



KS3 Reading List



This booklet is full of great books that you might enjoy. Use it to support your studies, not just for English but for all subjects. This is to improve your reading skills or even simply for pleasure. The books have been divided up by genre (the type of book) to help you choose. There are some more challenging reads at the end of the list, picked especially for Year 9. It is by no means an exhaustive list; you will find other books you love. Please recommend your favourites to your friends and teachers!

Action & Adventure

Skellig	David Almond	David Almond's Skellig is about Michael and the mysterious being he finds in the garage of his new house. Together with Mina from across the road they help the creature get stronger and in turn Michael learns to deal with a new school and problems at home.
Hacker	Malorie Blackman	One of Blackman's most popular books. Two computer whizz kids try to prove their father is innocent of bank theft. A gripping read.
Noughts and Crosses		In an alternative world the issues of racism are tackled in a society which has only two types of people: "noughts" and "crosses". This novel is about friendship that goes beyond these barriers. The sequel set a generation later is also an absolute knock out.
Basilisk	NM Browne	A wonderful blend of myths, history and archaeology in this great novel set in the caves of a dark world.
Innocent	Anne Cassidy	Great junior novel from Cassidy, as Charlie tries to prove the innocence of her older brother Brad.
Silverfin	Charlie Higson	The first in a popular new series about James (Young Bond Series) Bond when he was still at school.
Stormbreaker	Anthony Horowitz	The first in a series about Alex Rider, an orphan raised by his uncle who discovers his uncle is – in fact a spy. On top of that, his uncle has been training him up to join him. A must read.
Wind on Fire Trilogy	William Nicholson	Breath-taking trilogy about a society governed by exams. But what happens when you rebel? Read to find out. A truly excellent trilogy.
Hatchet	Gary Paulsen	Thrilling adventure about the survival of a 12-year-old boy after a plane crash. Also has great sequels.
Survival	Chris Ryan	The ultra-tough and realistic novels of Chris Ryan are a must for youngsters seeking excitement and thrills. This "Alpha Force" novel is the start of a gripping new series.
Flash Flood		London is in chaos and anarchy after the collapse of the Thames Barrier! A great page turner.

Holes	Louis Sachar	Very popular novel about a miscarriage of justice that sends Stanley into a juvenile prison and an assignment to dig “holes”. Compulsive reading.
Bootleg	Alex Shearer	Great novel about chocolate being made illegal and the underground resistance movement that forms. Highly original.
The Crush		An obsession with a Boy Band drives Ally to do almost anything to meet the love of her life...

Storm Thief	Chris Wooding	One of the best action fantasies. Fast paced, exciting and in a fantasy world so well-crafted this has to be the first book in a fabulous series!
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Relationships & Conflicts

Airhead	Meg Cabot	The first of a series, centred around a teenage girl who has a brain transplant with a supermodel. It explores the relationship with her family, friends and makes her question what is really important in life.
Mates, Dates	Cathy Hopkins, series	Long running series of Lucy and her friends and their funny experiences of growing up. These are very popular books.
Carwash	Lesley Howarth	Enjoyable story, set in Cornwall, told over a long, hot teenage summer.
Journey to the River Sea	Eva Ibbotson	An orphaned school girl’s journey to South America with her tough-as-old-boots nanny. Already very popular and destined to become a modern classic.
Saffy’s Angel	Hilary McKay	Saffy discovers that she is adopted and goes on a quest to find out who she really is. A wonderful novel exploring friendship and relationships.
How I Live Now	Meg Rosoff	Odd and dreamy novel set in the backdrop of a undisclosed war with an American teenage girl getting to know her family in England. Now regarded as a modern classic.
Stargirl	Jerry Spinelli	Brilliant and brave novel about a teenager daring to be different in an American high school. Highly recommended.
Chinese Cinderella	Adeline Yen Mah	An autobiographical, educational novel following Adeline Yen Mah’s lonely childhood. An extremely eye-opening, interesting read about a young girl growing up in China.

