

CDS English Department Yr10 and Y11 Reading List

Dear Y10 and 11,

As an English Department, we see it as our duty to encourage you to be readers for life. As a result we've put together a list of books we think you will ENJOY reading.

The first page is a list of 13 books written in a wide range of styles but we do really think there's at least one book here for each of you:

- The Five People you Meet in Heaven - Mitch Albom – A great story that follows the death and then life (in that order) of a maintenance man called Eddie. It starts to ask the big questions about why we're here but in a frank and simple way that makes it a quick read that also stays with you.
- Noughts and Crosses – Malorie Blackman – I'm sure you all know this brilliant novel, set in a parallel C21st century ... worth a read, even if you've seen it on TV.
- Perks of being a Wallflower - Stephen Chbosky - Coming of age fiction that follows an introverted teen and his journey from a boy to a man.
- Paddy Clarke Ha,Ha, Ha - Roddy Doyle – The story of a 10 year old boy in Dublin, who sees and understands more than he is supposed to.
- Gone - Michael Grant - Dystopian thriller that combines Lord of the Flies with Stephen King. Everyone disappears apart from teenagers. They have to survive and find out what is happening. Also a series.
- The Curious Incident of the dog in the Night-Time – Mark Haddon – I'm sure we don't need to say anything about this one ... if you haven't read it, do ...
- The Outsiders – S E Hinton – written when the author was just 16! The story of a group of boys growing up on the wrong side of the tracks in an American town.
- Never Let Me Go - Kazuo Ishiguro – Set in a chilling dystopian future (you may have seen the film) in a school, which at first seems safe and nice ... Also shortlisted for the Booker Prize.
- Pigeon English – Stephen Kelman – Another first novel, shortlisted for The Booker Prize in 2011 and about a young boy from Ghana, growing up on a London estate.
- One of Us is Lying - Karen McManus - Murder mystery. Five students in detention when one student drinks water but has a reaction and dies. A social media post states that it wasn't an accident and that the murderer watched the student die...
- Anita and Me – Meera Syal – A first novel – a semi-autobiographical account of growing up as part of the only Punjabi family in a mining village in the Midlands – funny and true.
- The Chrysalids – John Wyndham – set in a strange dystopian society where something has happened to change human genetics.
- Face - Benjamin Zephaniah - Year 11 bully in West Ham school is a bit of a toe rag. He gets in a stolen car with an older criminal but it crashes, leaving him with life changing physical injuries. It is about how he comes to terms with his looks and how he re-evaluates how he treated others

Then, on the next page, you get our individual recommendations ...

Mr Nunn's recommendations:

- The Hobbit - JRR Tolkien - before Lord of the Rings, Bilbo Baggins goes on an epic journey across middle earth and finds the one ring. Trolls, goblins, dwarfs - enough said.
- Lord of the Flies - William Golding - no need to patronise you here about this classic.
- Sharpe Series - Bernard Cornwell (start with Sharpes Tiger as it is in chronological order from when character is in India before he then ventures into Napoleonic War). Sharpe is a private in the army, and alongside General Arthur Wellesley (soon to be Duke of Wellington), embarks on saving a soldier from Tippoo of Mysore.
- 1984 - George Orwell - no need to summarise
- Unbroken - Laura Hillenbrand - biography of Louis Zamperini, former Olympian runner who survives a plane crash during WW2 but ends up POW in Japan. Spends two and a half years in camps being brutally treated.

Ms Roberts' recommendations:

- To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee. Everybody should read this book! Don't worry if you don't find the first chapter gripping ... keep going – it is a book that will stay with you for life!
- The Book Thief – Markus Zusak – Set in Nazi Germany ... sad, funny and with a surprising narrator. A must read. (Much better than the film!).
- His Dark Materials – Philip Pullman – Begins with Northern Lights ... I know you may think this is a book for children, you may have read it when you were younger but ... read it again, you'll see it is far more adult than you realised.
- The Earthsea Books – Ursula le Guin - These books begin with The Wizard of Earthsea, which is an easy read but soon become darker and more complex. This is a fantasy series but it is very much about the different ways in which human societies organise themselves and interact with their environment ... plus the added appeal of dragons!
- Regeneration – Pat Barker – I've just read this myself – set during World War One and told from three characters' points of view, one of them being the famous war poet Siegfried Sassoon. The book is based on the real life Sassoon's rebellion against the war and his time in a military hospital in Edinburgh, one of the other narrators is his 'real' doctor. I found it compelling reading and a reminder of the things that other generations have sacrificed for the freedoms we take for granted. If you read it, it helps to read the short page of notes at the end BEFORE you start- so you get to understand which bits are historical 'facts'.
- I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings – Maya Angelou – a very famous first part of Angelou's autobiography. A real life account of growing up as a black girl in Arkansas in the 1930s and 40s – heart-breaking and life-affirming. A must read.
- Behind the Scenes at the Museum – Kate Atkinson – a saga of family secrets and accidents. A thick book but worth it, with an ending that somehow crept up on me without me guessing it, even though, instantly, it made total sense.
- When God was a Rabbit – Sarah Winman – this is Winman's first novel and it's fab, funny, sad, harrowing – a book to make you laugh and cry.
- How to Stop Time – Matt Haig – such an easy but enjoyable read that stretches in it's scope from the time of Shakespeare until now.
- Felidae – Akif Pirincci – A brilliant murder mystery whodunit with the complication that human beings are just referred to as 'tin openers' because all of the main protagonists are cats! (one for Mrs Rees to read if she hasn't).

And finally – A list of books to read if you are thinking of studying English Literature A Level:

- To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee
- The Color Purple – Alice Walker
- The Catcher in the Rye – J D Salinger
- The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn – Mark Twain
- Of Mice and Men – John Steinbeck
- Little Women - Louisa May Alcott
- Shakespeare – Bill Bryson

