



Unless otherwise stated, these books are suitable from Year Ten and up, but please do research the books yourself before selecting them to ensure that they are appropriate for your child.

Relationships

Elizabeth Acevedo	Clap When You Land	A dual narrative that focuses on the lives of two girls who are forced to face a new reality in which their father is dead.
Holly Bourne	The Places I've Cried in Public	It looked like love. It felt like love. But this isn't a love story. Amelie fell hard for Reese. And she thought he loved her too. But she's starting to realise that real love isn't supposed to hurt like this. So now she is retracing their story, revisiting all the places he made her cry.
Cecil Castellucci	Rose Sees Red	Set in New York in the 1980s, this story of two ballet dancers (one American, one Russian) recounts the unforgettable night they spend in the city, and celebrates the friendship that they form.
Kazuo Ishiguro	Never Let Me Go	The narrator, Kathy, hauntingly dramatizes her attempts to come to terms with her childhood at the seemingly idyllic Hailsham School and the fate that has always awaited her and her closest friends.
Danielle Jawando	And the Stars Were Burning Brightly	Mapping 15-year-old Nathan's quest for answers in the aftermath of his brother's suicide, this is a novel about loss and having the courage to speak out.
Patrice Lawrence	Indigo Donut	Seventeen-year-old Indigo has had a tough start in life, having grown up in the care system after her dad killed her mum. Bailey, also seventeen, lives with his parents in Hackney and spends all his time playing guitar or tending to his luscious ginger afro. When the pair meet at sixth form, serious sparks fly.
Ian McEwan	Atonement	A beautifully crafted love story filled with repressed passion and festering jealousy.
Bali Rai	Rani and Sukh	Rani and Sukh fall in love, unaware of the dark and sinister mystery binding their families which dates back to 1960s Punjab.
Meredith Russo	Birthday	Meet Eric and Morgan. Born on the same day, at the same time, in the same place. They've always shared this one day together, but as they grow up they begin to grow apart. Told on one day every year, over six years, this is a story about how change pulls people apart...and how love brings them back together.
Bernard Schlink	The Reader	Michael Berg remembers the year he was fifteen and fell in love with a much older woman. He later discovers that she was hiding a horrible secret. This book is for older readers.
Marcus Sedgwick	Midwinterblood	A novel told in seven parts, each influenced by a moon. This is the story of Eric and Merle, whose souls have been searching for each other since their untimely parting.
Meera Syal	Anita and Me	Set in 1972, this novel follows the life of nine-year-old Meena and her wayward friend Anita.

Thriller and Horror

Iain Banks	The Wasp Factory	A disturbing look into the mind of a child psychopath. Warning: there are some gruesome scenes of violence.
Jennifer Lynn Barnes	The Inheritance Games	Avery has a plan: keep her head down and work hard for a better future. Then an eccentric billionaire dies, leaving her almost his entire fortune. And no one, least of all Avery, knows why.
Kat Ellis	Harrow Lake	Lola Nox is the daughter of a celebrated horror filmmaker – she thinks nothing can scare her. But when her father is brutally attacked in their New York apartment, she is packed off to live with a grandmother than she has never met.
Stephen King	The Shining	The spine-tingling story of a hotel caretaker driven to monstrous insanity by supernatural forces.
Karen M. McManus	One of Us Is Lying	Five students go to detention. Only four leave alive.
Sarah Pinborough	13 Minutes	Dead for 13 minutes, Natasha does not know what happened. A gripping psychological thriller about people, fears, manipulation and the power of the truth.

Life

Aravind Adiga	The White Tiger	Balram Halwai is the White Tiger – the smartest boy in his village. His family is too poor for him to afford to finish school and he has to work in a teashop. However, Balram’s life changes when a rich man hires him as a chauffeur and takes him to live in Delhi.
Dean Atta	The Black Flamingo	Big hearted and dizzyingly flamboyant, Atta’s verse novel about a black gay teen reclaiming his identity as a drag artist is an outspoken triumph from the opening couple to the last.
Lara Avery	The Memory Book	Samantha McCoy has it all mapped out. First, she’s going to win the national debating championship, then she’s going to move to New York and become a human rights lawyer. However, when Sam discovers that a rare disease is going to take away her memory, the future she’d planned so perfectly is derailed before it’s started.
E. R. Braithwaite	To Sir, With Love	A post-war novel about a Black teacher fighting to win the respect of white pupils in a school in the East End of London.
Masi Noor & Marina Cantacuzino	Forgiveness Is Really Strange	This imaginative comic explores the key aspects of forgiveness, asking what it means to forgive and be forgiven. It answers questions about the health benefits and restorative potential of forgiveness and explains what happens in our brains, bodies and communities when we choose to forgive.
Nikesh Shukla	The Boxer	Told over the course of the ten rounds of his first fight, this is the story of amateur boxer, Sunny. Feeling isolated and disconnected in the city he has just moved to, he joins a boxing club to learn to protect himself after a racist attack.
Jodi Picoult	House Rules	A young boy living with Asperger’s syndrome is accused of murder.
Louisa Reid	Gloves Off	This novel tells the story of Lily who is mercilessly bullied at school and who turns to boxing to fight back. This novel is told in verse.