Face	Benjamin Zephaniah	Realistic story of how a boy is disfigured in a car accident and has to start living a new life with his disfigurement.
Classics		
Little Women	Louisa M Alcott	One of the original “coming of age” novels written in by Louisa M Alcott 1868/9 “Little Women” follows the lives, loves and tribulations of four sisters growing up during the American Civil War and is one of the best loved books of all time.
Jonathan Livingston Seagull	Richard Bach	Uplifting story of a young seagull’s bid to live its life as free as possible. A beautifully crafted short read.
Jane Eyre	Charlotte Bronte	Jane falls in love with her rich employer, only to find out he has a dark secret.... A classic novel that has thrilled generations.
A Christmas Carol	Charles Dickens	Read about Ebenezer Scrooge yourself; much better than any film you may have seen of it.
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes	Arthur Conan Doyle	This is a great introduction to detective stories. Many of the best Holmes stories are in this collection.
Charlotte Sometimes	Penelope Farmer	Dream-like novel where Charlotte, whilst sleeping, somehow slips back in time to 1919 and becomes Clare...
King Solomon’s Mines	H Rider Haggard	An exciting yarn about an explorer who was the inspiration for the Indiana Jones films.

I Capture the Castle	Dodie Smith	Great novel of first love, with an eccentric family of sisters living in a dilapidated castle.
Treasure Island	R.L. Stevenson	Sea adventure and the search for lost treasure. The wonderful characters make this as fun as ever.
Adventures of Tom Sawyer & Adventures of Huckleberry Finn	Mark Twain	Adventure, freedom and excitement are in abundance in these two novels set in the American deep south during the great depression. Highly recommended
Walkabout	J. Vance Marshall	In the Australian desert, two children, survivors of an air crash, make their journey across the harsh landscape, aided by an Aboriginal boy on “walkabout”.

War of the Worlds	H.G.Wells	The Martians invade Earth. A ground-breaking science fiction novel.
Fantasy		
Looking Glass Wars	Frank Beddor	Challenging novel which develops the characters from "Alice in Wonderland" creating a whole new fantasy adventure.
The Wish List	Eoin Colfer	Funny novel in which Lowrie has to complete 4 idiotic tasks to get into heaven. By the writer of the Artemis Fowl series.
Sea of Trolls	Nancy Farmer	A sweeping Viking novel with 2 young children being held captive by the evil half-troll king Ivar the Boneless.
Narnia series	CS Lewis	Perhaps the ultimate battle between Good and Evil? Classic tale of children trying to awaken an animal world from eternal winter. 7 books in series.
Shadow of the Minotaur	Alan Gibbons	Computer game virtual reality becomes reality in this compulsive read. Highly recommended.
Eragon & Eldest	Chris Paolini	Wonderful quest first-novel by a 16-year-old author whose main character begins his destiny is to be a Dragon Rider.
His Dark Materials series	Philip Pullman	One of the most brilliant children's trilogies of the last 20 years. Has more surprises, scares and twists that you can cope with!
Mortal Engines	Philip Reeves	Superb fantasy novel where moving cities trawl the globe. Tom and Hester are thrown from their beloved "London" and try to get back on board. A highly original read.
Harry Potter series	J K Rowling	An absolute classic book series involving Harry Potter, an orphan who is told on his eleventh birthday that he is actually a wizard. A must read.

Amulet of Samarkend	Jonathan Stroud	An unforgettable mix of history, fantasy and intrigue in one, the shortest 480 pages you'll ever read! The start of a new trilogy.
Ghosts & Horror		
Dead Gorgeous	Malorie Blackman	After moving to the countryside, Nova befriends a dead boy with too many problems of his own. The only problem for Nova is that the ghost is also very, very cute!

