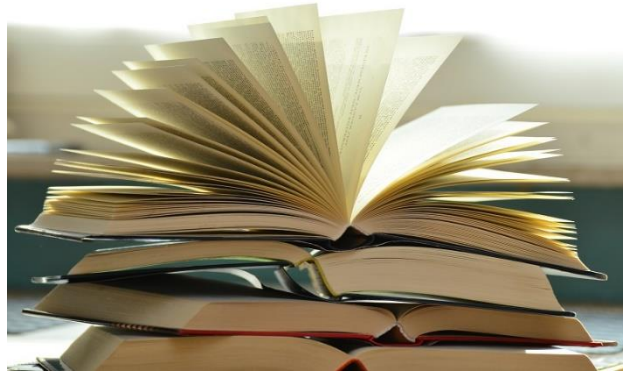




# KS4 Reading List



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. As the GCSE syllabus is more demanding than ever, with you needing to be able to engage with a wide range of challenging texts from the 19th to the 21st century, we would recommend you trying at least one of the novels in our classics section. It is by no means an exhaustive list; you will find other books you love. Please recommend your favourites to your friends and teachers!



## Classics

Emma; Mansfield Park; Northanger Abbey; Persuasion; Pride and Prejudice*; Sense and Sensibility	Jane Austen	Jane Austen provides us with timeless love stories that have been adapted into various films and television series. These are must-reads for any aspiring literature student.
Jane Eyre*; Shirley; Villette	Charlotte Bronte	Beautifully written, classic novels that have thrilled generations.
Wuthering Heights	Emily Bronte	A true classic set on the Yorkshire Moors, focussed on the love between Heathcliff and Cathy.
The Moonstone; The Woman in White	Wilkie Collins	Both The Moonstone and The Woman in White are modern examples of the detective novel. They are timeless classics.
Heart of Darkness; Lord Jim.	Joseph Conrad	Considered one of the greatest novelists of all time, Joseph Conrad's novels generally include a nautical setting and provide an insight to Imperialism and racism in the early 1900s.
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes; Casebook of Sherlock Holmes; Red-headed League; Sign of Four; Speckled Band	Arthur Conan Doyle	A variety of classic detective fiction, these are must-reads for anyone interested in Sherlock Holmes.
Adam Bede; Middlemarch; Mill on the Floss; Silas Marner*	George Eliot	A variety of novels written by Mary Ann Evans who published under the pen name George Eliot, in order to escape the stereotypes surrounding female authors. Fantastic reads, all highlighting a variety of social issues occurring at the time.
Howard's End; Maurice; Passage to India; Room With a View; Where Angels Fear to Tread	E. M. Forster	Most of E.M. Forster's novels examine class difference and the issues surrounding this. These are beautifully crafted novels and are absolute classics.

Far from the Madding Crowd; Jude the Obscure; Mayor of Casterbridge; Tess of the d'Urbervilles	Thomas Hardy	Must-reads. Many of Hardy's novels concern tragic characters who struggle against social circumstances, which reflect Hardy's disapproval of society at the time.
Frankenstein	Mary Shelley	Victor <b>Frankenstein</b> is a scientist obsessed with generating life from lifeless matter.
Treasure Island; Dr. The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*.	Robert Louis Stevenson	Two must-read classics. Treasure Island focuses on piracy and adventure, whereas the Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde focuses on the fall of a brilliant doctor who meddles too far with Science. Both are compelling, brilliant, challenging reads.
The Picture of Dorian Gray	Oscar Wilde	A gothic and philosophical novel, centred around a fashionable young man who sells his soul for eternal youth.
<b>Modern Classics/Contemporary Reads</b>		
Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolfe?	Edward Albe	A classic play focussing on the complexities of a married, middle-aged couple.
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.
Empire of the Sun	J.G. Ballard	This is the extraordinary account of a boy's life in Japanese-occupied wartime Shanghai – a mesmerising and compelling novel of War.
A Gathering Light	Jennifer Donnelly	A part murder-mystery, part coming-of-age story, A Gathering Light was published to widespread acclaim.
Lord of the Flies	William Golding	A plane crashes on a desert island and the only survivors are a group of schoolboys. This story describes how these boys learn to survive. A classic.

