

Year 10 – 11 Long English Reading List 2009 onwards

Reading levels:

KS3 Easy quick read (reading ages 10–14)

KS4 GCSE level or adult lighter reads (reading ages 13–15)

KS 4/5 Studied at both GCSE and A level.

KS5 A level standard More challenging literary works, which may demand concentration

Interest levels:

9 = many year 9s read and enjoy these titles, as well as older readers

10=young adults start to enjoy these titles when in year 10 and upwards. Some year 9s might like to try them for a challenge.

11= adult literature which most 16 year olds have enjoyed.

Additional resources are listed at the end of the list.

Dannie Abse

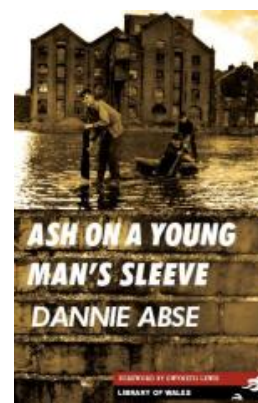
Year 10 + KS5

<http://www.dannieabse.com/>

Ash on a Young Man's Sleeve

Youth

Public and private themes are interwoven so that the fortunes of a Jewish family in Wales are set against the troubled backcloth of the times – unemployment, the rise of Hitler and Mussolini and the Spanish Civil War.



Chinua Achebe

Year 10+ KS4

<http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/achebe.htm>

Things Fall Apart

Environment

Okonkwo, a man of the Ibo tribe in Nigeria at the end of the last century, is a person of substance, character and promise, but he and his people are doomed to be destroyed – both from within the tribe and by the arrival of the white man.

Read On Giles Foden, V. S. Naipaul, Ben Okri

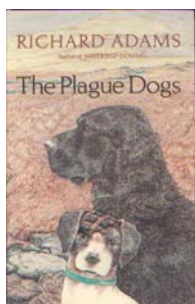
Douglas Adams (see year 7–8 reading list)

Richard Adams

Year 9 + KS4

Plague Dogs

Animal experimentation



Not for the faint hearted: animals escape from the lab, with a variety of abilities. Raises various issues around survival, politics, science..

Read on: William Horwood, Joyce Stranger, Henry Williamson



Peter Ackroyd

Year 10+ KS5

www.contemporarywriters.com/authors/?p=auth148 - 49k

Hawksmoor

Historical Crime/London

When a series of child murders start taking place, it takes time to unlock the link between seven churches in London's east end and their architect: one Nicholas Hawksmoor. Has a few similarities with "The Da Vinci Code"

Read on: [Iain Sinclair](#), [Rose Tremain](#), [Jeanette Winterson](#)

Adams, Douglas

9 + KS3

Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy

Science Fiction/Humour

Starring Marvin the depressed robot, and a towel.

Starting as a radio series, this has been turned into a novel, a film, a computer game and a TV series.

Read on: [Neil Gaiman](#), [Tom Holt](#), [Terry Pratchett](#), [Robert Rankin](#)

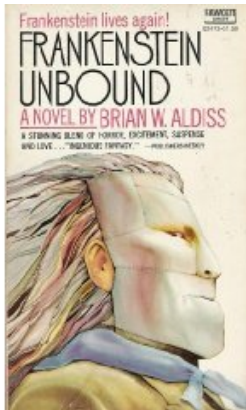
Brian Aldiss

10+ KS4

www.brianwaldiss.org

Frankenstein Unbound

Science Fiction



A time traveller from 2020 meets Frankenstein.

Aldiss's science fiction specialises in biological speculation, especially plants in space ships. It encompasses dystopic worlds where scientists dreams turn into nightmares.

FILMLINK: [A.I.](#) was loosely based on a Brian Aldiss short story

Read on: [Robert Heinlein](#), [Kurt Vonnegut](#), [John Wyndham](#)



Margery Allingham

10+ KS4

<http://www.margeryallingham.org.uk/> - useful but dull

The Tiger in the Smoke

Crime

The buffoonish Albert Campion is largely in the background. The world inhabited by the villainous gang is dark and grotesque. The church scene involving the main villain and one of the other characters is worthy of Hitchcock.

Read on: [Michael Innes](#), [P.D.James](#)

Kingsley Amis
One Fat Englishman

10+ KS4
Humour

When Alun and Rhiannon Weaver return home to Wales after living in London for thirty years, their celebrity status and past connections begin to stir up trouble!
Read on: William Boyd, Malcolm Bradbury, Tom Sharpe, Keith Waterhouse

Martin Amis
www.martinamisweb.com

11+KS5
Satirical humour

The Rachel Papers*
Money*
Night Train*
Read on: Iaian Banks, Saul Bellow, Will Self

Anonymous

9+ KS3 T

Go ask Alice
Social realism/drugs
Ground breaking autobiographical look at teenage homelessness which leads to drug addiction. An eye-opening account which includes useful information
Read On Junk by M Burgess

Piers Anthony

9+ KS4

Night Mare Humour/Fantasy
Full of puns, these spoof fantasy fables happen in a fake Florida. The horse brings bad dreams. So, if you don't take fantasy seriously, you may enjoy... Watch out for the Gap Dragon!
Read On Steven Brust, Alan Dean Foster, Craig Shaw Gardner and Terry Pratchett

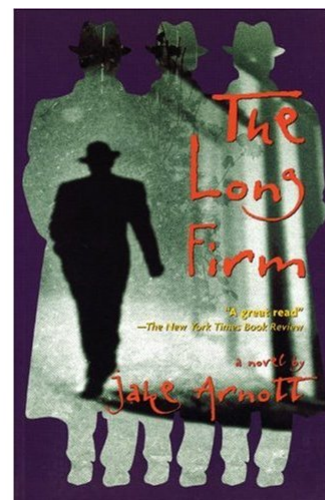


Jake Arnott

11+KS5

The Long Firm Trilogy*

Five very different characters tell their very different stories about "Torture Gang Boss" Harry Starks. In the eyes of his various criminal and starlet peers, Mad Harry is a depressive with a diabolical mind, one who likes to "stage manage the fear." The sociologist who teaches him in prison marks him down as a product of working-class subculture. The glamour, and the corruption, of that life drive this story, but Arnott manages to weave cliché into enigma, myth into inquiry, thereby revitalizing our well-worn images of the mad, bad, and dangerous to know.
Read on: Adam Baron, Jeremy Cameron, Toby Litt, Mark Timlin



Isaac Asimov

9+ KS4

www.asimovonline.com/ *one of the science fiction "fathers"*

I, Robot

Short stories, Robots

In this collection, one of the great classics of science fiction, Asimov set out the principles of robot behavior that we know as the Three Laws of Robotics. Here are stories of robots gone mad, mind-reading robots, robots with a sense of humor, robot politicians, and robots who secretly run the world.

Read on: Poul Anderson, Ben Bova, Larry Niven, Clifford Simak

Jane Austen

10+ KS4/5



Pride and Prejudice

Social satire/ Classic

There are at least 10 different film versions of Pride and Prejudice. Why is it so popular with film directors? Which actress do you prefer? What is it about the desperation with which Mr Bennett tries to find husbands for his daughters, that is so attractive and funny? Read the book and find out. Then watch the films.

Read on: Elizabeth Gaskell, E. M. Forster, Alison Lurie, Barbara Pym, Katherine Mansfield,

Paul Auster

11+ KS5

www.paulauster.co.uk

Undermines the detective story

New York Trilogy*

Three stories on the nature of identity. In the first a detective writer is drawn into a curious and baffling investigation, in the second a man is set up in an apartment to spy on someone, and the third concerns the disappearance of a man whose childhood friend is left as his literary executor.

Mr Vertigo

Brooklyn Follies

Read on: Don DeLillo, Thomas Pynchon

J. G. Ballard

9+ KS4

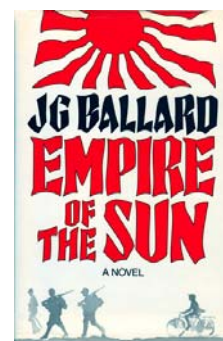
www.jgballard.com

Empire of the Sun

China/War/History

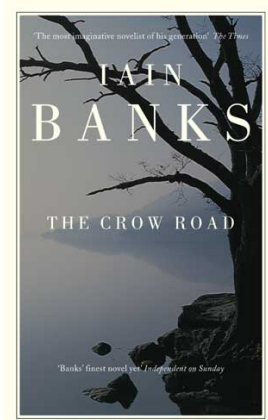
"I could manage my changing relations with my parents, my 13-year-old's infatuation with the war, and the sudden irruption into our lives of American air power. But how do you convey the casual surrealism of war, the deep silence of abandoned villages and paddy fields, the strange normality of a dead Japanese soldier lying by the road like an unwanted piece of luggage?"

writes J. G Ballard on the difficulties of writing this particular novel, based directly on his own experiences in Shanghai...



Iain Banks

10+ KS4



The Crow Road*
The Player of Games
Whit*

'It was the day my grandmother exploded. I sat in the crematorium, listening to my Uncle Hamish snoring in harmony to Bach's Mass in B Minor, and I reflected that it always seemed to be death that drew me back to Gallanach.' Prentice McHoan has returned to the bosom of his complex Scottish family. Full of questions about the McHoan, he is also deeply preoccupied: mainly with death, sex, drink, God and illegal substances...

Read On: [Clive Barker](#), [Iain McEwan](#), [Alasdair Gray](#)

He also writes intelligent space opera science fiction under the name Iaian Banks.

Pat Barker

11+ KS5

The Regeneration Trilogy

First World War

Centres around an institution treating first world war soldiers who are suffering from shell-shock. Here we (re)encounter the fictional Billy Prior as he prepares to return to combat in France by getting in as much and as many different kinds of sex as he can and undergoing therapy alongside Wilfred Owen

Read on: [E. R. Remarque](#), [Sebastian Faulks](#), [Norman Mailer](#)

Julian Barnes

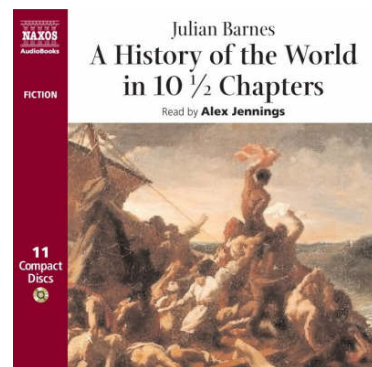
10+ KS4

The History of the World in 10 ½ Chapters explores the relationship between art, religion and death, through a number of stories linked by images of shipwreck and survival.

Julian Barnes has won several literary prizes, but not the Booker, not yet..

Listening to audio tapes can make a relaxing change

Read on [Michele Roberts](#) [The Book of Mrs Noah](#)



H. E. Bates

10+ KS4

Fair Stoor the Wind for France Humour/World War II

During the Second World War he was a Squadron Leader in the R.A.F. and some of his stories of service life, were written under the pseudonym of 'Flying Officer X'. His subsequent novels of Burma, The Jacaranda Tree, and of India, The Scarlet Sword, stemmed directly or indirectly from his experience in the Eastern theatre of war. Perhaps one of his most famous works of fiction is the bestselling novel Fair Stood the Wind for France (1944).

Read on: [Melvyn Bragg](#), [R. F. Delderfield](#), [Andrew Greig](#)

Louis de Bernieres

10+ KS4

Captain Corelli's Mandolin

won the Commonwealth Writers' Prize for Best Novel

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 conscientious but 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.