Coraline	Neil Gaiman	Stunning novel about a warped alternative universe hidden behind a door. Very weird and altogether creepy.
Dusk	Susan Gates	Fast paced SF horror novel about the dangers of genetic engineering and mutations.
Red Velvet	Carol Hedges	Nasty things begin to happen to Elly when she finds the skeleton of a dead girl wearing a red dress in an old house.
Breathe: A ghost Story	Cliff McNish	A true ghost story. The kind that says its cold fingers on you grips tight and doesn't let you go under the last pages have been turned. Wonderfully spine chilling.
Witch Child Sorceress	Celia Rees	Interesting read about the daughter of a woman accused of being a witch in 18th century England. Beautifully written and asks many intelligent questions and now followed by a great sequel.
My Swordhand is Singing	Marcus Sedgwick	Chilling vampire tale set in 17th Century Europe, inspired by the original Transylvanian Vampire folk tales. Scary stuff!
The Mirror Image Ghost	Catherine Storr	Now classic suspense horror novel. Wonderfully written with a timeless appeal.
Haunting of Alaizabel Cray:	Chris Wooding	Great atmospheric crossover fantasy novel about two young witch-hunters seeking for a beast that lurks in the sewers of old London. Very exciting and an exceptional read.
Humour		
The Bish Bash Bosh	M E Allen	A group of teenage boys discover a lotion which makes them irresistible to girls. Hilarious chaos follows!
Bindi Babes Bollywood Babes	Narinder Dhani	Hilarious novel about 3 Anglo-Asian sisters who have great fun bossing their dad around until their tough, traditional aunty from India comes to stay. Great sequel also out now.
Dial A Ghost	Eva Ibbotson	Funny story of hiring ghosts to scare people you don't like!
Faking It	Pete Johnson	Funny novel about a 15 year-old who cons everyone into thinking he has a girlfriend and as a result his popularity soars. Written in an amusing diary format.

Johnny Maxwell	Terry Pratchett	(Trilogy): A brilliant trilogy. Johnny has special powers which help him see the world in a slightly different way from other boys.
There's a Boy in the Girls' Bathroom	Louis Sachar	Another highly entertaining (and funny) tale from the writer of Holes. Has much to identify with.
The Magic of Pants	K Poskitt	Offbeat and quirky light read about the colourful history of underwear.
When Mum Threw Out the Telly!	E F Smith	Telly-addict Jeff's life is turned upside down when his mum throws out the TV. But his new life is only just beginning.
Thank you for your Application:	John Kirkbridge	Quite exceptional novel about a would-be writer who works as a typist. Has truly hilarious consequences. Comedy of the highest order and really, really funny.
Georgina Parks series	Louise Rennison	The teenage Bridget Jones! Often hilarious diaries of a confused teenager. This popular series is now into its 5th book.
Tin Grin	Catherine Robinson	Mattie's mum remarries and she has to deal with the nightmare of getting along with her new, computer geek and stepbrother.
Dogs Don't Tell Jokes		Funny novel about a boy who thinks he will be more popular if he enters the school talent show.
Secret Diary of Adrian Mole	Sue Townsend	Classic series of diaries featuring 13-year-old Adrian and his obsession with the lovely Pandora.

Mystery & Thrillers

Dream Travellers	Sherry Ashworth	Children are stalked in their dreams by a mysterious stranger who arrives in their sleepy town.
Angel Factory	Terrance Blacker	A tale of what happens when a curious boy hacks into his father's computer. A really powerful read.
Half Moon Investigations	Eion Colfer	After completing a dodgy online course 10-year-old Fletch reckons he's a fully-fledged detective! Chaos follows in this great thriller.
Millions	F. Cottrell-Boyce	Imagine the scenario: Britain is about to join the Euro, you find 250K and have 10 days to spend it before it becomes obsolete.
Horace	Chris D'Lacey	Funny thriller in which a teenage finds a valuable teddy-bear in a skip. Suddenly, when rich, life becomes much more complicated.

Dark Henge	Catherine Fisher	Mystery. Myth and Magic! This intriguing novel combines sibling rivalry and Celtic mythology. Highly entertaining.
Roman Mysteries	Caroline Lawrence	Multi book series about four amateur child detectives in Ancient Rome. Engaging and historically accurate.
Girl in the Attic	Valerie Mendes	Accessible, spine-chilling ghost/mystery novel set in Cornwall after a family move from the big city.
FleshMarket	Nicola Morgan	Startling thriller set in the dark streets of 19th Century Edinburgh where the body snatchers Burke and Hare Stalk the homeless street urchins.
Butterfly Tattoo	Philip Pullman	The agony of first love inspires this book, but tragedy and violence are soon to follow. For the mature reader.
Ruby in the Smoke		Exceptional mystery yarn, about a girl trying to find out why her father was murdered. Has two sequels with the same characters, which are also excellent.
The Stolen	Alex Shearer	A nail-biting and supernatural tale of old people taking over the bodies of young people. A gripping mystery.
The Lost		Tremendous thriller about the search for a boy who disappeared 2 years previously whilst cycling. As the book develops great clues are thrown in. But beware the many red-herrings!
Tersias	G P Taylor	Bewitching and exciting yarn of the hunt for a boy who has the power to see into the future in 19th Century England.
School Stories		
Chicken	Alan Gibbons	Tough school story, focusing on bullying.
The Chocolate War	Robert Cormier	Stunning and shocking novel about the power of gangs in school and how one small act of defiance starts a chain reaction in the school. Highly recommended for strong readers.
Cuckoos	Roger Green	Powerful novel about the power and cruelty of school bullying that starts with the “whisper”. Highly recommended.
Demon Headmaster	Gillian Cross	Something is wrong at Dinah’s new school. All the pupils act in exactly the same way. Wonderful blend of horror and suspense. Has excellent sequels.