<b>Catch 22</b>	Joseph Heller	Set in the closing months of World War II, this is the story of a bombardier named Yossarian who is frantic and furious because thousands of people he has never met are trying to kill him.
<b>Brave New World</b>	Aldous Huxley	Discover the brave new world of Aldous Huxley's classic novel, written in 1932, which prophesied a society which expects maximum pleasure and accepts complete surveillance - no matter what the cost.
<b>Metamorphosis</b>	Franz Kafka	A strange, shocking book which tells the story of salesman who wakes one morning to find himself inexplicably transformed into a huge insect and how he adapts to his new condition.
<b>To Kill a Mockingbird</b>	Harper Lee	Harper Lee's classic novel tells the story through the eyes of a child, Scout. A black man is charged with the rape of a white girl and her father is the lawyer defending him. A story highlighting the race and class issues in 1930 America.
<b>Wolf Hall</b>	Hilary Mantel	Wolf Hall is that very rare thing: a truly great English novel exploring the intersection of individual psychology and wider politics. It peels back history to show us Tudor England as a half-made society, moulding itself with great passion and suffering and courage.
<b>Life of Pi</b>	Yann Martel	One boy, one boat, one tiger . . .  After the tragic sinking of a cargo ship, a solitary lifeboat remains bobbing on the wild, blue Pacific. The only survivors are Pi, a hyena, a zebra, an orangutan and a tiger.
<b>A Long Walk to Freedom</b>	Nelson Mandela	A thought-provoking and emotive autobiography which chronicles the first part of Mandela's life.
<b>Atonement</b>	Ian McEwan	On the hottest day of the summer of 1935, thirteen-year-old Briony Tallis commits a crime for which she will spend the rest of her life trying to atone. Contains adult themes.

<b>Rebecca</b>	Daphne Du Maurier	The young, unnamed narrator falls in love with Maxim Du Winter, an older man who lost his first wife in a tragic accident. However, not all is as it seems, in this fantastic, beautiful novel...
<b>Animal Farm; 1984</b>	George Orwell	Two classics, George Orwell uses his novels to explore various issues in society. Animal Farm is an allegorical novella reflecting events leading up to the Russian Revolution of 1917 and then on to the Stalinist era of the Soviet Union, whereas 1984 centres on the consequence of totalitarianism and mass surveillance in society. Must-reads.
<b>All Quiet on the Western Front</b>	Erich Maria Remarque	The moving story of a young 'unknown soldier' experiencing the horror and disillusionment of life in the trenches.
<b>The Catcher in the Rye</b>	J D Salinger	Holden Caulfield is a seventeen-year old dropout who has just been kicked out of his fourth school, telling us the story of his disaffected youth.
<b>Of Mice and Men*; The Pearl</b>	John Steinbeck	Must reads. Steinbeck uses his writing to highlight various problems in society.
<b>The Hobbit; Lord of the Rings</b>	J.R.R Tolkien	Epic, high fantasy novels set in Middle-Earth. Bilbo and Frodo Baggins both encounter a ring that changes their lives forever.
<b>Time Machine</b>	H.G.Wells	SF novel about time travel and the possible consequences.
<b>The Book Thief</b>	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.

## Modern/Current Issues

<b>Tell Me No Lies</b>	Malorie Blackman	A novel focussing on two children who have been hurt by their past and are now inextricably linked. Their effect on each other's lives will be explosive.
<b>Road of the Dead</b>	Kevin Brooks	Nasty and edgy thriller about two teenage boys out to avenge the death of their murdered sister. A grim and challenging read.
<b>The Hate List</b>	Jennifer Brown	Valerie is implicated in the aftermath of a school shooting, as she helped her dead boyfriend compile the "Hate List" of murders.
<b>The Perks of Being a Wallflower</b>	Stephen Chbosky	A beautiful look at American youth life through the eyes of a very quirky teenager. Musical, touching and lovely to read.
<b>Stolen: A Letter to My Captor</b>	Lucy Christopher	Gripping story of a girl snatched at an airport and taken to a new life in an unknown desert country.
<b>Skin; Tales of the Unexpected</b>	Roald Dahl	Various macabre short stories told by Roald Dahl.
<b>The Fault in Our Stars</b>	John Green	A beautiful, painful, thought-provoking novel based on Hazel, a teenager living with stage-four metastatic cancer. Wonderful.
<b>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*</b>	Mark Haddon	A genuine cult classic. A boy with autism investigates the "murder" of his neighbour's dog. Funny, original and moving.
<b>I am David</b>	Anne Holm	The story of a young boy who, with the help of a prison guard, escapes from a concentration camp.
<b>Vernon God Little</b>	D B C Pierre	The Booker Prize winning novel regarding Vernon Little, who is implicated in a school shooting despite the fact he had an alibi.