Read on: [Gabriel Garcia Marquez](#), [Isabel Allende](#), [Sebastian Faulks](#), [Eric Linklater](#)

Malorie Blackman

9+ KS3 T

<http://www.myspace.com/malorieblackman>

Noughts and Crosses

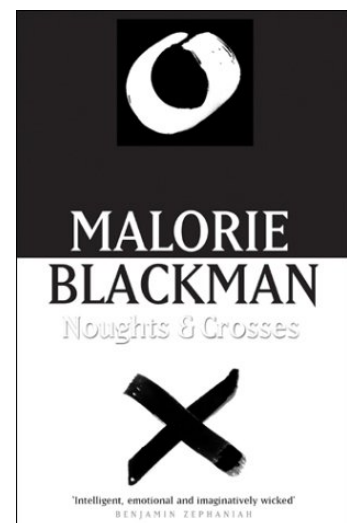
Checkmate

Dangerous Reality

Tell Me No Lies

Double

A local writer, who is popular among year 8,9, & 10, her novels read easily, but provoke more profound thought about the human condition, particularly with reference to prejudice, and the effects that fear can have.



Writers about prejudice

Melvin Burgess

Burning Issy

(witchcraft)

Khaled Hosseini

The Kite Runner

(Class/race/Afghanistan)

Joan Lingard

Across the Barricades

(Ireland)

Jan Needle

A Sense of Shame

(Short stories)

Alan Paton

Cry the Beloved Country

(South Africa)

Mildred D Taylor

See below

(Black South USA)

Daniel Waters

Generation Dead

Challenge: If any of you can recommend a novel exploring prejudice of disability, please can you let me know..

James Blish

10+ KS4

Doctor Mirabilis

Science Fiction

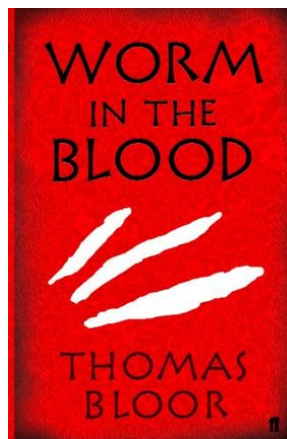
A case of conscience

Science Fiction/Religion

Father Ramon Ruiz-Sanchez S.J., is a part of a scientific commission to the planet Lithia, to study a harmonious society of aliens living on a paradise of a planet. How can these perfect beings, living in an apparent Eden, have no conception of sin or God? If such a sinless Eden has been created apart from God, then who is responsible?

James Blish (1921-75) studied microbiology at Rutgers and then served as a medical laboratory technician in the US army during the Second World War. Among his best known books are *Cities in Flight*, *A Case of Conscience*, for which he won the Hugo in 1959 for Best Novel, *Doctor Mirabilis*, *Black Easter* and *The Day After Judgement*.

Read On: Harlan Ellison, Lester Del Rey



Thomas Bloor

9+ KS3

Worm in the Blood

Dragons

An ordinary London boy finds himself turning slowly into a dragon. Not the usual dragon story at all. Disturbing.

More Stories of transformation:

Metamorphosis by Franz Kafka

The Greek Myths v. 1 & 2 by Robert Graves

The Time of the Ghost by Dianna Wynne Jones

The Owl Service by Alan Garner

The Voyage of the Dawn Treader by C. S. Lewis

The Call of the Wild by Jack London

Tim Bowler

9+ KS3-4

<http://www.timbowler.co.uk/>

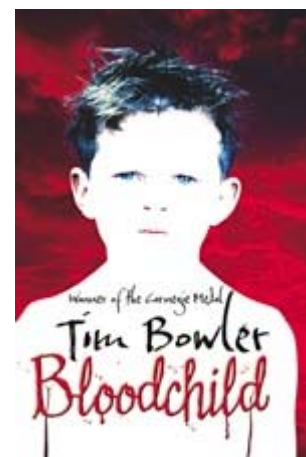
River Boy (Carnegie Gold Medal Winner)

Shadows

Bloodchild

Will loses his memory, At night he is tormented by visions, in the daytime by hostile strangers. Something has happened in this town, something terrifying. For the town has a secret and there are those who will do everything in their power to preserve it. Even kill..

Read on: David Almond, Patrick Ness, Marcus Sedgewick, Robert Swindells, John Wyndham



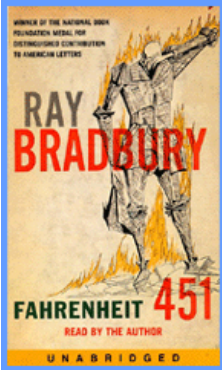
Ray Bradbury

The Illustrated Man
Fahrenheit 451

9+ KS4

Tattoos
Book burning

www.raybradbury.com



Banned Books (Fiction)

One Day in the Life of Ivan Desnoyitch by I. Solzhenitzin

Animal Farm by George Orwell

Black Beauty by Anna Sewell

The Call of the Wild by Jack London

Huckleberry Finn by Mark Twain

<http://title.forbiddenlibrary.com/>

John Braine

Life at the Top

10+

Careers/ ambition

One of the "Angry young Men", John Braine inveighs against class distinctions and middle class manners.

Read on: Kingsley Amis, Harold Pinter, John Osborne

E R Braithwaite

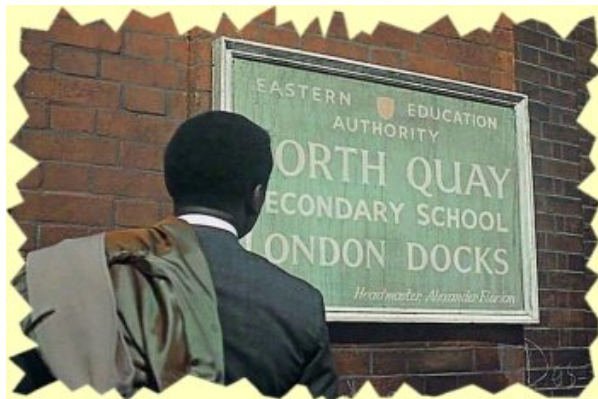
9+KS4

To Sir With Love Racism/school

A black teacher sets out to challenge assumptions in an East London school.

This has been made into film, by at least 2 different producers.

Read On: Benjamin Zephaniah



Charlotte Bronte

Jane Eyre

9+ KS4/5

Victorian

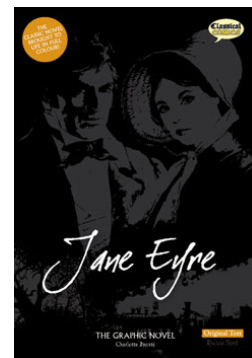
A classic gothic tale, with a miserable childhood, nasty schooling, triumph over adversity... mad women and fire.

Also available in graphic novel form, with the original text.

See the original manuscript

<http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/englit/bronte/index.html>

Read on: Daphne Du Maurier, Jean Rhys



Emily Bronte

10+ KS4/5

Wuthering Heights*

Even more dramatically gothic: bleak Yorkshire moors, desperate Heathcliffe,
Warning: some is written in Yorkshire dialect. Hint: Use an audio book to help.

Kate Bush a singer-songwriter from Bexleyheath with an expressive three-octave voice, literary lyrics, and eclectic musical style. Her first number one hit was *Wuthering Heights*.

<http://www.last.fm/music/Kate+Bush>

Read on: Thomas Hardy, Iris Murdoch

Andrew Brown

10+ KS4/5

The Darwin Wars

Well written non-fiction account of the struggle for mankind's soul.

Read on Wendy Northcutt *The Darwin Awards 4 Intelligent design*
(pays homage to those who improve our gene pool by removing themselves from it in rather amusing ways).

Dan Brown

9+

The DaVinci Code

A popular light adult read: Harvard professor Robert Langton, visiting Paris, is called in when the curator of the Louvre is murdered. Alongside the body is a series of baffling codes.

Templar mythology meets detective crime novel; Dan Brown successfully fought off a claim of plagiarism.

Join an on-line bookclub blog and find out what other intelligent people think:

<http://www.open.ac.uk/platform/join-in/forum/book-club/dan-browns-the-da-vinci-code>

Bill Bryson

10+

Notes from a small island

Non fiction/humour/ Travel writing

What do the British look like to an American journalist? Quirky and fun

Anthony Burgess

11+ KS5

This writer was a faker and prankster who lived, like an actor, by deception and illusion.

A Clockwork Orange cult novel/rebellion

Controversial still: can the state reform fifteen year old Alex?

Read on: Aldous Huxley, Margaret Atwood, Russell Hoban

Melvin Burgess 9+ KS3/4

Junk

Another controversial Carnegie Prize winner: this time the theme is drugs. One might suggest this is for teenagers only! Many adults do not approve.

See what other people think at:

<http://www.readingmatters.co.uk/book.php?id=18>

Read on: Robert Cormier, S. E. Hinton, Gary Paulson



Albert Camus 10+ KS5

The Outsider

Translated from the French

At one level this is an introduction to existential philosophy, at another there is the universal human emotion, of feeling on the outside. We are all outsiders to something

Rohan Candappa 9+

Autobiography of a one year old Humour

Bought on pupil recommendation, & has a small distinctive following

It tells the tale of a perky one-year-old and gives the little chap the voice of a cynical adult. It explores such topics as how best to use the baby-listening device left by the parents to your advantage and the simple joys of running around the coffee table without any clothes on. It's all light-hearted stuff.

Victor Canning 9+

The Runaways

<http://myweb.tiscali.co.uk/wordscape/canning/index.html>

A 15-year-old boy breaks out of care; a cheetah escapes from captivity; their paths cross and meet again. This is a fast-moving and compassionate adventure story.

Translated into several languages...

French translation *Les fugitifs*, Ed. Calmann-Lévy; 1972.

German translation *Die Ausreisser*, Wien, Hamburg: Zsolnay, 1972.

Read on: Michele Paver, Patrick Ness, Robert Swindells,

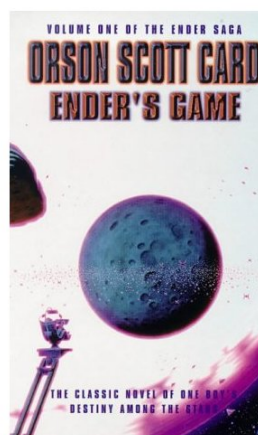
Orson Scott Card 9+

<http://www.hatrack.com/>

Ender's Game

Science Fiction

Ender goes to Battle School, to learn how to fight Aliens in zero gravity. Based on American military training.





Raymond Chandler

10+

www.thrillingdetective.com/trivia/chandler.html

The Big Sleep

Classic detective story, corrupt Los Angeles in the thirties, starring Philip Marlowe. "The novel depicts a city in which pornographers and gamblers operate under the protection crooked policemen, young women use their sexuality to ruin men, and wealth can buy immunity from prosecution and damaging publicity. It is a fallen world where glamorous appearances mask sordid deeds and everyone is a grifter."

The film of this book stars Humphrey Bogart.

Read on: [Dashiell Hammett](#), [John D MacDonald](#)

Tracey Chevalier

10+

Girl with a Pearl Earring

How do artists relate to the women who pose for them? How do the women keep their reputations intact? A fictional take on the life of Vermeer.



