

Year 9 English Reading List 2009

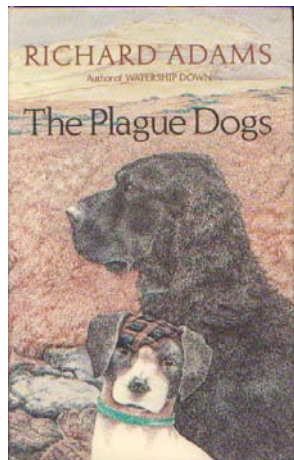
Please also check out the website: www.cool-reads.co.uk

It is run *by* teenagers, *for* teenagers and you can search for books in your favourite genre and read reviews by your peers.

Also, as an introduction, below is the shortlist for the 2008 Carnegie Prize (Teenage Fiction). You can rate them online.

Kevin Crossley- Holland	Gatty's Gate
Linzi Glass	Ruby Red
Elizabeth Laird	Crusade
Tanya Landman	Apache
Philip Reeve	Here Lies Arthur
Meg Rosoff	What I Was
Jenny Valentine	Finding Violet Park

Richard Adams



Plague Dogs

Year 9 + KS4

Animal experimentation

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

animals escape from the lab, Raises various issues around

Adams, Douglas

Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy

9 + KS3

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

Joan Aiken

A Touch of Chill

Black Hearts in Battersea

Nightbirds on Nantucket

9+ KS3

Horror

Fantasy/thriller

Fantasy/ thriller

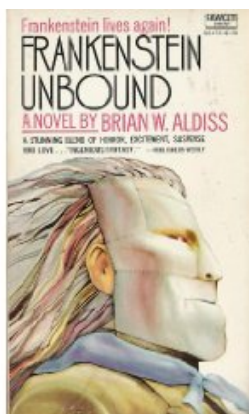
Stolen Lake
*Wolves of Willoughby Chase

Fantasy/thriller
Fantasy/horror

Taking place in an alternative historical reality, King James !!! rules over a land which resembles Victorian Gothic. Dodie Twite is a feisty protagonist, challenging capitalist exploitation, and the rights of the oppressed.

Brian Aldiss
Frankenstein Unbound

10+ KS4
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

www.brianwaldiss.org



Margery Allingham
The Tiger in the Smoke

10+ KS4
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.

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

Alison Allen-Grey

9+ KS3

Unique

Thriller

Quirky thriller about human cloning. The mystery begins when Dom realises he had a brother who dies before he was born...

David Almond

9+KS3

Skellig

Carnegie Prize

The Fire-eaters, Clay



Bloodchild Closer to "The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime" , than a traditional crime novel, this psychological tale needs a strong stomach.

<http://www.davidalmond.com>

Read on: Jostein Gaarder, Alan Garner, Marcus Sedgwick

Kingsley Amis 10+ KS4
One Fat Englishman 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!

Anonymous 9+ KS3
Go ask Alice Social realism
Ground breaking autobiographical look at teenage homelessness which leads to drug addiction. An eye-opening account which includes useful information

Bernard Ashley 9+ KS3
The Little Soldier
Johnnie's Blitz

Johnnie's Blitz drew on Ashley's wartime experiences as a child in and around London; while Little Soldier sums up his writing: a pacy plot with an emotional turning point, a theme that concerns him, and characters that grip as real people. It was shortlisted for the 'Guardian' young fiction prize and for the Carnegie Medal

www.bashley.com

J. G. Ballard 9+ KS4
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...

www.jgballard.com

Malorie Blackman 9+ KS3
Checkmate
Dangerous Reality
Tell Me No Lies
Noughts and Crosses

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.

Read Ons

Minority/Majority separated societies

Northern Ireland

Lingard, Joan Twelfth day of July

Carter, Peter Under Goliath

South Africa

Naidoo, Beverly Journey to Jo'burg

Afghanistan

Ellis, Beverly The breadwinner

USA before 1960

Smucker, Barbara Underground to Canada

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

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

Tom Bowler

9+ KS3

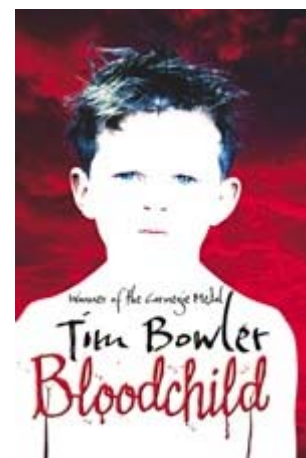
River Boy (Carnegie Gold Medal Winner)

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

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



Ray Bradbury

9+ KS4

The Illustrated Man

Tattoos

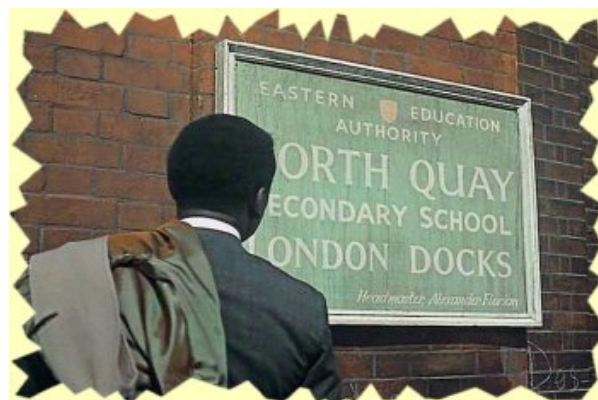
E R Braithwaite

9+KS4

To Sir With Love

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

The film is good too!