<b>Nowhere to Run; Out of the Blue; Secrets</b>	Sue Welford	A variety of novels examining the difficulties some teenagers may face – including peer pressure, pregnancy, bullying, the difficulty of making friends and anorexia (to name a few).
<b>Anita and Me*</b>	Meera Syal	A semi-autobiographical novel based on Syal's childhood, focussing on her growing up with Anita, her best friend, in a mining village in Staffordshire.
<b>BAME Authors Reads</b>		
<b>Ipods in Accra</b>	Sophie Acheampong	Makeeda's plans for the summer holidays are falling apart! Her parents suddenly announce that the family is going on a trip to visit their relatives in Ghana - and then she splits up with her boyfriend Nelson. Can things get any worse?
<b>Things fall Apart</b>	Chinua Achebe	A worldwide bestseller and the first part of Achebe's African Trilogy, <i>Things Fall Apart</i> is the compelling story of one man's battle to protect his community against the forces of change.
<b>Purple Hibiscus</b>	Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche	When Nigeria is shaken by a military coup, Kambili's father, involved mysteriously in the political crisis, sends her to live with her aunt. In this house, noisy and full of laughter, she discovers life and love – and a terrible, bruising secret deep within her family.
<b>I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings</b>	Maya Angelou	A 1969 autobiography describing the early years of American writer and poet Maya Angelou. The first in a seven-volume series, it is a coming-of-age story that illustrates how strength of character and a love of literature can help overcome racism and trauma.
<b>Heart-Shaped Bruise</b>	Tanya Byrne	A story focusing on a teenager called Emily. It is compelling, brutal and heart-breaking. Focused on identity, infamy and revenge, from debut author Tanya Byrne.
<b>Fasting &amp; Feasting</b>	Anita Desai	Uma, the plain, spinster daughter of a close-knit Indian family, is trapped at home, smothered by her overbearing parents and their traditions, unlike her ambitious younger sister Aruna, who brings off a 'good' marriage, and brother Arun, the disappointing son and heir who is studying in America.

<b>The Invisible Man</b>	Ralph Ellison	Published in 1952 when American society was in the cusp of immense change, the powerfully depicted adventures of Ellison's invisible man - from his expulsion from a Southern college to a terrifying Harlem race riot - go far beyond the story of one individual to give voice to the experience of an entire generation of black Americans.
<b>The Wheel of Surya</b>	Jamila Gavin	India, August 1947: Fleeing from their burnt-out village as civil war rages in the Punjab, Marvinder and Jaspal are separated from their mother, Jhoti. Marvinder has already saved her brother's life once, but now they both face a daily fight for survival.
<b>The Reluctant Fundamentalist</b>	Moshin Hamid	<i>'Excuse me, sir, but may I be of assistance? Ah, I see I have alarmed you. Do not be frightened by my beard. I am a lover of America . . . '</i>  So speaks the mysterious stranger at a Lahore cafe as dusk settles. Invited to join him for tea, you learn his name and what led this speaker of immaculate English to seek you out.
<b>Their Eyes were Watching God</b>	Zora Neale Hurston	When sixteen-year-old Janie is caught kissing shiftless Johnny Taylor, her grandmother swiftly marries her off to an old man with sixty acres.
<b>Sawbones</b>	Catherine Johnson	Sixteen-year-old Ezra McAdam has much to be thankful for: trained up as an apprentice by a well-regarded London surgeon, Ezra's knowledge of human anatomy and skill at the dissection table will secure him a trade for life. However, his world is turned on its head when a failed break-in at his master's house sets off a strange and disturbing series of events that involves grave robbing, body switching ... and murder.
<b>Orange Boy</b>	Patrice Lawrence	Sixteen-year-old Marlon has made his mum a promise - he'll never follow his big brother, Andre, down the wrong path. So far, it's been easy, but when a date ends in tragedy, Marlon finds himself hunted. They're after the mysterious Mr Orange, and they're going to use Marlon to get to him.