Agatha Christie

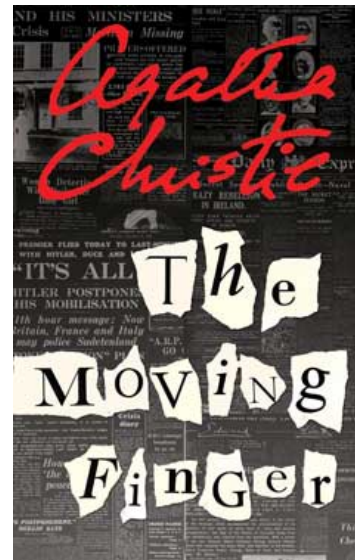
9+

The Body in the Library (Miss Marple)

Death on the Nile (Poirot)

So many titles: where to begin? ... this website will help.. and it tells you where to find which short story.

<http://www.agathachristie.com/>



John Christopher

9+ KS4

John Christopher" is a pseudonym for Samuel Youd!

He writes both adult and children's literature. His best is:

Death of Grass

Apocalyptic science fiction

Tom Clancy

10+ KS4



The Teeth of the Tiger

Red Rabbit

The Hunt for Red October Thriller

the Captain of an advanced Russian Ballistic Missile Submarine wants to defect to America, but, for some reason, ...

Read on: Dale Brown, Stephen Hunter, Douglas Terman

Arthur C Clarke

9+

2001

On the moon an enigma is uncovered. So great are the implications of the discovery that, for the first time, men are sent out deep into the solar system. But before they can reach their destination, things begin to go wrong. Horribly wrong.

Arthur C Clarke is so much the founding father of science fiction that the main book award for good science fiction writing is named after him. The film was also ground-breaking when it came out.

www.clarkeaward.com

Paulo Coelho

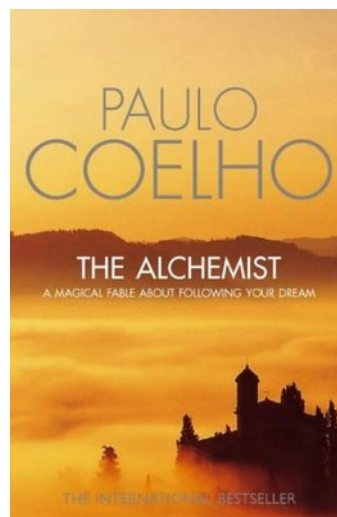
10+

<http://www.paulocoelho.com.br/>

The Alchemist

Philosophical tale

When you want something, the whole Universe conspires to help you realize your dream.



Wilkie Collins

10+ KS4/5



The Moonstone

Mystery/Gothic

Stolen from the forehead of a Hindu idol, the dazzling gem known as "The Moonstone" resurfaces at a birthday party in an English country home -- with an enigmatic trio of watchful Brahmins hot on its trail. Laced with superstitions, suspicion, humour, and romance, this 1868 mystery draws readers into a compelling tale with numerous twists and turns.

The Woman in White*

www.wilkiecollins.com/ -

Read on Charles Dickens

Victorian literature

J. Conrad

11+ KS5

The Secret Agent

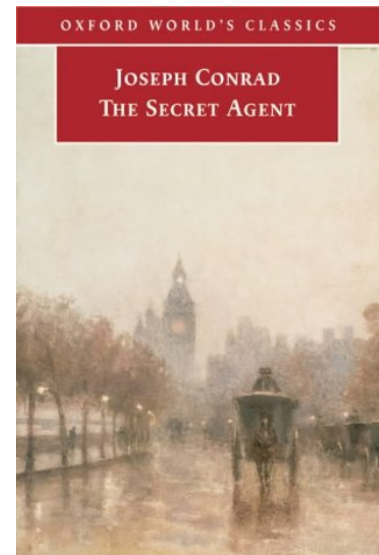
Political terrorism

One of the original psychological novels to look at the ambivalent world of the political terrorist; this holds current interest.

A challenging read

Other titles inspired the film "Apocalypse Now"

Read on: Herman Melville, Graham Greene, Paul Theroux



Robert Cormier 9+ KS4

Chocolate War

An American private school raises funds by selling chocolates: all is not what it seems in this novel about corruption and bullying.

Heroes

I am the Cheese

We All Fall Down

After the First Death

In the Middle of the Night

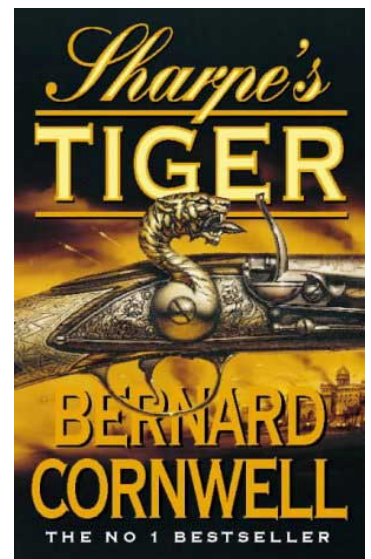
Read on: Melvin Burgess, Lois Duncan, James Riordan, Malcolm Rose, James Watson, Benjamin Zephaniah

Bernard Cornwell 9+ KS4

www.bernardcornwell.net/

The Sharpe Novels

Sharpe is a soldier who makes his way up through the ranks during the Napoleonic wars. Not for the faint-hearted: the descriptions of war are not sanitised.



Read on: Alan Evans, C. S. Forester, Alexander Kent, Allan Mallinson,

Gil Courtemanche 11+ KS5

Sunday at the Pool in Kigali*

This is a novel of contrasts: a gentle romance against the backdrop of the Rwandan genocide, an Africa at one and the same time being devastated by HIV, yet full of amazing characters.

Stephen Crane



The Red Badge of Courage

An episode of the American civil war, a young soldier struggles with fear and courage whilst under fire

"At times he regarded the wounded soldiers in an envious way. He conceived persons with torn bodies to be peculiarly happy. He wished that he, too, had a wound, a red badge of courage"

The author influenced other major writers, such as Joseph Conrad, and Henry James

Michael Crichton

9+ KS4

<http://www.michaelcrichton.net>

Prey

Thriller with science fiction overtones

In the Nevada desert, an experiment has gone horribly wrong. A cloud of nanoparticles -- micro-robots -- has escaped from the laboratory. This cloud is self-sustaining and self-reproducing. It is intelligent and learns from experience. For all practical purposes, it is alive.

Again a straight forward adult novel, which adolescents love. Known for writing Jurassic Park.

Lindsay Davis

10+ KS4

<http://www.lindseydavis.co.uk/>



The Silver Pigs

Roman historical detective

Marcus Didius Falco, a Roman 'informer' in 70AD, is standing in the Forum one very hot day, aiming to become a classic gumshoe in the Ancient World genre of mystery fiction... At this early point in his career, he has not only to make his way in the snobbish and dangerous milieu of Vespasian's Rome, but to overcome the prejudice amongst publishers, booksellers and readers who are wary of historical novels and off-beat settings. Our hero takes himself to Britain; there the weather is filthy, the natives are restless, the women are angry, and his mission turns into a nightmare from which he only narrowly escapes alive.

Read on: [Allan Massie](#), [Steven Saylor](#), [David Wishart](#)

Jeffery Deaver

10+



<http://www.jefferydeaver.com/>

The Blue Nowhere

Crime

When a sadistic hacker, code-named Phate, sets his sights on Silicon Valley, his victims never know what hit them. He infiltrates their computers, invades their lives, and lures them to their deaths. To Phate, each murder is like a big, challenging computer hack: every time he succeeds, he must challenge himself anew— by taking his methodology to a higher level, and aiming at bigger targets.

Read on: [James Patterson](#)

Daniel Defoe

9+ KS4/5

Robinson Crusoe

A swashbuckling tale of shipwreck, and survival, based on the life of Alexander Selkirk. Daniel Defoe is considered to be one of the first English novelists.

Read on: [Alexander Selkirk: the real Robinson Crusoe by Amanda Mitchison](#)

The Storm

Moll Flanders*

Len Deighton

10+ KS4

Funeral in Berlin

Cold War Thriller

When a valuable agent behind the Iron Curtain signals he wants out, it's up to Bernard Samson, once active in the field but now anchored to a London desk, to undertake the crucial rescue. But soon, Samson is confronted with evidence that there is a traitor among his colleagues... Starring working class heroes, and tense writing, it's no wonder Deighton's books turned Michael Caine into a film star

Do you think Spooks have "borrowed" his plot lines?

www.guardian.co.uk/books/2008/jun/11/lendeighton

Colin Dexter

10+



Death is Now My Neighbour Crime

On the hunt for a sniper who shot a physical therapist as she sat sipping her morning coffee in her suburban home, Inspector Morse's search takes him from the striptease clubs of Soho to the courtyards of Oxford University.

You probably know Inspector Morse, from the television series.

Read on – [other crime authors...](#)

entertainment.timesonline.co.uk/tol/arts_and_entertainment/books/article3767066.ece

Philip K Dick

10+ KS4/5

<http://www.fantasticfiction.co.uk/d/philip-k-dick/minority-report.htm>



Minority Report Science Fiction/Crime/Short stories

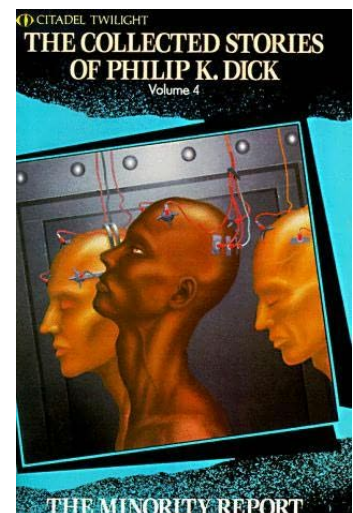
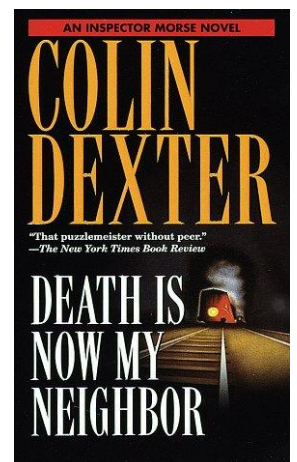
This book is often read by pupils who want to see the film but are under age!!!

Read on:

[The End of the Affair by Graham Greene](#)

[Pavane by Keith Roberts](#)

[Vurt by Jeff Noon](#)



Charles Dickens 9+ KS4/5

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/dickens_charles.shtml

Many of these are "rags to riches" stories, full of eccentric characters.

A Christmas Carol

Oliver Twist - Watch out for the musical "Oliver" by Lionel Bart

Great Expectations

David Copperfield

Nicholas Nickleby

Read on: Henry Fielding, Tobias Smollett, William Thackeray

Berlie Doherty 9+ KS3

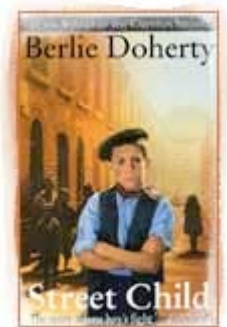
www.berliedoherty.com

Dear Nobody (Carnegie Medal Winner)

Street Child

"Jim Jarvis was a real boy, but not very much is known about him. His story and that of other orphans was written down in a series of very short pamphlets which Doctor Barnardo sent to wealthy people when he was trying to raise money to open an orphanage"

Read on: Theresa Breslin, Brian Keaney, Robert Leeson, Martin Waddell



Arthur Conan Doyle 9+ KS4/5



The Hound of the Baskervilles
The Complete Sherlock Holmes

Less well known, but enormous fun are his knockabout knights in his historical novels: Sir Nigel is one such.

