



Canterbury School English Department

S2 Recommended Reading List

Action and Adventure

K Beck **Fake**- Powerhouse of an American novel about a disturbed boy who runs away from a teenage "concentration camp".

Robert Cormier -**The Chocolate War** Stunning and shocking novel about the power of gangs in school and how one small act of defiance starts a chain reaction in the school. Highly recommended for strong readers. Has a great sequel.

SE Hinton **That Was Then This is Now**- About the drifting apart of 2 friends when they turn 16. powerful and meaningful read.

Margaret Mahy **24 hours**- A 17 year old has to make several life changing decisions in the space of 24 hours. A riveting read.

Matt Whyman **Boy Kills Man**- Shocking novel about violent teenage gangs running wild in the streets of Columbia.

Relationships and Teenage

Maya Angelou **I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings**- Classic autobiography of a young black girl struggling against the brutal American race discrimination in the 1930s.

Sherry Ashworth **Disconnected**- An A-Grade student loses interest at school. Each chapter examines a different aspect of her life and problems in this excellent read.

Sherry Ashworth **Blinded by the Light**- Gripping novel about a boy sucked into the dark world of a religious cult.

Raffaella Barker **Phosphorescence**- This atmospheric lively novel captures the mood of change amongst a group of 14 year old friends.

Kevin Brooks **Lucas**- Wonderful novel about the effect a new boy has on a close knit island community. Brooks is a great new writing talent.

Alyssa Brugman **Walking Naked**- Highly original novel set in a secondary school where the girls who are 'cool' clash with a new girl with startling consequences.

Anne Cassidy **Birthday Blues**- A gripping story focusing on an abandoned one day old baby. The mother's story is revealed through flashbacks.

Jack Gantos **Desire Lines**- Highly original novel when friendships are brought into question when a new church opens in the local area.

Patrick Gale **Friendly Fire**- Quirky novel set in a boarding school in the 1970s. It centres around Sophie who was abandoned as a baby before ending up in the school.

Keith Gray **Happy**- A meaty novel about a group of 17 year olds trying to start a band.

G Grindley **Spilled Water**- Brilliant study of slavery in modern China. An 11 year old girl is sold to a family faraway. Gripping and gut-wrenching.

Jan Mark **Heathrow Nights**- Suspension from school means either telling Mum or hiding out in Heathrow Airport. Guess what he chooses? A great book.

Graham Marks **How It Works**- Hard hitting edgy teenage fiction about a 15 year old having a tough time at school and after a near death accident thinks he has a guardian angel watching over him.

Nadia Marks **Making Sense**- 14 year old Julia is up-rooted from her home in Cyprus to live in London, without knowing any English. This great book is about her struggle, her new life and first love.

Jan Mark **Riding Tycho**- Odd, but intriguing novel set on a prison island in which the locals, who live there, "host" prisoners in their homes setting the scene for a fascinating friendship.

Meg Rosoff **How I Live Now**- Odd and dreamy novel set in the back-drop of a undisclosed war with an American teenage girl getting to know her family in England.

Alex Shearer **Great Blue Yonder**- Funny and hugely thought-provoking novel about dealing with death.

Gabrilee Zevin **Elsewhere**- A very special story which is narrated from beyond the grave. Death is exceptionally well imagined, and realistic you'll really enjoy the feel of this book.

Classics

Aldous Huxley **Brave New World**- Huxley's nightmare vision of the future. A challenging read.

George Orwell **Animal Farm**- The animals of Manor Farm find the pigs as nasty as their human masters. A fantastical political satire; and a challenge too!

Mary Shelley **Frankenstein**- The fable of the scientist who creates a man-monster, only to see it inflict murder on the human race.

Bram Stoker **Dracula**- Classic tale of the Count. Nothing like most of the films made in its name; and far more frightening.

HG Wells **War of the Worlds** The Martians invade the Earth in this classic invasion story. Everyone with a passing interest in science fiction should check out this book.

The Invisible Man- Endlessly inventive tale about a scientific experiment that spirals out of control into madness.

John Wyndam **Day of the Triffids**- Gripping novel about paranoia and the Earth being invaded by seemingly invincible plants. A very good read.

Fantasy

Terry Brooks **The Sword of Shannara**- Highly enjoyable fantasy romp. Nothing new but very good fun. Has several engaging sequels and prequels.

Trudi Canavan **Black Magician Trilogy**- This is a magical tale of conspiracy and magic which is lost and found. A stunning read.