Runaway Teacher	Pete Johnson	What happens when your teacher becomes a friend and not a teacher? Read this short novel to find out.
Turbulent Term of Tyke Tyler	Gene Kemp	Follow the adventures of Tyke Tyler at school and the chaos he causes at home!
The Boy who Lost his Face	Louis Sachar	Very weird novel about a bully seemingly cursed who then begins to see things from the point of view of the bullied. An interesting and challenging read.
Small Steps		Funny loose sequel to Holes with a couple of the minor characters taking centre stage in an amusing get rich scheme that goes wrong.

Science Fiction & Unexplained

Hitchhiker's Guide to Galaxy series	Douglas Adams	A comedic, science fiction series following Arthur Dent who, at the start of the story, is saved by his friend a few seconds before Earth is destroyed.
Pig Heart Boy	Malorie Blackman	Your heart transplant is with a pig! Find out what difference it makes in this gripping read.
Dangerous Dare		Yet another stunning novel from Blackman. Suspense, thrills and scares abound in this entertaining read.
Tripods	John Christopher	Classic series in which giant robots take over the Earth.
Hex Trilogy	Rhiannon Lassiter	Totally believable SF set in the far future about mutant genes that can be passed through computers into people.
The Aldous Lexicon	Michael Lawrence	Imaginative SF yarn with complex alternative realities which cross over into our own world.
Power of Five series	Anthony Horowitz	A fantastic series, following five children who are born with powers. Their destiny is to protect the world.
Floodland	Marcus Sedgwick	Gripping story of global warming and the pockets of survivors who live in the "High Lands" near Norwich.
Time Snatch	Robert Swindells	Superb time travel novel by Swindells. Very exciting.

Sport

Playing on the Edge	Neil Arksey	Great futuristic thriller where football has achieved global domination. A wonderful idea!
MacB		The captain of the football team has an accident. Or is it? Entertainingly dark sporting mystery with a hint of Macbeth!

Scullcrack	Ben Bo	High energy novel about skateboarding.
Divided City	Theresa Breslin	Tough Scottish novel which tackles the religious divide in Glasgow through a look at football.
And Smith Must Score!	Peter Hayden	A humorous tale of football obsession, dating dilemmas, family separation and petty crime.
Women in Sports: 50 Fearless Athletes Who Played to Win	Rachel Ignotofsky	A beautifully illustrated book featuring 50 profiles of prominent female athletes from the 1800s to today. Includes tons of facts.
Fergus MacPhail: the Boy, the Legend	David McRoberts	Wildly entertaining football story of a teenage tear-away and his life at school, and with the girls! Funny stuff.
Shooting Star	Martin Waddell	Interesting novel written by the man who talent spotted a future soccer star.
War		
Carrie's War	Nina Bawden	A wonderful book looking at two evacuees during WWII.
The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas	John Boyne	One of the saddest books I've ever read. Set around the time of the Holocaust. Saying anything else will give it away. Read it!
The Diary of Anne Frank	Anne Frank	Stunning story of bravery during the Second World War. Essential reading.
Private Peaceful	Michael Morpurgo	A wonderful novel focused on Tommo, who is reflecting on his life from the trenches whilst fighting in WWI.
War Horse	Michael Morpurgo	Thought provoking novel of the life of a horse and his thoughts during his numerous battles under different masters.
Boy Soldier	Andy McNab	McNab draws on his own vast SAS experience to write this exciting, part biographical, account of his younger days in the SAS.
Tamar	Matt Peet	Winner of the 2006 Carnegie Medal. Complex mix of time travel, World War 2 and love across time
Against the Day Through the Night	Michael Cronin	Uncannily believable accounts of what might have happened if Germany had successfully invaded the UK during World War 2. Highly recommended.