<http://www.siracd.com/> Website with games, quotations fun

www.sherlockholmesonline.org Official website, not quite so interesting.

Roddie Doyle 10+ KS 4/5

www.youtube.com/watch?v=61Y26mD_Ra0

Paddy Clarke Ha Ha

Booker Prize / Ireland

Boys of 10 can be really cruel, and Paddy Clarke is no exception. Teasing, bullying and fights are part of everyday life. It is a matter of survival, to never show any sign of weakness. But when there is trouble at home it isn't always easy to be strong. Paddy tries his best to repair his parents' marriage that is falling apart a little more each day.

Read On: Patrick McCabe, Stephen Fry, David Nobbs

Lois Duncan

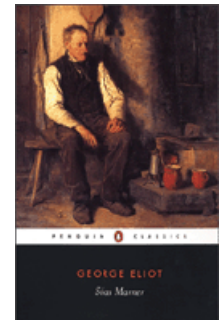
9+ KS3

<http://loisduncan.arquettes.com/>



Killing MrGriffin

The plan was only to scare their English teacher. They never actually intended to kill Mr. Griffin. But sometimes plans go wrong.



George Eliot

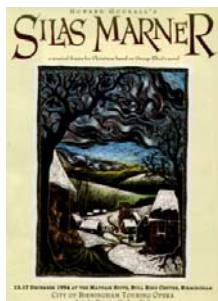
10+

Silas Marner

A tale of betrayal, gold and love.

The Mill on the Floss*

www.youtube.com/watch?v=pluKM46Vnt8 For quotations from her work



www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/eliot_george.shtml

Musicians among you may be interested in : Howard Goodall's Silas Marner, a musical drama inspired by Eliot.

Read On: Mrs Gaskell, Thomas Hardy, Benjamin Disraeli, Arnold Bennett, Margaret Drabble, Winifred Holtby

Sam Enthoven

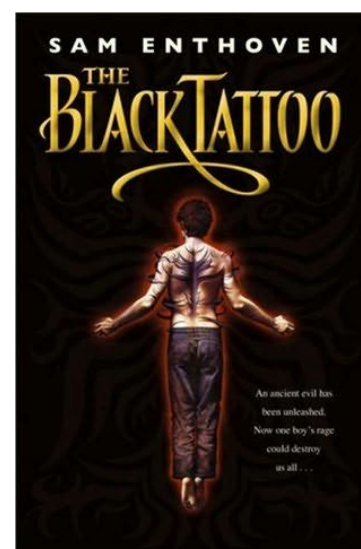
10+ KS3-4

www.samenthoven.com

The black tattoo

Martial arts/horror/

One minute Jack and his best friend Charlie were up in Chinatown having crispy duck, then they were in a room above a theatre, about to take The Test...and the start of something weird. The Test leaves Charlie with the distinctive markings of the Black Tattoo - and a temper that seems out of control. The boys' meeting with Esme, a young girl with martial arts skills as good as Bruce Lee, seem to have swept Charlie and Jack into a world they had no idea existed. This is an epic tale of good and evil, demons and hell, vomiting bats and huge battles.



Sebastian Faulks 10+

www.sebastianfaulks.com/index.php

Birdsong
A Fatal Englishman
Charlotte Grey
The Girl at the Lion D'Or
Engleby



Some have said that Faulks is too romantic to appeal to Eltham boys, but his themes vary immensely: from the first world war, to James Bond.. Warning: sex is mentioned.

Read on: Piers Paul Read, Eric Remarque, Paul Watkins

Raymond Feist 9+ KS4 www.crydee.com

Magician Fantasy
An orphan boy is apprenticed to a master magician...

Read on: T. Brooks, David Eddings, David Gemmell, Robin Hobbs, Garry Kilworth,

F Scott Fitzgerald 10+

The Great Gatsby
"The story of Jay Gatsby's desperate quest to win back his first love reverberates with themes at once characteristically American and universally human, among them the importance of honesty, the temptations of wealth, and the struggle to escape the past."
Bernice Bobs Her Hair (and other stories)

The Diamond as Big as the Ritz

Fitzgerald's world is a wealthy one, his descriptions of the wealthy life style lead us all to dream of becoming multi-millionaires.. But, as we know, wealth does not exempt us from the trials and tribulations of love, death or other human conditions....

Read on: Ford Maddox Ford, E. M. Forster, Ernest Hemingway, Carson McCullers, John Steinbeck

C S Forester 9+ KS4

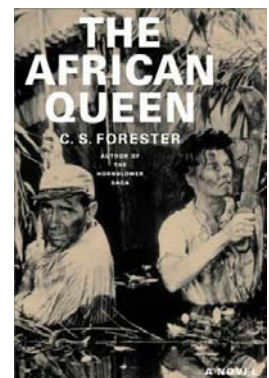
Horatio Hornblower Series

The Napoleonic wars again, this time from the point of view of the Navy. Given that we were once known as a nation of sailors, Horatio's rise from the ranks is done with a distinct Englishness. Makes for a good comparison with Cornwell's Sharpe novels.

The Gun

The African Queen - made into a film

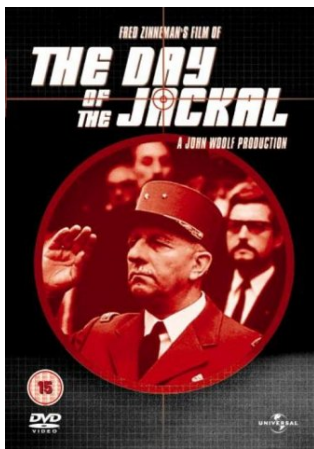
Read on: Peter Carter, Jan Needle, Patrick O'Brien, Dudley Pope



Frederick Forsyth

10+ KS4 Thrillers

www.frederickforsyth.co.uk/



Day of the Jackal

A bestseller, *The Day of the Jackal* is the electrifying story of an anonymous Englishman who in 1963, was hired by Colonel Marc Rodin, Operations Chief of the O. A. S., to assassinate General de Gaulle. The film is good too.

Snipers

Avenger

The Afghan

The Odessa File

Read on: James Adams, Colin Forbes, Stephen Leather, Andy McNab



John Fowles

11+ KS5

"brought sexiness and popular appeal to the serious literary novel"

The Collector

The French Lieutenant's Woman

Read on: Lawrence Durrell, William Golding, Thomas Hardy, Graham Swift

Michael Frayn

10+ KS4/5

Spies

Wartime London

Childhood and innocence, secrecy, lies and repressed violence are all gently laid bare as once again Michael Frayn powerfully demonstrates that what appears to be happening in front of our eyes often turns out to be something we cannot see at all.

Read on: David Lodge

Stella Gibbons

10+

Cold Comfort Farm*

If you like weird characters, you'll love the Starckadders, who are locked into age-old family feuds. At their centre sits Aun Ada, malevolent, brooding and haunted by the "something nasty in the woodshed", she once saw.

William Golding

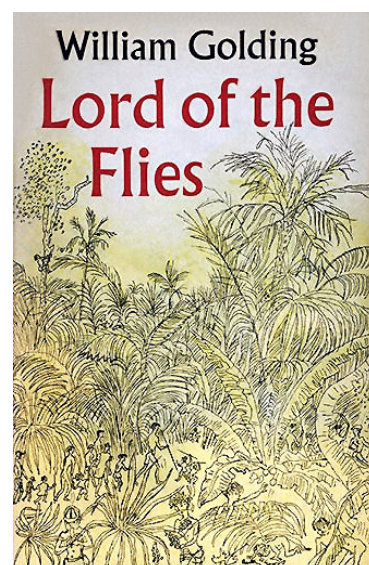
9+ KS4

Lord of the Flies

A group of boys are stranded without adults on an island. The group fragments and very soon descends into savagery. Do you agree that this is how boys would behave without an adult present?

http://nobelprize.org/educational_games/literature/golding/

Read on: See Bloomsbury's Good Reading Guide 6th edition



Graham Greene

10+

Brighton Rock

The Heart of the Matter

<http://www.fantasticfiction.co.uk/g/graham-greene/>

He worked as a journalist and a critic, then for the foreign office. Many of his heroes are tormented by a sense of moral failure.

Read on: Patricia Highsmith

John Grisham

9+ KS4

Light adult page turners about the world of commerce, throwing a particular light on bad practices in the stock market.

The Client

The Chamber

The Firm

The Broker

David Grossman

9+ KS3-4

The zigzag kid

N thinks he is getting on a train to visit his Uncle Samuel, prior to his Bar Mitzvah, but the journey turns out to be full of discovery and self-discovery. Is Felix Glick to be trusted? Is this a crime story in disguise? How can N ever work out what is really going on?

Read on: Anne Holm : I am David,

Salman Rusdie: Haroun and the Sea of Stories



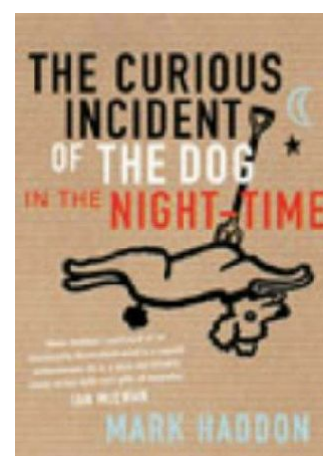
Mark Haddon

9+ KS3

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time

A Spot of Bother

Read on: Frank Cottrell Boyce, Anthony McGowan, Jean Ure



Thomas Hardy

11+ KS4/5

The Mayor of Casterbridge

Far From The Madding Crowd*

Tess of the D'Urbervilles*

Best to leave these until you have had your first love affair broken... then you'll understand these beautifully written stories about love triangles.

Read on: [George Eliot](#), [John Fowles](#),

Robert Harris

9+ KS4

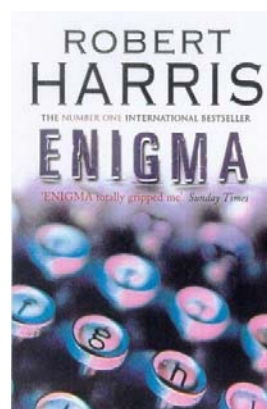
Well written best selling adult thrillers, almost good enough to be literature.

Enigma Cracking the Enigma code WWII

This is of particular interest to Eltham, given that OEs worked at Bletchley Park.

Archangel The Soviet archives have been opened revealing secrets...

Fatherland A Berlin where Hitler won WWII



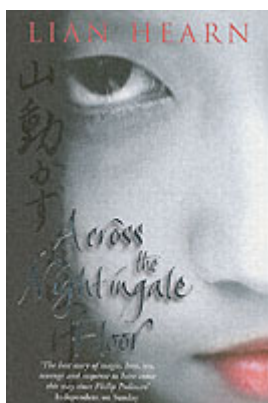
<http://www.fantasticfiction.co.uk/h/robert-harris/>

Read on: [Eric Ambler](#), [Martin Cruz Smith](#)

Lian Hearn

9+ KS3

The Otori Trilogy (incl. Across the Nightingale Floor)



A modern take on the Japanese classic: **The Tale of Genji**. Some have called Takeo an oriental Harry Potter.