Charlotte Bronte

9+ KS4/5

Jane Eyre

Victorian

A classic gothic tale, with a miserable childhood, nasty schooling, triumph over adversity... mad women and fire. Available in graphic novel form, with the original text.

See the original manuscript

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



Dan Brown

9+

The DaVinci Code

An over-rated, but 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. **It will keep you turning the pages..**

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

Melvin Burgess

9+

Junk

Another controversial Carnegie Prize winner: this time the theme is drugs. One might suggest this is for teenagers only!

See what other people think at:

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



Rohan Candappa

9+

Autobiography of a one year old Humour

Bought on pupil recommendation, and enjoying a growing reputation.

Victor Canning

9+

The Runaways

Orson Scott Card 9+
Enders Game Science Fiction
Ender goes to Battle School, to learn how to fight Aliens in zero gravity.

Battle school is based on U.S. military training, only in space.

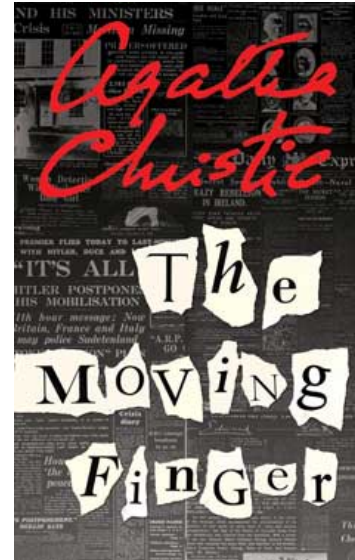


Agatha Christie 9+

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+
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

Michael Crichton 9+
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.

<http://www.michaelcrichton.net>

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.

www.clarkeaward.com

Paulo Coelho

10+

The Alchemist

Philosophical tale

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

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

Stephen Cole

9+

The Wereling Series

Vampires

www.wereling.com/home.asp *Great site!!*

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](#)

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

Great Expectations

David Copperfield

Nicholas Nickleby

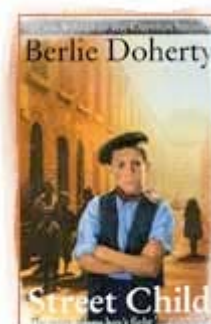
Berlie Doherty

9+

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"





Arthur Conan Doyle 9+



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.

Lois Duncan 9+



Killing Mr Griffin

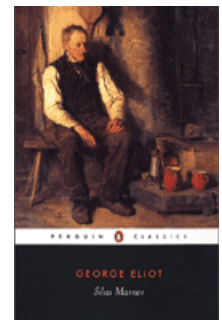
The plan was only to scare their English teacher. They never actually intended to kill Mr. Griffin. But sometimes plans go wrong.

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

George Eliot 10+

Silas Marner

A tale of betrayal, gold and love.



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)

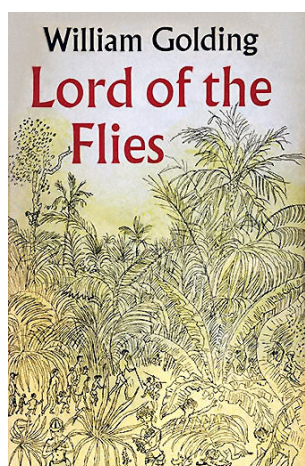
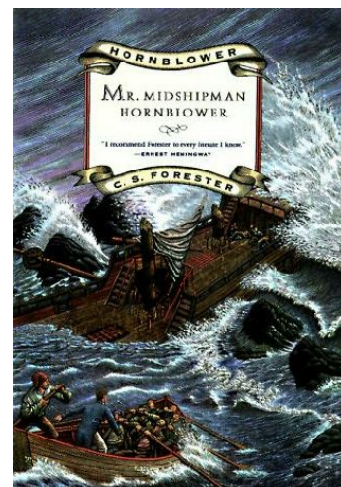
The Diamond as Big as the Ritz

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....

C S Forester 9+
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.