BAME Authors Reads

<p>Laughter is an Egg (Poetry)</p>	<p>John Agard</p>	<p>Tummy tickling, rib-cracking and even wee-yourself laughs can all be found in the pages of this eggstraordinary collection of poems, riddles, jokes and ballads from the wonderful John Agard.</p>
<p>Crossover</p>	<p>Kwame Alexander</p>	<p>12-year-old Josh and his twin Jordan have basketball in their blood. They're kings of the court, star players for their school team. Their father used to be a champion player and they each want nothing more than to follow in his footsteps. Both on and off the court, there is conflict and hardship which will test Josh's bond with his brother. In this heartfelt novel in verse, the boys find that life doesn't come with a play-book and it's not all about winning.</p>
<p>Artichoke Hearts</p>	<p>Sita Brahmachari</p>	<p>Twelve-year-old Mira comes from a chaotic, artistic and outspoken family where it's not always easy to be heard. As her beloved Nana Josie's health declines, Mira begins to discover the secrets of those around her, and also starts to keep some of her own. She is drawn to mysterious Jide, a boy who is clearly hiding a troubled past and has grown hardened layers - like those of an artichoke - around his heart. As Mira is experiencing grief for the first time, she is also discovering the wondrous and often mystical world around her.</p>
<p>Banghra Babes</p>	<p>Narinder Dhani</p>	<p>Amber, Jazz and Geena have finally secured their auntie's engagement to the gorgeous Mr Arora, but now it's time for a little romance of their own. There's a gorgeous new boy at school called Rocky. He looks divine, loves music and is seriously well-off - his parents have built him his own recording studio. But which of the sisters does he like best? As they vie for his attention, the sisters come up with ever more intricate tricks to outdo each other and catch his attention.</p>
<p>Shine</p>	<p>Candy Gourlay</p>	<p>Rosa suffers from a rare condition that renders her mute. She lives on the strange island of Mirasol where the rain never seems to stop. When she befriends a boy - everything changes. An easier read for those in KS3.</p>
<p>Boy in the Tower</p>	<p>Polly Ho Yen</p>	<p>Ade loves living at the top of a tower block. From his window, he feels like he can see the whole world stretching out beneath him. But what happens when their tower isn't safe?</p>

Jupiter Williams	S I Martin	London 1800. Jupiter is young, black, living at the African Academy in Clapham with other boys from wealthy Sierra Leonean families. His life is a mixture of privilege and dispossession as he copes with the cruelty of his teachers, the rivalries and tensions among his schoolmates, a sense of duty towards his younger brother Robert and guilt over the death of another brother in Africa. Throughout, Jupiter strives to maintain his dignity, his Christian faith and pride in his roots.
Slave Girl	Patricia McKissack	Clotee is a slave in a Virginia plantation. To her, freedom is the greatest word in the world. In the slave quarters, people pray for freedom, or as they call it 'heaven'. But when will it come?
Poetry Jump Up!	Grace Nichols	Dynamic, diverse, lively poetry for children that brings together the voices of black writers from Britain, Africa, America, Asia and the Caribbean, brought together by top British writer and poet Benjamin Zephaniah.
Black and British	David Olusoga	A short, essential introduction to Black British history for readers of 12+ by award-winning historian and broadcaster David Olusoga.
The Boy at the Back of the Class	Onjali Q Rauf	Told with heart and humour, The Boy at the Back of the Class is a child's perspective on the refugee crisis, highlighting the importance of friendship and kindness in a world that doesn't always make sense.
Boy vs Girl	Na'ima B Robert	Farhana swallowed and reached for the hijab. But then she saw with absolute clarity the weird looks from the other girls at school, and the smirks from the guys. Did she dare? And then there was Malik... What should she do about him?
Phoenix	S F Said	Lucky thinks he's an ordinary Human boy. But one night, he dreams that the stars are singing to him, and wakes to find an uncontrollable power rising inside him. Now he's on the run, racing through space, searching for answers.
The Tunnels Below	Nadine Wild-Palmer	On her twelfth birthday, the last thing Cecilia expected was to find herself lost in a labyrinth of tunnels beneath London. Afraid, alone, but determined, she sets to work on her escape, and soon realises that perhaps there is a reason she and the mysterious marble her sister gave her have ended up so far from home.