Across the Nightingale Floor is a story of a boy who is suddenly plucked from his life in a remote and peaceful village to find himself a pawn in a political scheme, filled with treacherous warlords, rivalry—and the intensity of first love. In a culture ruled by codes of honor and formal rituals, Takeo must look inside himself to discover the powers that will enable him to fulfill his destiny.

Read on: [Peter Carey](#), [Peter Dickinson](#), [Khaled Hosseini](#),

Ernest Hemingway 10+ KS4/5

Death in The Afternoon

The Old Man and the Sea A long short story about a battle between an old man and a fish. A book about hope and fear. If you read it you'll remember it for ever.

For Whom the Bell Tolls*

A Farewell to Arms*

The First 49 Stories

www.youtube.com/watch?v=35vrg7a64nY *blog discussion*

(Most websites seem to be about selling Hemingway memorabilia) .

Read on: Raymon Carver, Nevil Shute, John Steinbeck, Paul Theroux

Susan Hill

9+ KS4/5

Difficult, but worth it!

<http://www.susan-hill.com/> good website

The Woman in Black A classic English ghost story

I'm the King of the Castle

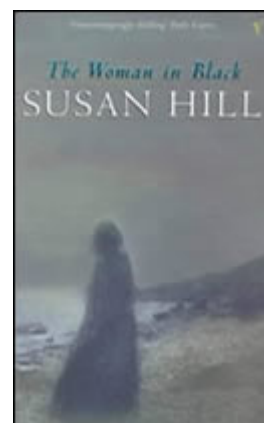
Strange Meeting

The Various Haunts of Men

The Pure in Heart

The Mist in the Mirror

Read on: Joan Aiken, Daphne Du Maurier, Jane Gardam, Jennifer Johnson, Penelope Lively, William Trevor



S E Hinton

9+ KS3/4

Writes for teenagers about teenage issues including gangs and knife crime.

Has he become out of date? What do you think?

The Outsiders

"They walked out slowly, silently, smiling.

"Need a haircut, greaser?" The medium-sized blond pulled a knife out of his back pocket and flipped the blade open.

I finally thought of something to say. "No." I was backing up, away from that knife. Of course I backed right into one of them"

Rumblefish

That was Then, This is Now

Read on: Melvin Burgess, Pete Johnson, Tim Wynne-Jones, Benjamin Zephaniah

Tom Holt

9+ KS4

Mythical characters try to survive in 20th century Britain, Humour, Mythology, and quite a lot of beer.

Falling Sideways

Expecting someone taller

Read on: Douglas Adams, Robert Asprin, Harry Harrison, Terry Pratchett, Robert Rankin, Bob Shaw.

Nick Hornby 10+

<http://www.penguin.co.uk/static/cs/uk/O/minisites/nickhornby/index.html>

Fever Pitch

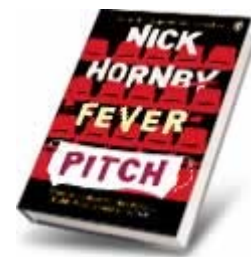
This is the only football novel I consider worth reading!

High Fidelity

About A Boy

How to be Good

A Long Way Down



Read on: David Baddiel, Alex George, Tim Lott, William Sutcliffe

Khaled Hosseini 10+ KS4

The Kite Runner

1970's Afghanistan. Twelve year old Amir is desperate to win the local kite competition...

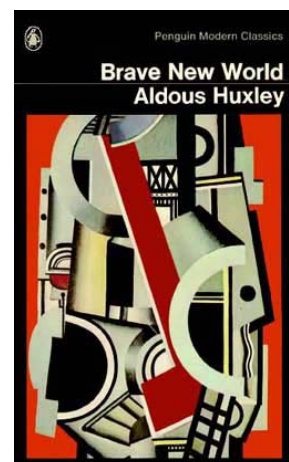
This is a surprise, word-of-mouth hit.

Aldous Huxley 10+ KS4/5

Brave New World Distopic world where clones do all the work.

Now that cloning is a reality, this book is a must read, more than ever.

Read on: Martin Amis, Michael Frayn, L. P. Hartley, Frederick Pohl, Anthony Powell, F. Scott Fitzgerald, Paul Theroux



Kazuo Ishiguro 11+ KS5

<http://www.contemporarywriters.com/authors/?p=auth52>

The Remains of the Day Fascism

Never Let Me Go*

Read on: R. K. Narayan, Graham Greene, Ian McEwan

Henry James 11+ KS5/6

Daisy Miller*

<http://www2.newpaltz.edu/~hathaway/>

This is a website annotated guide to websites about Henry James' life and work. It doesn't look pretty, but is a scholarly piece.

Pete Johnson 9/10 KS3/4

<http://www.petejohnsonauthor.com/>

Not to be read by adults: they'd never understand!!



The Hero Game

Teenage Charlie has always hero-worshipped his grandfather, who was one of the Battle of Britain pilots. But when he starts tracking down his grandfather's old wartime chums, he discovers that his hero belonged to the fascist Blackshirts before the war - and there are photos to prove it.

The Best Holiday Ever

The Protectors

The Creeper

Diary of an (Un) Teenager

Jack Kerouac 10 KS 4/5

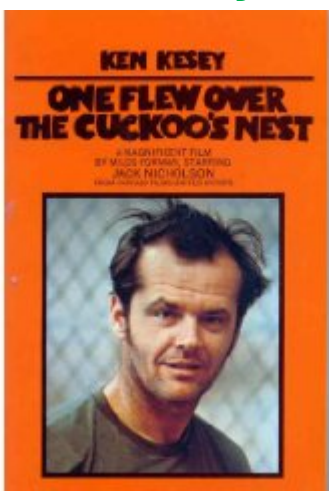
<http://www.litkicks.com/JackKerouac/>

On the Road

This 1957 novel is considered one of the defining works of the Beat Generation, and has a huge cult following.

Big Sur

Other Beat generation writers include Alan Ginsburg, and William S Burroughs



Ken Kesey 10+

One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest Mental Illness

The inmates try to escape from the asylum. It asks important questions about the nature of mental illness.

Often read while waiting to be old enough to see the film!

Read On

K Pax novels by Gene Brewer

Poetry of Lajng

I

Harper Lee 9+ KS4/5

This American author only wrote one book, but it came 6th favourite in the BBC Big read survey. <http://www.bbc.co.uk/arts/bigread/top100.shtml>

It also regularly features in Eltham Library's Top Ten.

To Kill a Mockingbird Anti racism

Innocent 7 yr old Scout is tangled in a web of racism when her lawyer father defends a black man. Set in the deep South of the United States.

Laurie Lee 10+ KS4/5

<http://www.spartacus.schoolnet.co.uk/SPlee.htm>

Cider with Rosie Autobiography

As I walked out one Midsummer Morning Autobiography

"" An enchanting lyrical book, an exquisite farewell, not only to childhood, and boyhood, but also to an England that has vanished."

Primo Levy 10+ KS4-5

A holocaust survivor and engineer, his novels are earthed in personal experience.

The Periodic Table

Matthew Lewis 10+ KS5

The Monk* Gothic horror

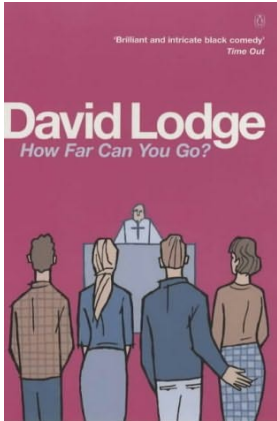
Joan Lingard 9+ KS3-4

<http://www.joanlingard.co.uk/>

Mostly concerned with relationships between the split communities in Northern Ireland, these books still bring to life how minorities struggle to live along side majorities.

The Twelfth Day of July

Across the Barricades



David Lodge

Ginger, you're barmy

9+ KS 4

Humour

It's the swinging sixties, .. and silliness breaks out in the strangest places.

Scott Lynch

9+

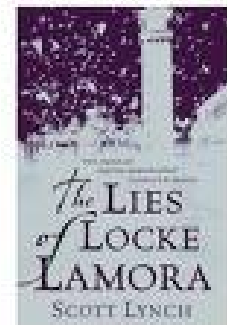
KS4

www.scottlynch.us/ - 2k –

The Lies of Locke Lamora

Humour, Crime

A swashbuckling honourable criminal who enjoys outwitting people, but has no idea what to do with his ill gotten gains. His relationship with women is somewhat precarious also ... An enjoyable romp Pirates of the Caribbean meets Jonathon Creek?



Geraldine McCaughrean

9+

KS4

<http://www.geraldinemccaughrean.co.uk/hme.htm>

Tells you how to pronounce her name, and what she is doing right now, but not too much information about her books.

www.fantasticfiction.co.uk/m/geraldine-mccaughrean/ - 80k

For information about her novels.

The White Darkness

Captain Oates, hero of the Antarctic, has been dead for nearly a century. But not in Sym's head. In there, he is her constant companion, her soul mate, her adviser. It is as if he walked out of the Polar blizzard and into her mind. In fact, if it were not for Titus, life might be as bleak a place as the Antarctic wilderness. Then a short family expedition makes her ask the question she has long been avoiding: who but the mad trust for happiness to someone or something that isn't there?

Not the End of the World

Val McDermid 10+

KS4



The Grave Tattoo

Psychological crime meets the Da Vinci code: uncovering the *Bounty*, and what has Wordsworth got to do with it? Jane Gresham scours the Lake District in search of answers.

Ian McEwan

11+ KS5

<http://www.ianmcewan.com/>

Prizes won: Whitbread, Booker, W. H. Smith.

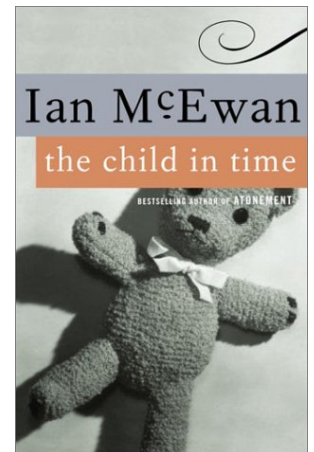
Child in Time

A child is abducted; the effect on the family is devastating.

Atonement*

Briony is a young girl and aspiring writer, who makes a discovery about Robbie, a young man destined to play a part in the Dunkirk evacuations.

Saturday



Read on: Martin Amis, Iain Banks, Michel Faber, Tim Parks

Andy McNab

9+ KS3/4

<http://www.andymcnab.co.uk/>

A soldier and SAS commando, McNab's terse prose isn't terribly literary, but is based on real experiences, and makes for fast page turning enjoyment.

Bravo Two Zero

Payback

Terrorist

Aggressor

Boy Soldier

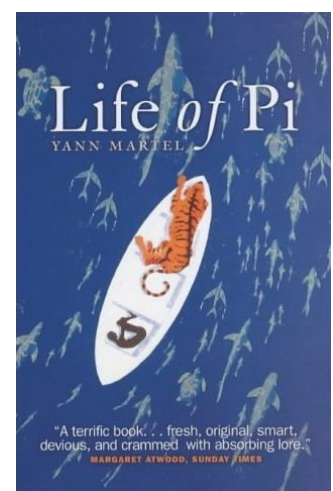
Valerio Massimo Manfredi 9+ KS4/5

is professor of classical archaeology at Luigi Bocconi University in Milan. He has published over nine works of fiction, several of which have their fans here, at Eltham College.