Trudi Canavan **Age of the Five Series**- Stunning new sequence from Canavan, of which the second book has just been published. Every bit as good as the Black Magician Series.

Susannah Clarke **Jonathan Strange & Mrs Norrell**- Exceptionally complex and demanding fantasy adventure. Well worth the hype it attracted and revolves around the rivalry of two magicians.

David Eddings **Pawn of Prophecy**- Wonderful first book in a 5 book series about a farmer's boy whose destiny it is to rule the world.

Patricia Elliott **Murkmere**- Fraught with fenland mist and magic, this supernatural thriller is both compassionate and original. Set in a fantasy world where birds are revered and humans are chosen to follow them.

Robin Hobb **Farseer Trilogy**- This fantasy world is so perfectly created you will get lost in its magic, beauty and depth. Involves a complicated story of slavery, magic, espionage and escape.

Robert Jordan **Eye of the World**- Book 1 in possibly the greatest modern fantasy series? Many people think so. Certainly the biggest, most complex and most demanding.

Gareth Nix **Sabriel/Lirael/Abhorsen**- Powerful and complex fantasy trilogy. Sabriel sets out on a quest to avenge the death of her father in the land of dark, dark magic. Superb from beginning to end.

Terry Pratchett **Mort** What happens when Death takes on an Apprentice?
Weird Sisters (Terry Pratchett) A funny parody of "Macbeth".

Chris Paolini **Eragon & Eldest**- Wonderful quest first-novel by a 16 year old author whose main character begins his destiny is to be a Dragon Rider. The first book in a new trilogy.

Jonathan Shroud **Bartemeus Trilogy**- Part 2 being the brilliant Gollum's Eye. This series may yet pick up the fans it so richly deserves. Fans of Sabriel; check it out.

Marcus Sedgwick **Book of Dead Days**- The dark and compelling story of Boy and Willow trying to save their friend Valarian from a fate worse than death.

Ghosts, Horror and Thrillers

Alison Allen-Grey **Unique**- Quirky thriller dealing with human cloning. The mystery begins when Dom realises he had a brother who dies before he was born...

Malorie Blackman **Dead Gorgeous**- A tragi-comic mystery story where it seems Nova has fallen for a ghost stuck in the hotel her parents have moved to. Very fun.

Kevin Brooks **Kissing the Rain**- Moo thinks he has witnessed a hit-and-run murder. Or has he? Top notch thriller from the writer of 'Martyn Pig' and 'Lucas'.

Anthony Burgess **A Clockwork Orange**- Burgess's still infamous nightmare vision of youth culture in revolt. Sees 15 year old Alex released from prison "corrected" but at what cost? A masterpiece.

Kate Cann **Leaving Poppy**- A new genre for the great Kate Cann in this spooky book.

Humour and Comedy

Douglas Adams **Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy** Adams created a new style of comedy with this witty parody of both science fiction and popular culture. The number 42 will never seem the same again! Very entertaining.

Ann Brashares **Sisterhood of the Travelling pants** A brilliantly quirky and touching story of how four friends use an old pair of jeans to remain friends when they are apart.

Chris D'Lacey **Falling 4 Mandy** Cheating, diving, football, and a beautiful striker called Mandy are all elements in this funny football novel.

Carl Hiaasen **Hoot** Hiaasen's first teenage novel is an irreverent and funny satire full of oddball characters in an American high school.

Mary Hooper **Zara** Brilliant study of friendships and manipulation at school as Zara changes, at any length, to be accepted at school.

John Kirkbridge **Thank You For Your Application** Quite exceptional novel about a would-be writer who works as a typist. Has truly hilarious consequences. This very funny book is comedy of the highest order.

Sue Limb **Girl 15, Charming but Insane** The agony, ecstasy and embarrassment of being a teenager. Very, very funny.

Meg Rosoff **Just in Case** Quirky and funny follow up to How I Live Now in which 15 year old David is obsessed Fate is out to get him.

Mystery, Crime and Suspense

Kevin Brooks **Martyn Pig** Martyn's life is turned on its head when he accidentally kills someone very close to him in this sublime novel. Brilliant.

Kevin Brooks **Road of the Dead** Pacy and edgy thriller about two teenage boys out to avenge the death of their murdered sister. Kevin Brooks just gets better and better!

Meg Cabot **Size 12 is Not Fat** Entertaining Heather Wells Mystery novel. The former teen pop sensation tries a new career!

Anne Cassidy **Story of my Life** Magnificent thriller set over one London night as Kenny is travelling home he bumps into Mac, his brother's girlfriend, and his life is about to change. Cassidy has followed Looking for JJ with another A* thriller. Read it today!