OLDER READS - especially for Year 9

Junk	Melvin Burgess	Powerful novel about two teenagers whose lives begin to spin out of control when they discover drugs. An all-time great.
The Perks of Being a Wallflower	Stephen Chbosky	Beautiful look at American youth life through the eyes of a very quirky teenager. Musical, touching and lovely to read.
The Chocolate War	Robert Cormier	Stunning and shocking novel about the power of gangs in school. Also highlights how one small act of defiance starts a chain reaction of revolt.
Beyond the Chocolate War		
The Outsiders	SE Hinton	Timeless portrayal of teenage gangs in 1960s New York.
The Long Walk	Stephen King	Grim futuristic tale of a killer race, in which the US Government selects 100 boys to compete. The penalty of stopping is death.
The Long Shot	Katie Kitamura	Brilliant look at a revenge rematch, four years in the making, in the violent world of mixed martial arts between the champ and challenger.
I Am Legend	Richard Matheson	The last man on earth finds he is not alone in this acclaimed novel about vampires, survival and the end of mankind.
The Knife That Killed Me	Anthony McGowan	Stark thriller set in a school rife with bullying, and a boy who is sucked into a gang against his will. A savage and brilliant read.
A Child Called It	David Pelzer	Gruesome account of child abuse in the 1970s and how, Davy, turned his life around, becoming a successful motivational speaker.
God's Own Country	Ross Raisin	A teenage recluse becomes obsessed with the new girl living on the neighbouring farm. Dark, sinister and riveting look at teenage alienation.
The Rookie	Scott Sigler	Inter-Galactic, planet hopping, American football, set 5000 (GFL Series) years in the future, with aliens playing in the same teams as humans.
Earthcore	Scott Sigler	Platinum miners dig deep into the earth and get much more than they bargained for in this vicious, violent, bonkers, horror thriller.
I Am Not A Serial Killer	Dan Wells	Shockingly nasty thriller about a trainee mortician. Now a trilogy.

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings	Maya Angelou	Classic autobiography of a young black girl struggling against the brutal American race discrimination in the 1930s.
Fahrenheit 451	Ray Bradbury	Books are banned in this legendary novel, whilst “firemen” scour the frightened, suppressed, cities for those who hide books.
Looking For JJ	Anne Cassidy	JJ is released from prison, 10 years after killing a friend, and tries to live with her new identity. Truly amazing teenage thriller.
Wolf	Gillian Cross	Brilliant multi-layered family drama about hidden secrets and Cassy’s father – who nobody ever speaks about.
Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time	Mark Haddon	A genuine cult classic. A boy with autism investigates the “murder” of his neighbour’s dog. Funny, original and moving.

Girl Interrupted	Suzanne Kaysen	Autobiographical novel about a young woman in a psychiatric hospital in the late 1960s.
Walkabout	J Vance Marshall	Two abandoned British children try to survive the harsh landscape, of Australia aided by an Aboriginal boy on “walkabout”.
Tomorrow: When the War Began Series	John Marsden	Australia is invaded by an unknown enemy in this stunning, violent, thriller series recently made into a film.
A Beautiful Lie	Irfan Master	An extraordinarily rich debut novel, set in India in 1947 at the time of Partition. Although the backdrop is this key event in Indian history, the novel is even more far-reaching, touching on the importance of tolerance, love and family.
I Capture the Castle	Dodie Smith	Great novel of first love, with an eccentric family of sisters living in a dilapidated castle in pre-war Ireland.
The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie	Muriel Spark	Beautifully crafted short novel about the teacher of a clique of talented girls in the 1930s, in a posh Edinburgh school.
Secret Diary of Adrian Mole	Sue Townsend	Classic series of diaries featuring 13-year-old Adrian and his obsession with the lovely Pandora. Very funny start to a lengthy series.
Crongton Knights	Alex Wheatle	Living on the South Crongton council estate has its worries - and life for McKay has been even tougher since his mum died. His dad has been working all hours to keep the bailiffs from their door. His brother is always out riding the streets at night, tempting trouble. What is going to happen?