Heroes

Ancient World

Read On: Robert Graves, Christian Jacq, Allan Massie, Mary Renault



Yann Martel

9+ KS4

The Life of Pi

Allegory

Would you like to be stuck on a boat with a tiger? An allegorical novel about surviving a shipwreck, it is up to you how "deeply" you want to interpret this Booker Prize winner. A bit like Animal Farm, it is not a difficult read, but thought provoking.

Allan Massie

9+

<http://www.orionbooks.co.uk/5499-0/author-Allan-Massie.htm>

Caligula

Ancient Rome

Read On: [see Manfredi.](#)

China Mieville

9+ KS4

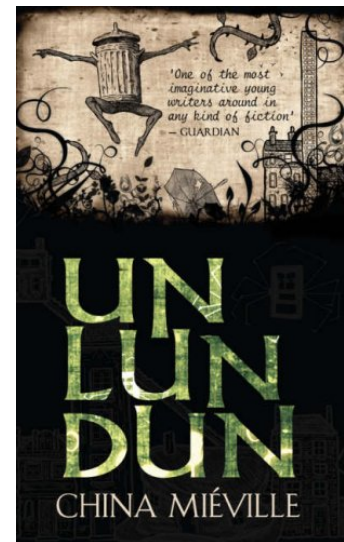
Un Lun Dun

Here all the lost and broken things of London end up, and some of its people, including Brokkenbroll, boss of the broken umbrellas, and Hemi the half-ghost boy

For gadget lovers, this fantasy is truly imaginative, and it takes a Londoner to appreciate it.

It will also appeal to the environmentalists among you.

Read on: [Neil Gaiman: Neverwhere](#)



Michael Morpurgo

9+ KS3

Private Peaceful

Easy Read

A stunning novel of World War 1. It is so absorbing and atmospheric that you will want to keep reading to the end. Told through the voice of a young soldier it captures in 24 hours the memories of his life - with the harsh realisation that he is also facing an unknown future!

It may have been written for children, but it is good enough for adults.

Read On: [Rachel Anderson](#), [Martin Booth](#), [John Boyne](#), [Mal Peet](#),

[James Riordan](#), [Robert Westall](#), [Markus Zusak](#)

John Mortimer

9+ KS4

Was a writer by choice, but became a lawyer to please his father: The Rumpole novels are the result.

The best of Rumpole

Law courts/humour

Read on: [Malcolm Bradbury](#), [David Lodge](#), [Frederic Raphael](#), [Keith Waterhouse](#)

Joshua Mowll

9+ KS3-4

Operation Red Jericho

Thriller



This book is written as a spy-journal, with lots of detailed maps and secret clues.

"The Frenchman's voice suddenly rose in desperation. 'I didn't do it captain! I swear to you, I did not murder him. I did not murder the professor' "

Read on: Peter Hoeg, Tanith Lee, Philip Pullman, Marcus Sedgwick

Iris Murdoch

11+ KS5

When Iris Murdoch died in February 1999, she was described by Melvyn Bragg and A S Byatt, amongst many others, as one of the most significant British writers of the twentieth century.

<http://fass.kingston.ac.uk/research/iris-murdoch/>

A Severed Head

Martin Lynch-Gibbon believes he can possess both a beautiful wife and a delightful lover. But when his wife, Antonia, suddenly leaves him for her psychoanalyst, Martin is plunged into an intensive emotional re-education. He attempts to behave beautifully and sensibly. Then he meets a woman whose demonic splendour at first repels him and later arouses a consuming and monstrous passion. As his Medusa informs him, 'this is nothing to do with happiness'.

Read on: Joan Aiken, Jostein Gaarder, Jennifer Johnston, Doris Lessing, Muriel Spark, A.N.Wilson, Virginia Woolf.

Grant Naylor

9+ KS4

Red Dwarf Omnibus

Humour/Science Fiction

<http://www.reddwarf.co.uk/about/>

Without the TV series, is this cult spaceship novel past it's sell by date? Or do the odd ball characters still attract?

Read on : Douglas Adams

Garth Nix

9+ KS3-4

<http://www.garthnix.co.uk/>

The Old Kingdom series

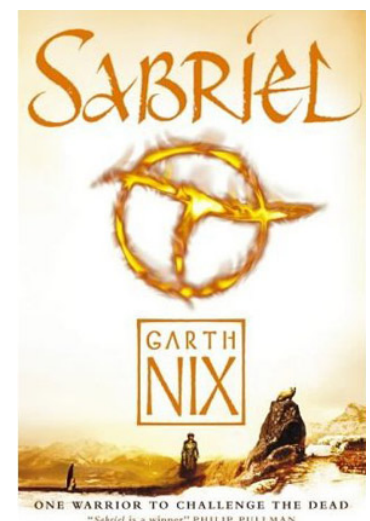
Fantasy

Sabriel

Lirael

Abhorsen

The Creature in the Case



Read On: Lloyd Alexander, Trudi Canavan, Lean Hearn, Stuart Hill, Ursula Le Guin, Christopher Paolini

Patrick Ness

10+

The Knife of Never Letting Go Coming of age/prejudice
A dark tale about coming of age in a society where everyone can hear everyone else's thoughts.

John O'Farrell

10+ KS4

This is your life Humour/ Celebrity
A funny, satirical novel about fame follows the misadventures of Jimmy, a loser who manages to convince an inexperienced journalist that he is the latest sensation in comedy--a farce that gathers momentum each time the story is retold



George Orwell 9+ KS3-5

Banned in Soviet Russia

Animal Farm A political fable set in a farmyard but based on Stalin's betrayal of the Russian Revolution

Nineteen Eighty Four Set in an imaginary totalitarian future, the book made a deep impression, with its title and many phrases - such as 'Big Brother is watching you', 'newspeak' and 'doublethink' - entering popular use

Down and Out in Paris and London Orwell's first book, semi autobiographical

Nearly all the websites about Orwell on the first 2 pages of

Google are dodgy. Use these:

http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/orwell_george.shtml

<http://www.ucl.ac.uk/Library/special-coll/orwell.shtml>

Christopher Paolini

9+ KS4

www.alagaesia.com

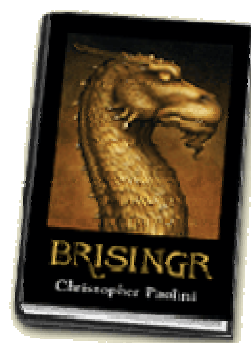
The Inheritance Cycle Dragons, Fantasy

Eragon

Eldest

Brisings

Read on: Thomas Bloor, Trudi Canavan, Marcus Sedgwick



Tony Parsons

11+ KS4 adult

One For My Baby*

Alfie Budd found the perfect woman, and then lost her. He doesn't believe you get a second chance at love. Back in England, Alfie finds the rest of his world collapsing around him. He takes comfort in a string of pointless, transient affairs

with his students at Churchill's Language School, and he tries to learn Tai Chi from an old Chinese man, George Chang. Can he give up meaningless sex for a meaningful relationship? This novel is full of laughter and tears, biting social comment and overwhelming emotion.

Read on: [Ben Elton](#)

Katherine Paterson 9+ KS3 but with guts

<http://www.terabithia.com/>

Jacob Have I Loved Sibling rivalry

"Jacob have I loved, but Esau have I hated. . . ." With her grandmother's taunt, Louise knows that she, like the biblical Esau, was the despised elder twin. Caroline, her selfish younger sister, was the one everyone doted on.

Michelle Paver 9+

www.michellepaver.com

Chronicles of Ancient Darkness:

Wolf Brother

Spirit Walker

Soul Eater

Outcast

Read on: [Ancient world](#)

[Jean M Auel](#) [Earth's Children](#)

[Peter Dickinson](#) [The Kin](#)

[Megan Lindholm](#) [The Reindeer people](#)



Wolves

[Joan Aiken](#) [The Wolves of Willoughby Chase](#)

[Melvin Burgess](#) [The Cry of the Wolf](#)

[Sonya Harnett](#) [Stripes of the Sidestep Wolf](#)

[Jack London](#) [White Fang](#)

[Daniel Pennac](#) [Eye of the wolf](#)

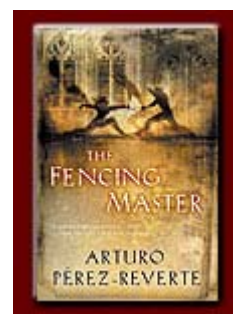
[Stef Penney](#) [The Tenderness of Wolves](#)

[Whitley Strieber](#) [Wolf of Shadows](#)

Arturo Perez-Reverte 9+ KS4

The Fencing Master Historical crime thriller

Madrid, 1868, Don Jaime, fencing master and anachronistic man of honour is writing a manual. He becomes caught up in a vortex of seduction, secret political documents and more than one murder.



Christopher Pike 9+ KS3

Easy reads, but they are slightly better than the usual vampire story

Odd fact: no-one really knows who Christopher Pike is.. apart from a character in a Star Trek novel.

The Last Vampire Supernatural

The Shaktra

Chain Letter

Die Softly

Terry Pratchett 9+

www.terrypratchett.co.uk

<http://www.lspace.org/>

Pratchett's work started out as amusing fantasy, we all have discworld characters we love, whether it is the orangutan librarian, or Rincewind's luggage. Then they changed into satire, taking the mickey out of institutions such as the Music business, the Post Office, or even Hollywood. We recommend you start with the early novels, then move on to the satire.

Discworld novels: the first four are:

1. The Colour of Magic

Introducing Discworld through the eyes of its first tourist.

2. The Light Fantastic

Only a singularly hapless wizard can save Discworld from destruction.

3. Equal Rites

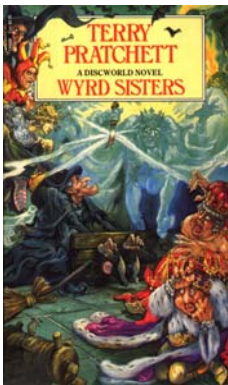
Meet Discworld's first female wizard.

4. Mort

Death comes to us all. When he came to Mort, he offered him a job

Wyrd Sisters book cover artist: Josh Kirby.

Is this a spoof on Macbeth?



Philip Pullman 9+ KS3-5

www.philip-pullman.com/

Dark Materials Trilogy Banned by the Catholic Church

Some say this is an attack on the Catholic Church, others on authoritarian regimes. Yet the idea that our souls can be separated from us is an interesting one in this age of secularism. Much more than just a fantasy series, and of course provoked a film with extraordinary animated graphics.

Certainly a kid's series being read by huge numbers of adults.

Read on: Joan Aiken, James Blish, Dianna Wynne Jones, C.S. Lewis, William Nicholson Do you have any suggestions?

Philip Reeve

9+ KS3

www.mortalengines.co.uk/

Resources on the Great Hunting Ground that once was Europe are so limited that mobile cities must consume one another to survive, a practice known as Municipal Darwinism.