<b>The Inquisition</b>	Taran Matharu	On trial for a crime he did not commit, Fletcher must face the Inquisition who will decide his future - the process is gruelling, led by those who will do anything to see him suffer and haunted by ghosts from the past with clues to Fletcher's tragic origins.
<b>A Fine Balance</b>	Rohinton Mistry	India, 1975. An unnamed city by the sea. The government has just declared a State of Emergency. Amidst a backdrop of wild political turmoil, the lives of four unlikely strangers collide forever.
<b>Bluest Eye</b>	Toni Morrison	Unlovely and unloved, Pecola prays each night for blue eyes like those of her privileged white schoolfellows. At once intimate and expansive, unsparing in its truth-telling, <i>The Bluest Eye</i> shows how the past savagely defines the present.
<b>The Painter of Signs</b>	R K Narayan	In this wry, funny, bittersweet story, love gets in the way of progress when Raman, a sign painter, meets the thrillingly independent Daisy, who wishes to bring birth control to the city of Malgudi.
<b>12 Years a Slave (The Memoir)</b>	Solomon Northup	Solomon Northup was born a free man in New York State. At the age of 33 he was kidnapped in Washington D.C. and placed in an underground slave pen. Northup was transported by ship to New Orleans where he was sold into slavery. He spent the next 12 years working as a carpenter, driver, and cotton picker. This narrative reveals how Northup survived the harsh conditions of slavery, including smallpox, lashings, and an attempted hanging.
<b>The Icarus Girl</b>	Helen Oyeyemi	Jessamy Harrison is eight years old. Sensitive, whimsical, possessed of a powerful imagination, she spends hours writing, reading or simply hiding in the dark warmth of the airing cupboard. As the half-and-half child of an English father and a Nigerian mother, Jess just can't shake off the feeling of being alone wherever she goes.
<b>Guantanamo Boy</b>	Anna Perera	Khalid, a fifteen-year-old Muslim boy from Rochdale, is abducted from Pakistan while on holiday with his family. He is taken to Guantanamo Bay and held without charge, where his hopes and dreams are crushed under the cruellest of circumstances. An innocent denied his freedom at a time when Western boys are finding theirs, Khalid tries and fails to understand what's happening to him and cannot fail to be a changed young man.

<b>(Un)arranged Marriage</b>	Bali Rai	Set partly in the UK and partly in the Punjab region of India, this is a fresh, bitingly perceptive and totally up-to-the-minute look at one young man's fight to free himself from family expectations and to be himself, free to dance to his own tune.
<b>A Suitable Boy</b>	Vikram Seth	A modern classic, this epic tale of families, romance and political intrigue, set in India, never loses its power to delight and enchant readers.
<b>Burnt Shadows</b>	Kamila Shamsie	In a prison cell in the US, a man stands trembling, naked, fearfully waiting to be shipped to Guantanamo Bay. How did it come to this? he wonders.
<b>The Joy Luck Club</b>	Amy Tan	In 1949 four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, meet weekly to play mahjong and tell stories of what they left behind in China. United in loss and new hope for their daughters' futures, they call themselves the Joy Luck Club.
<b>Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry</b>	Mildred D Taylor	<i>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry</i> is the classic story of a girl growing up in the deep South. Set in Mississippi at the height of the American Depression, this is the story of a family's struggle to maintain their integrity, pride and independence against the forces of a cruelly racist society.
<b>The Hate You Give</b>	Angie Thomas	Sixteen-year-old Starr lives in two worlds: the poor neighbourhood where she was born and raised and her posh high school in the suburbs. The uneasy balance between them is shattered when Starr is the only witness to the fatal shooting of her unarmed best friend, Khalil, by a police officer. Now what Starr says could destroy her community. It could also get her killed.
<b>The Colour Purple</b>	Alice Walker	Set in the deep American South between the wars, this is the classic tale of Celie, a young black girl born into poverty and segregation. Raped repeatedly by the man she calls 'father', she has two children taken away from her, is separated from her beloved sister Nettie and is trapped into an ugly marriage.

<b>Gangsta Rap</b>	Benjamin Zephaniah	Just what do you do with talent from the wrong side of town? Benjamin Zephaniah draws on his own experiences with school and the music business to create a novel that speaks with passion and immediacy about the rap scene.
<b>Science Fiction/Fantasy</b>		
<b>Jurassic Park</b>	Michael Crichton	A cautionary tale about genetic engineering, this novel presents the chaos that surrounds a potentially ground-breaking amusement park.
<b>Neverwhere</b>	Neil Gaiman	Under the streets of London there's a world most people could never even dream of. Richard Mayhew is a young businessman who is about to discover this.
<b>Sleepwalking</b>	Nicola Morgan	Hypnotic and challenging novel about a people dominated by a huge psychic presence which controls their minds.
<b>Twilight series</b>	Stephenie Meyer	A well-known book series revolving around Bella Swan who meets the handsome Edward Cullen – who might not be what he first seems...
<b>The Knife of Never Letting Go</b>	Patrick Ness	Todd Hewitt is the only boy in a town of men. Ever since the settlers were infected with the Noise germ, Todd can hear everything the men think, and they hear everything he thinks.
<b>Humour</b>		
<b>Does my Head Look Big in This?</b>	Randa Abdel-Fattah	Amal is a 16-year-old Melbourne teen with all the usual obsessions about boys, chocolate and Cosmo magazine. She's also a Muslim, struggling to honour the Islamic faith in a society that doesn't understand it. The story of her decision to 'shawl up' and its anxieties (like how much eyeliner to wear) is funny, surprising and touching.
<b>I was a Teenage Worrier</b>	Ros Asquith	Letty Chubb is 15 and a mine of information about all things teenage. Her hilariously perceptive guide covers everything and anything teenage worriers need to know - spots, diets, parents, love, clothes, contraception and lots more...