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/

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

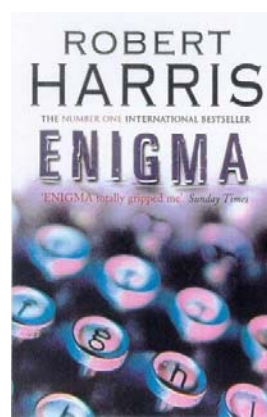


Mark Haddon 9+ KS3

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time
A Spot of Bother

Robert Harris 9+ KS4

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

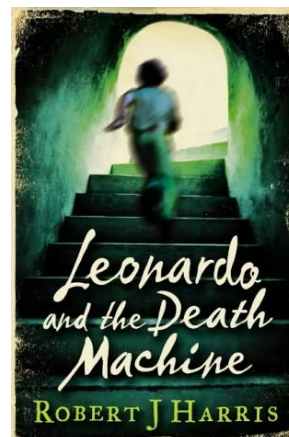


Enigma Cracking the Enigma code WWII This is of particular interest to Eltham, given that OEs worked at Bletchley Park.

Archangel The Soviet archives have been opened revealing secrets...
Fatherland A Berlin where Hitler won WWII

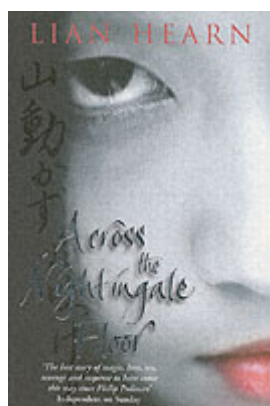
<http://www.fantasticfiction.co.uk/h/robert-harris/>

Robert J Harris 9+
Leonardo and the Death Machine
Young Leonardo da Vinci will become the world's greatest inventor, if his curiosity doesn't kill him first. When he stumbles upon the plans for a mysterious and deadly machine, Leonardo finds himself framed for murder. Soon he is running for his life with the fugitive slave girl Fresina, pursued by a ruthless assassin.



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

Ernest Hemingway 10+ KS4/5
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.

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

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

Carl Hiaasen 9 KS3
Humourous crime, light, American, with a touch of environmentalism.

Hoot
Flush

You know it's going to be a rough summer when you spend Father's Day visiting your dad in the local lockup. Noah's dad is sure that the owner of the Coral Queen casino boat is flushing raw sewage into the harbor...

<http://www.carlhaasen.com/index.shtml>

Susan Hill 9+ KS4/5

Difficult, but worth it!

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



The Woman in Black A classic English ghost story
The Battle for Gullywith A ghost story for younger readers

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

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

Brian Jacques 9 KS3

Redwall Series Animal fantasy

Peter Johnson 9-10 KS3

Teenagers

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

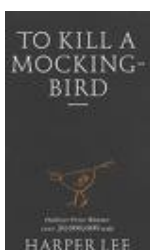


Not to be read by adults: they'd never understand!!
The Hero Game

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

Harper Lee 9+ KS4/5
This American author only wrote one book, but it came 6th favourite in the BBC Big read survey. 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.

Came 6th in the BBC 100 big reads.
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/arts/bigread/top100.shtml>

Allan Massie 9+
<http://www.orionbooks.co.uk/5499-0/author-Allan-Massie.htm>
Caligula Ancient Rome

Read On: novels about the Classical World

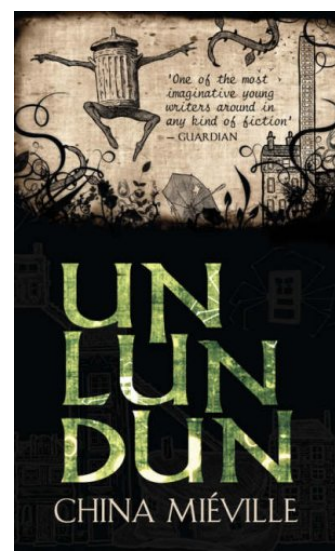
Alexander McCall Smith

The 2 1/2 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.

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.

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.

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

Joshua Mowill 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' "



Grant Naylor 9+ KS4

Red Dwarf Omnibus Humour/Science Fiction

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

Garth Nix 9+ KS3-4

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

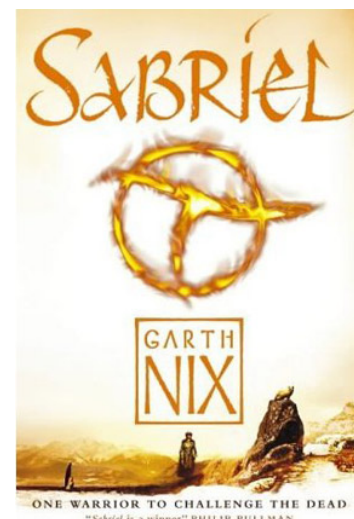
The Old Kingdom series Fantasy

Sabriel

Lirael

Abhorsen

The Creature in the Case



George Orwell 9+ KS3-5

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

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+

The Inheritance Cycle

Dragons, Fantasy

Eragon

Eldest

Brisingr

www.alagaesia.com