Mortal Engines

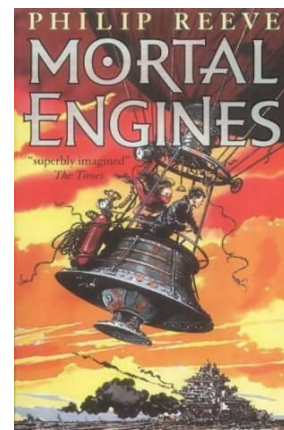
Gadgets, Future,

Predator's Gold

Infernal Devices

A Darkling Plain

Read on: Stephen Bowkett, China Mieville,



Erich Maria Remarque

10+ KS4-5

<http://www.kirjasto.sci.fi/remarque.htm>

All Quiet on the Western Front

World War I

Banned by Nazis

"It is just as much a matter of chance that I am still alive as that I might have been hit. In a bomb-proof dug-out I may be smashed to atoms and in the open may survive ten hours bombardment unscratched. No soldier outlives a thousand chances. But every soldier believes in Chance and trusts his luck."

Read on: Pat Barker, Sebastian Faulks, Robert Graves, Paul Watkins, Henry Williamson

J D Salinger

10+

Catcher in the Rye

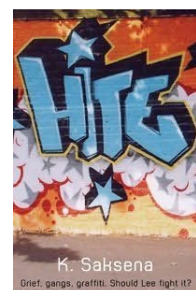
Banned in some parts of the U.S.A.

Superficially the story of a young man's expulsion from yet another school, The Catcher in the Rye is in fact a perceptive study of one individual's understanding of his human condition.

Read on: Truman Capote, Harper Lee, Mormac McCarthy, Carson McCullers, Edna O'Brien, Sylvia Plath, Susan Hill

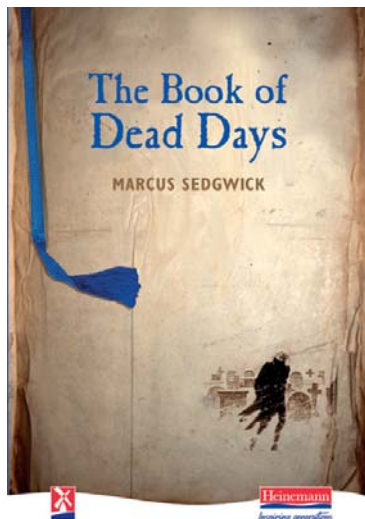
Kate Saksena

9+ KS3



Hite

A Bromley writer takes on grief, gangs and graffiti.



Marcus Sedgwick

9+ KS3-4

www.marcussedgwick.com/

The Book of Dead Days
Supernatural

Power, Corruption, Magic,

The days between Christmas and New Year's Eve are dead days, when spirits roam and magic shifts just beneath the surface of our lives.

A lot can happen in the dead days....

Read on: David Almond, Joseph Delaney, Christopher Paolini, G. P. Taylor

Alice Sebold

11+ KS5

www.youtube.com/watch?v=RNFNwQJtPWQ

Lovely Bones

"My name was Salmon, like the fish, first name, Susie. I was fourteen when I was murdered on December 6, 1973. My murderer was a man from our neighborhood. My mother liked his border flowers, and my father talked to him once about fertilizer"

This is Susie Salmon, speaking to us from heaven. It looks a lot like her school playground. There are counsellors to help newcomers to adjust, and friends to room with. Everything she wants appears as soon as she thinks of it - except the thing she wants most: to be back with the people she loved on earth."

We are looking for suggestions for READ Ons for this author!

David Almond Skellig

Alex Shearer, The Great Blue Yonder

John Sedden

9+ KS3

Mudlark

This fine novel is set in Portsmouth in 1914 and has a strong sense of time and place. Reg and Jimmy are mudlarks, they dive for coins in the thick mud of the harbour, their friendship is special sworn and sealed in the mud. Then Reg finds a skull and everything changes. A light, entertaining beginning moves into a darker more dangerous mood as the boys get into serious trouble. Sedden's wonderful writing brings this story to life and gives a real sense of the hardness of life as World War I begins.

An unusual first world war novel

Darren Shan

9+ KS3

www.darrenshan.com

He writes about Vampires and Demons. The Vampires have some morals; the demons definitely do not, and may be for stronger stomachs. These are not literary masterpieces, but remain for many of you an easy corner of children's novels that you return to again and again.

Read on: [Stephen Cole](#), [Neil Gaiman](#), [James Herbert](#), [Stephen King](#), [Dean Koontz](#),

Tom Sharpe 10+ KS4

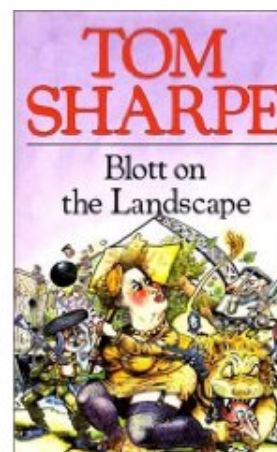
biography.jrank.org/pages/4730/Sharpe-Tom.html - 14k

Tom Sharpe's comic vision was formed under the pressure of state persecution strong enough to infuriate but not crush him. His initial satires on South Africa set the pattern for all his subsequent fiction. He was deported from South Africa in 1961. He is rude, bawdy, & hilarious.

Wilt

Blott on the Landscape

Read on: [Tom Holt](#), [Peter Tinniswood](#)



Neville Shute 10+ KS4

www.nevilshute.org

An aviation engineer who took up writing novels, which are still popular, and have an unusually practical nature. Topics include flying, war, survival, Australia, business.

A Town Like Alice*

World war 2/ Enterprise

In Malaysia, when the Japanese invade, a group of women are asked to walk to the nearest concentration camp. An Australian G I helps them out and is crucified for his pains. After the war he is reunited with Jean, who transforms the ranch town in order to be able to settle there. A cross between Crocodile Dundee, and Empire of the Sun.

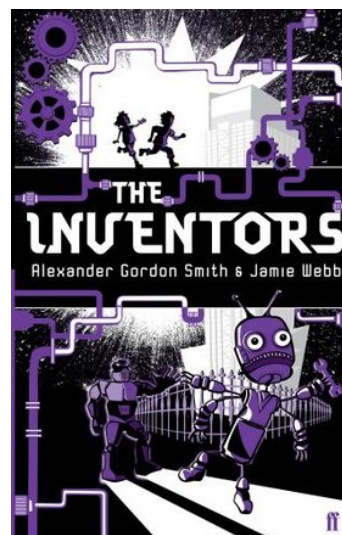
Alexander Gordon Smith 9+ KS3

The inventors

Gadgets/Thriller

For gadget lovers: Nate and Cat love inventing, and have won a scholarship to the magnificent Saint Solutions paradise... but once there they find that all is not as it seems.

Read on [Ian Fleming](#), [Philip Reeve](#)



Alexander McCall Smith 9+ KS4
<http://www.alexandermccallsmith.co.uk>

The 2 ½ Pillars of Wisdom

Another extraordinary world: of Professor Dr Moriz-Maria von Igelfeld, whom we follow through his search for ancient Irish obscenities to an aching infatuation with a dentist fatale and a Venetian sojourn. Among the Ozark mountains of Arkansas, he is dogged by daschunds.

Read on Sue Grafton, Tony Hillerman, Henning Mankell, Valerie Wilson Wesley

John Steinbeck 10+ ks4/5

http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/laureates/1962/steinbeck-bio.html

Of Mice and Men

While the powerlessness of the labouring class is a recurring theme in Steinbeck's work of the late 1930s, he narrowed his focus when composing "Of Mice and Men" (1937), creating an intimate portrait of two men facing a world marked by petty tyranny, misunderstanding, jealousy, and callousness. Theme is universal; a friendship and a shared dream that makes an individual's existence meaningful.



Travels with Charley

Cannery Row*

The Grapes of Wrath

Read on: Erskine Caldwell, Upton Sinclair

R L Stevenson 9+ KS 4

<http://dinamico2.unibg.it/rls/rls.htm>

Treasure Island

The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

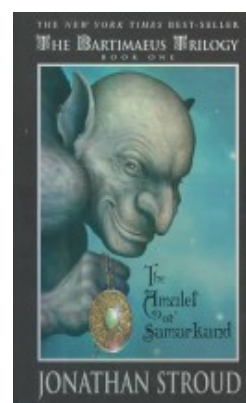
Psychological crime

Written in 1886, this was an instant best seller, and has remained deeply influential. Do try to tackle the original, which despite its Victorian prose, has the capacity to make your hair stand on end.

Read on: H. G. Wells, George MacDonald Fraser, Walter Scott, John Buchan, Arthur Conan Doyle, J Meade Faulkner, Bjorn Larsson.

Jonathan Stroud 9+ KS4

<http://www.jonathanstroud.com/>



Bartimaeus Trilogy

One of our most popular authors for year 9.

Nathaniel is a magician's apprentice, taking his first lessons in the arts of magic. But when a devious hot-shot wizard named Simon Lovelace ruthlessly humiliates Nathaniel in front of his elders, Nathaniel decides to kick up his education a few notches and show Lovelace who's boss

Read on: Terry Brooks, Joseph Delaney, Neil Gaiman, Robin Hobb, Dianna Wynne Jones, Garry Kilworth, Ursula Le Guin, J. K. Rowling,

Robert Swindells 9+ KS3/4

www.4learning.co.uk/sites/bookbox/authors/swindells/index.htm - 10k

Abomination

Child abuse

Brother in the Land

What would it be like to survive a nuclear holocaust?

Room 13

Vampires

Read on: David Almond, Gaye Hicyilmaz, Malcolm Rose, Benjamin Zephania

Amy Tan 11+ KS5

<http://www.amytan.net/>

This site is interesting: it sets out to correct all the misinformation about Amy Tan available across the www.

Amy Tan is now such an American institution that she's even appeared on The Simpsons.

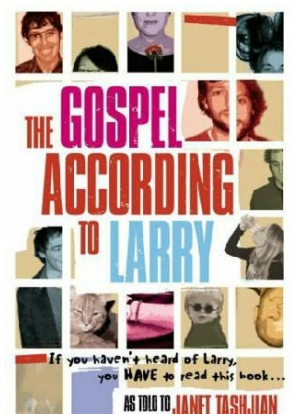
The Bonesetter's Daughter*

Amy Tan's fourth novel *The Bonesetter's Daughter*, explores the conflicts between a Chinese-American woman and her Chinese mother. Set in San Francisco, Ruth and her mother LuLing exercise a frosty commitment to each other. When her mother begins to show signs of Alzheimer's, the illness finally prompts Ruth to get her mother's autobiography translated and the central section of the book becomes LuLing's story of her mother, the bonesetter's daughter.

Janet Tashjian 9+ KS3

The Gospel According to Larry

Josh Swensen is not your average 17-year-old. At the age of two, he was figuring out algebraic equations with colored magnetic numbers. He is a prodigy who wants to improve the world. Josh's wish comes true when his virtual alter ego, Larry, becomes a huge media sensation. Larry has his own Web site where he posts sermons on anti-consumerism and has a large following of adults and teens. Meanwhile, Larry's identity is a mystery to everyone, yet Josh feels trapped inside his own creation. What will happen to the world, and to Larry, if he is exposed?



Mildred D Taylor

9+ KS 3/4/5

<http://us.penguinroup.com/nf/Author/AuthorPage/O,,1000031974,00.html>

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry

Racism in Mississippi

Newbury Medal Winner

Mildred D. Taylor

"From as far back as I can remember my father taught me a different history from the one I learned in school. By the fireside in our Ohio home and in Mississippi, where I was born and where my father's family had lived since the days of slavery, I had heard about our past.