The Book Thief	Marcus Zusak	An absolute must. Death takes an interest in an orphaned little girl. This Nazi Germany set novel is seeped deep in humanity and compassion.
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Classics

Tarzan of the Apes	Edgar Rice Burroughs	It's time for a Tarzan revival! A baby boy is left stranded in the African jungle after his parents die and is raised by apes.
Brave New World	Aldous Huxley	Huxley's nightmare vision of the future. A challenging read.
Casino Royale	Ian Fleming	Discover Bond in the first of the classic thriller/spy novels.
Animal Farm	George Orwell	The animals of Manor Farm find the pigs as nasty as the humans. One of the 20th centuries leading political satires.
Frankenstein	Mary Shelley	The fable of the scientist who creates a man-monster, only to see it inflict murder on the human race.
Dracula	Bram Stoker	Classic tale of the Count. Nothing like most of the films made in its name; and far more frightening, creepy and gothic.
War of the Worlds	HG Wells	The Martians invade in this classic invasion story.
Day of the Triffids	John Wyndam	Gripping novel about paranoia and the Earth being invaded by seemingly invincible plants. A great introduction to 1950s SF.

Dealing with Life (and Death)

Before I Die	Jenny Downham	Engrossing look at teenage terminal illness. However, this ultimately uplifting book is a celebration of life, not death.
Bog Child	Siobhan Dowd	Extraordinary, multiple prize winning novel, about an 18 year old boy caught up in the chaos and conflict of Ireland in the 1980s.
Soul Beach Series	Kate Harrison	Strangely hypnotic thriller about a virtual cyber world full of the souls of the dead. Soon Alice begins to look for her dead sister...
And the Stars were Burning Brightly	Danielle Jawando	A heart-wrenching and eye-opening novel. Nathan tries to understand and come to terms with his older brother, Al's, suicide.
Before I Fall	Lauren Oliver	Sam is killed in a car crash on Friday. The next morning, she wakes up only to relive the same day over and over again.

My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece	Annabel Pitcher	Amazing study of loss as a family fails to recover from their loss of a daughter in a suicide bomb and relocate to the North of England.
Coming of Age Novels		
Empire of the Sun	J G Ballard	Ballard's famous autobiographical novel about his teenage years in Shanghai during World War 2 after losing his parents.
What I Saw and How I Lied	Judy Blundell	Set in 1940s USA, written in movie-noir style, this original coming of age tale, about falling for the wrong guy is a treat on every level.
Candy	Kevin Brooks	Making random friends with attractive girls at Kings Cross can be dangerous, especially when they're prostitutes.
15 Days Without A Head	Dave Cousins	Story of a 15-year-old boy struggling to keep his family together, through tragedy and events that are mixed with new love and kinship.
Just Like Tomorrow	Faiza Guena	Stunning French novel, in the style of the Bridget Jones Diaries, set in the multicultural, melting-pot, high-rises of working class Paris.
An Abundance of Katherines	John Green	Colin has had 19 girlfriends, all named "Katherine", whilst on a road-trip he decides to try and change his messed up life for the better.
13 Little Blue Envelopes	Maureen Johnson	Ginny is left a series of instructions in follow, in 13 steps, from a dead aunty to claim an inheritance. Quirky, amusing and life affirming.
Everybody Jam	Ali Lewis	Wonderful coming-of-age story set in the Australian Outback.
Amy & Roger's Epic Detour	Morgan Matson	Two teens go on a road-trip across America. Funny, moving, cute and most of all a book that'll give you a really warm feeling!
To Kill a Mockingbird	Harper Lee	Classic look at childhood and growing up in the deep South of America in the 50s, with racism and segregation the back-drop.
How I Live Now	Meg Rosoff	An odd and dreamy novel set in the back-drop of a undisclosed war with an American girl stranded with her English in-laws.
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian	Alexie Sherman	Really funny tale of a half-native American-Indian boy trying to integrate into an American high school. Moving and dark.

Chameleon	Charles R Smith	Great coming of age novel in modern day LA: girls, gangs, basketball. All help shape Shaun's future in this entertaining and fresh read.
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