<b>Zombie Bums from Uranus</b>	Andy Griffiths	Hypnotic and challenging novel about a people dominated by a huge psychic presence which controls their minds.
<b>Bridget Jones Diary</b>	Helen Fielding	As Bridget documents her struggles through the social minefield of her thirties and tries to weigh up the eternal question (Daniel Cleaver or Mark Darcy?), she turns for support to four indispensable friends: Shazzer, Jude, Tom and a bottle of chardonnay.
<b>A New Diary of a Teenage Health Freak</b>	Aidan MacFarlane	A hilariously funny but basically serious health education text'. This book is intended for teenagers, parents, teachers.
<b>Crime/Thriller</b>		
<b>Various</b>	Agatha Christie	After writing 80 detective novels, Agatha Christie has sold over two billion copies worldwide. This is for good reason; they are all masterpieces. Death on the Nile, And Then There Were None and Murder on the Orient Express may be a good starting point for those who can't choose!
<b>Various</b>	Tom Clancy	Tom Clancy provides a variety of thriller novels for anyone interested in action, crime and adventure. Some of his novels have also been created into video games.
<b>A Good Girl's Guide to Murder</b>	Holly Jackson	A debut Young Adult crime thriller. Pippa, a curious teenager, decides to investigate a murder that had been 'solved' five years previously. As predicted, nothing is quite as it seems...
<b>Traitor's Kiss; Rat Run</b>	Gerald Seymour	Both books explore the lives and problems intelligence officers face. A page turner - especially for anyone interested in the army/MI6.
<b>Various</b>	Robin Stevens	Robin Stevens' has written a variety of crime novels aimed for teenagers: a great start and easier read for anyone interested in crime.

## Travel

Lost Continent; Neither Here Nor There; Notes from a Small Island	Bill Bryson	Wonderful books for anyone interested in travel.
One Hit Wonderland; Playing the Moldovans at Tennis; Round Ireland with a Fridge	Tony Hawks	Various novels all centred around travel or different cultures, these are easy-going, hilarious reads!
Beat Route	Jools Holland	Perfect for any travel or music enthusiast, this book tells the story of Jools Holland and his travels to various cities around the world to play music with local musicians. It also provides an insight to their cultures.
Pole to Pole; Full Circle	Michael Palin	Both books tell the story of Michael Palin's journeys across the world. Travelling by train, truck, raft, Ski-Doo, barge, balloon and bicycle, Michael Palin experiences every extreme the world has to offer.
Coast to Coast	Janet Street-Porter	From Dungeness on England's south coast to Conwy in North Wales, Janet Street-Porter sets out on a lively and entertaining marathon journey of over 500 miles. Walking from coast to coast and climbing over 65,000 feet in the process, she travels through the UK.

## Sports Fiction

The Young Champion's Mind: How to Think, Train and Thrive Like an Elite Athlete	Jim Afremow, Ph.D.	Afremow offers a wide range of advice, specifically tailored to teen athletes. It's an actionable guide to getting in a healthy mind set, reframing your goals, and enjoying your sport.
Blacktop series	LJ Alonge	This series contains four short novels, each featuring a different member of a basketball team in Oakland, California. A short, realistic read.

<b>Tumbling</b>	Caela Carter	Told from the point of view of five Olympic gymnasts, this novel shines a light on the challenges of women's gymnastics.
<b>Running Full Tilt</b>	Michael Currinder	When his family is forced to relocate due to his older brother's violent outbursts, Leo joins the track team and discovers a talent for cross-country running.
<b>Taking Flight: From War Orphan to Star Ballerina</b>	Michael DePrince and Elaine DePrince	From an orphanage in Sierra Leone to a stage in America. This is the memoir of Michaela DePrince and her rise to ballet stardom. A true story of perseverance and rising above the odds.
<b>Women in Sports: 50 Fearless Athletes Who Played to Win</b>	Rachel Ignotofsky	A beautifully illustrated book featuring 50 profiles of prominent female athletes from the 1800s to today. Includes tons of facts.
<b>Harry Kane: The Biography</b>	Frank Worrall	The story of the local kid, born five miles down the road from White Hart Lane stadium, who became the hero Tottenham and England greatly needed, stepping out of the suburbs and into the limelight.

\*Books that are included in the KS4 English Curriculum, or the Eduqas GCSE English Literature exam.