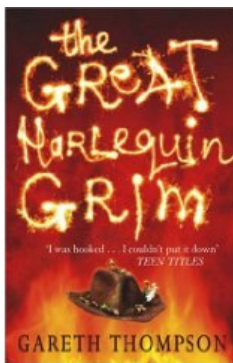
Read on: Maya Angelou (adult), Malorie Blackman (prejudice), Peter Carter (anti-slave trade), Jennifer Donnelly, Harper Lee, Toni Morrison (racism in the U.S.), Barbara Smucker (underground railway), Mark Twain, Alice Walker

Gareth Thompson

9+ KS4

The Great Harlequin Grim

A review from Amazon, someone who lives in the village in which this book is set:



is got dead right is the dark and weird atmosphere that sets in around Cumbria, especially in autumn when the story is set. The old slate quarries up in Tilberthwaite are done brilliantly, where newcomer/offcomer Glenn Jackson meets a tortured Scottish farm worker on the run. Violence and madness are the final outcomes of this friendship, but things ain't all bad, and Glenn hooks up with a sweetheart and a crazy best mate. And the smiley sign that Glenn and Baz cut into the bracken really happened here. It was actually done for someone's dying parent, but at least Thompson gives this the right hit of joy and rebellion. All the dark drama left me a bit achey for some daylight.

JRR Tolkien

9+ KS3/4/5

www.tolkiensociety.org/

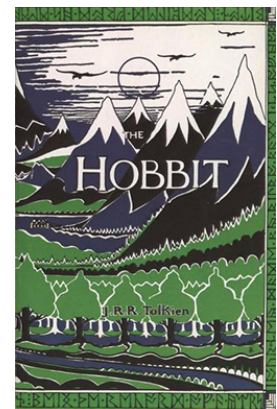
scholarly with articles

<http://www.theonering.com/> *fun, includes the films, art work, games..*

The Hobbit
Lord of the Rings

Please read this first.

Read on: Stephen Donaldson, David Edding, Raymond Feist,



Sue Townsend

9+ KS3

Humorous accounts of growing older.. in a diary form. Much loved.

www.adrianmole.com

The Diary of Adrian Mole 13 3/4

is an unabashed, pimples-and-all glimpse into the troubled life of an adolescent. Writing candidly about his parents' marital troubles, the dog, his life as a tortured poet and 'misunderstood intellectual', teenager Adrian Mole's painfully honest diary makes hilarious and compelling reading.

The Wilderness Years

The Weapons of Mass Destruction

The Growing Pains

The Cappuccino Years

Read on: [Billy Liar](#) by [Keith Waterhouse](#)



Rose Tremain

11+ Ks4/5

This author is winning book prizes, and her work is becoming stronger with each new title.

Restoration*

An historical novel which revolves around the story of a man who abandons his medical studies to revel at the Court of King Charles II

Read on: [Tracy Chevalier](#), [Maggie Gee](#), [Robert Nye](#), [Graham Swift](#), [Barry Unsworth](#), [Jeanette Winterson](#)

Mark Twain

9+ KS3/4/5

An American Charles Dickens, written at a similar time, yet banned by people who think his anti-racist stance is racist.

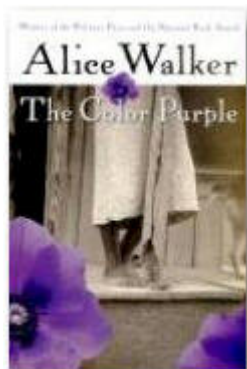
etext.virginia.edu/railton/index2.html: a university website, gives access to useful source material

www.twainquotes.com/ A bit of fun, based around quotations...

The Adventures of Tom Sawyer – I like the bit where he bribes his friends into whitewashing a fence for him.

The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn – a more serious adventure, and clearly taking the view that slavery is wrong.

Read on: [Alphonse Daudet](#), [Henry Fielding](#), [H.E. Bates](#), [John Steinbeck](#)



Alice Walker

10+ KS 4/5

The Color Purple*

Race relations in the United States

<http://aalbc.com/authors/alice.htm>

The Pulitzer Prize-winning novel that tells the story of two sisters through their correspondence. Disturbing content.

Read on: Harper Lee, Toni Morrison, William Styron

James Watson 9+ KS3 – 4

The Freedom Tree

A Jarrow boy is caught up in the Spanish Civil war

Talking in Whispers

This short but powerful novel is set in a fictional Chile and is concerned with issues arising out of a repressive political dictatorship.

<http://www.booksforkeeps.co.uk>

A source of book reviews for teenagers, which helps when you are looking for specific topics

Read on: Lynne Reid Banks, Julius Lester, Beverly Naidoo, James Riordan

Keith Waterhouse 9+ KS4

Billy Liar

Billy cannot tell the truth, and at one point of this extra-ordinary novel is engaged to three ladies at the same time.

Read on: Kingsley Amis, Ben Elton, David Lodge, John Mortimer, Sue Townsend, P.G. Wodehouse

Evelyn Waugh 10+ KS4-5

www.doubtinghall.co.uk

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/bbcfour/audiointerviews/profilepages/waughe1.shtml>

American satirist, very funny.

A Handful of Dust

Decline and Fall

Brideshead Revisited*

Scoop

Journalists are sent to cover a foreign war, to discover it isn't happening.

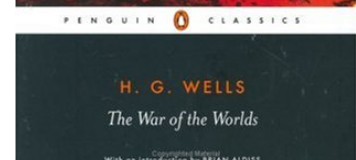
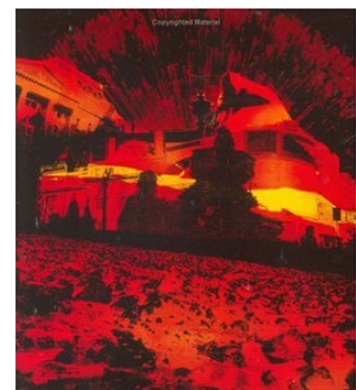
Stranded, they send back reports anyway.

Read on: Anthony Burgess, William Boyd, Malcolm Bradbury, David Lodge, Anthony Powell, John Updike

HG Wells 9+ KS4

Bromley born, ground breaking writing, used as basis for films by Orson Wells among others..... a must read!!!

The Time Machine



The War of the Worlds

When this was first broadcast on the radio, it was so convincing there were riots....

http://www.channel4.com/science/microsites/S/science/life/biog_wells.html

www.war-of-the-worlds.co.uk/h_g_wells.htm - 23k

Read on: Steven Baxter, Aldous Huxley, Tim Powers, Jules Verne, John Wyndham

Robert Westall 9+ KS3

Writes about world war II, ghosts, cats and sometimes all three.

Scarecrows (Carnegie Medal)

Supernatural, stepfathers, bullying

The Watch House

Supernatural

<http://www.westallswar.org/>

Site giving background to the author's

childhood

Read on: Peter Dickinson, Neil Gaiman, Christa Laird, Michael Morpurgo, Robert Swindells

Oscar Wilde 9+ KS4 - 5

Anglo-Irish playwright and poet, noted for his sartorial wit, and much quoted. Lived

1854-1900 http://www.saidwhat.co.uk/quotes/famous/oscar_wilde

The Picture of Dorian Gray

Narcissism taken to extremes..

The Importance of Being Ernest (play)

"Perhaps, after all, America never has been discovered. I myself would say that it had merely been detected. "[The Picture of Dorian Gray, 1891]

PG Wodehouse 9+ KS4

Jeeves and Wooster Omnibus

Humour

Bertie Wooster is an incompetent toff who continually gets into trouble, especially with the fairer sex. Jeeves, the butler, generally comes to the rescue

Read on: E. F. Benson, Stephen Fry, Tom Holt, David Lodge, Keith Waterhouse



This is a first edition cover, worth collecting!

Benjamin Zephaniah 9+ KS3

www.benjaminzephaniah.com

Specialises in inner London social realism. Gang life and innocents getting caught up in criminal activities. Not for the faint hearted.



Teacher's Dead

School, gangs, Inner city London

My name is Jackson Jones. I stood and watched a teacher die. For the first time in my life I felt real shock.. My whole body actually went numb. They say the brain is like a computer.. well, my computer crashed.

Face

Refugee Boy

Gangsta Rap – a slightly optimistic view of the music business!

Read on: [Bernard Ashley](#), [Alan Gibbons](#), [Kristin Hunter](#), [Beverly Naidoo](#), [Bali Rai](#), [Robert Swindells](#)

Zusak, Marcus

9+ KS4

The Book Thief

Nazi Germany

Liesel picks up an object from her brother's graveside. It is her first act of book thievery. Soon she is stealing books from the Nazi book-burnings, the mayor's wife's library, wherever she can.

Read on: [John Boyle](#), [Michael Cronin](#), [Anne Frank](#), [Morris Gleitzman](#),

Some literature is written simply, but contains philosophical or other ideas which young people and adults return to over and over again. Such books might be studied at KS3,4 and 5. Examples include

Paulo C The Alchemist
 The Little Prince
 The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe
 Moomintroll novels
 The Life of Pi
 Jonathon Livingstone Seagull

Other literature is written expressively, descriptively, but none the less has a fairly standard plot

Lesley Davis Roman crime novels

Some literature concentrates on the psychological development of its characters.

Jekyll and Hyde

Many adult books concern the relationships between males and females; and some writers catch the early difficulties of teenagers reaching towards such relationships particularly well. Only you will know when you are interested and ready for such titles.

The secret diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13 ³/₄ is an excellent place to start

Websites:

Please also check out the website: www.cool-reads.co.uk

It is run *by* teenagers, *for* teenagers and you can search for books in your favourite genre and read reviews by your peers. A good place to blog your views.

You may also enjoy www.literature-map.com *as a very interactive way of choosing fiction, to which you can contribute*

www.whichbook.net/ *is an intuitive way to choose fiction (but is mostly adult) For example you can choose fiction with or without sex.. or with just a bit!*

www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/books/3556962/Great-Unread-Books-Which-classic-are-you-ashamed-to-admit-you-have-never-read.html *is a good start for debates.*

<http://www.booksforkeeps.co.uk> lets you know how adults discuss teenagers reading.

Bear in mind that websites may have hidden agendas: Amazon promotes books in it's warehouses.

This one is based upon the joint experience of the librarian and the English teachers at Eltham College. It is therefore biased in favour of intelligent boys.

Mrs Fearn has used the following:

References

Who Next: a guide to children's authors (all 3 editions)

The Ultimate Teen Book Guide ed by Daniel Hahn and Leonie Flynn

Who else writes like: ed by Roy and Jeanne Huse

Bloomsbury Good Reading Guide Ed by Nick Rennison both 6th and 7th editions.

Search star the catalogue of Mervyn Peake Library, which gives reports on what different groups of people enjoy reading.

She has also used the various websites recommended through the list.

Different people have different short lists:

Mrs Fearn's top ten from this list are:

Harper Lee To Kill a Mockingbird

Aldous Huxley Brave New World

Douglas Adams Hitchhiker's guide to the Galaxy

Marcus Zusak The Book Thief

Benjamin Zephaniah Teacher's Dead

China Mieville Un Lun Dun

H.G. Wells The Invisible Man

Evelyn Waugh Scoop

Nevil Shute A Town like Alice

What are yours? Why?