Jennifer Donnelly **A Gathering Light** Fascinating novel set in 19th century America focusing on a murder and the fight for education for young women.

Helen Dunwoodie **The Tarot Reader's Daughter** A romantic and original supernatural mystery set in Edinburgh. Has Rosa inherited her mother's skills? If so should she use them?

Keith Gray **Malarkey** Fantastic novel set in a tough secondary school in which the "new boy" gets set up for a theft he is innocent of. An exciting story which is gripping from beginning to end.

Mark Haddon **Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time** Multi-award winning and instant cult classic tale of a boy who has Asperger's syndrome and whilst investigating the "murder" of a dog is unaware of the chaos he causes around him.

John Marsden **Letters from the Inside** Absolutely shattering novel which brings to vivid life 2 teenage girls and then strangles your heart over what happens in their relationship.

C Z Nightingale **Grass** Tough school novel about blackmail and revenge set in a violent high school where pupils live in fear of gang attacks.

James Watson **Talking in Whispers** Stunning novel set in Chile about a 16 year old boy who witnesses an assassination. This book is a fascinating study in heroism. Essential reading.

Science Fiction

Ray Bradbury **The Illustrated Man** Bizarre collection of short stories. Each story represents a tattoo on the illustrated man.

Michael Crichton **Jurassic Park** Far better than the film. Truly exciting and fascinating look at the reintroduction of dinosaurs into the modern world. The sequel is equally good.

Simon R Green **Deathstalker** (series) Great series of novels in the spirit of Star Wars. Adventure, drama and fuller than life characters are the order of the day.

Ben Jeapes **Xenocide Mission** A gritty and realistic science fiction novel that has aliens who are more real than humans!

Jan Mark **Useful Idiots** A fascinating thriller based in a future where the seas have risen to claim back the land .

John Wyndham **Chrysalid's War** Fast paced SF novel set after an all-destroying nuclear war.

War

John Boyne **The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas** One of the saddest books I've ever read. Set around the time of the Holocaust. Saying anything else will give it away. Read it!

Melvin Burgess **Bloodtide** Set after World War 3 in the not too distant future. Two gangs fight to control the ruins of London. Bloody, brutal and brilliant. This promises to be the start of a highly successful series as Bloodtide 2 is promised soon.

Robert O'Brien **Z for Zachariah** Another post apocalypse novel about the uneasy relationship surrounding the last surviving man and woman.

Erich Maria Remarque **All Quiet on the Western Front** World War One and trench warfare, as seen through the eyes of an anonymous German soldier.

Andy McNab **Boy Soldier** McNab draws on his own vast SAS experience to write this exciting, part-biographical, account of his younger days in the SAS.

Robert Swindells **Brother in the Land** Danny describes life after World War 3 in this gripping and stunning story of survival and loss of innocence. Highly recommended.

Leslie Wilson **Last Train From Kummersdorf** Intelligent tale of friendship between survivors of Second World War Germany.

Other Interesting Teenage Novels

Anonymous **Go Ask Alice** Anonymous Groundbreaking autobiographical look at teenage homelessness which then leads to drug addiction. This is an honest and eye opening novel which includes much useful information.

J L Carr **How Steeple Sinderby Wanderers Won the FA Cup** dream coming true. Sensational football novel, written as fact, about every footballer.

Frank Cottrell **Millions** An exploration of the consequences of winning a huge amount of money. Funny, heart-breaking and realistic.

Glenis Eckersley **Teen Angel** Quirky and original non-fiction investigation into the phenomenon of angels and the impact they have had on our lives. This book examines the stories of many people who feel they have been touched.

Arthur Golden **Memoirs of a Geisha** Apparently based on the memoirs of a real Japanese geisha. This fascinating book, set in 1929, takes a detailed look at a subject still shrouded in secrets.

David Klass **The Braves** Gritty teenage football novel about torn loyalties and growing up around football gangs.

Adeline Yen Mah **Chinese Cinderella** The terrible true story of a girl who suffers rejection from her family on account of her sex.

Nina Malkin **6X: the Uncensored Confessions** Great novel about a young rock band conquering America.

Catherine Robinson **Celia** Tremendous story of how a girl's life changes when she runs out of a GCSE history exam only to live on the streets.

Judy Waite **Shopaholic** Demanding and moving story of a girl who finds a new friend who loves shopping, but soon gets dragged into a very scary situation. Highly recommended.