Key Issues

John Agard	Half-Caste and Other Poems	The tensions brought about by differences of race and culture are at the heart of this powerful and entertaining collection of poems.
Yaba Badoe	A Jigsaw of Fire and Stars	Sante was a baby when she was washed ashore in a sea-chest laden with treasure. It seems she is the sole survivor of the tragic sinking of a ship carrying migrants and refugees. Fourteen years on, she's a member of Mama Rose's unique and dazzling circus. But, from their watery graves, the unquiet dead are calling Sante to avenge them.
Raymond Briggs	When the Wind Blows	A graphic novel that details one ordinary couple's attempts to stand firm in the face of nuclear annihilation.
Jennifer Mathieu	Moxie	Vivian Carter is fed up. Fed up with her high school teachers who think the football team can do no wrong. Fed up with sexist dress codes, hallway harassment and gross comments from guys. But most of all, Viv is fed up with always following the rules. This is a page-turning read with a feminist message.
Jennifer Mathieu	The Truth About Alice	A book about stereotypes, secrets and standing up for gender equality.

Adventure and Thriller

Akala	The Dark Lady	Henry is an orphan, an outsider and a thief. But he is also a fifteen-year-old boy invested with magical powers. Set in Elizabethan London.
Alan Gibbons	The Trap	Terrorism, heroism and everything in between. This is a teen thriller about espionage, a missing brother and the ever-raging war on terror.
Courtney Gould	The Dead and the Dark	A novel about things that lurk in dark corners, the parts of you that won't remain hidden and about finding home in places – and people – you won't expect.
Yann Martel	Life of Pi	After the tragic sinking of a cargo ship, a solitary lifeboat remains bobbing on the Pacific. The only survivors from the wreck are a sixteen-year-old boy named Pi, a hyena, a zebra (with a broken leg), a female orangutan and a 450-pound Royal Bengal tiger.
Alex Garland	The Beach	Richard lands in East Asia in search of an earthly utopia. In Thailand, he is given a map of an unknown island, which promises to be amazing. What Richard finds when he gets there is breath-taking: more extraordinary and more frightening than he ever could have imagined.
Emily Suvada	This Mortal Coil	This novel follows one girl on a quest for answers in a genetically and technologically advanced future.

Fantasy

Tomi Adeyemi	Children of Blood and Bone	Magic can burn, turn tides, light darkness and bring back the dead. But magic is gone. So, one girl must bring it back.
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Holly Black	The Cruel Prince	One terrible morning, Jude and her sisters see their parents murdered in front of them. The terrifying assassin abducts all three girls into the world of Faerie, where Jude is installed in the royal court.
Alexandra Bracken	The Darkest Minds	A mysterious disease has killed most of America's children. Ruby might have survived, but she and the others have emerged with something far worse than a virus: frightening abilities they cannot control.
Rachel Burge	Waking the Witch	When Ivy's search for her mother brings her to a remote Welsh isle, she uncovers a dark secret about her past. An ancient and corrupt power is stalking Ivy, and her only chance of survival is to look deep within herself.
Neil Gaiman	American Gods	After three years in prison, Shadow has served his time. However, two days before his release date, his wife Laura dies in a mysterious car crash. Shadow travels home, only to encounter the bizarre Mr Wednesday, who claims to be a former god and the king of America. Together, they embark on a very strange journey across the States.
Garth Nix	Terciel and Elinor	In a land where the dead will not stay dead, eighteen-year-old orphan Terciel is learning to wield a might and terrible power: necromancy.
J. R. Tolkien	The Hobbit	Bilbo Baggins is a hobbit who enjoys a comfortable lifestyle. However, his contentment is disturbed when the wizard, Gandalf, and a company of thirteen dwarves arrive on his doorstep one day to whisk him away on a journey.
Rainbow Rowell	Carry On	"The teenage Hogwarts dream!" Simon Snow just wants to relax and savour his last year at the Watford School of Magicks, but no one will let him. His girlfriend broke up with him, his best friend is a pest, and his mentor keeps trying to hide him away in the mountains.
H. G. Wells	The War of the Worlds	When an alien capsule lands on Horsell Common, crowds of astonished onlookers gather. But wonder soon turns to terror when the Martians emerge. Armed with deadly heat rays, the aliens begin their conquest of Earth.

Conflict

Sebastian Faulks	Birdsong	Stephen Wraysford, a young Englishman, arrives in northern France in 1910 to stay with the Azaire family, and falls in love with unhappily married Isabelle. However, with the world on the brink of war, the relationship falters, and Stephen volunteers to fight on the Western Front.
Ernest Hemingway	A Farewell to Arms	A book about the fear, and courage involved in warfare. However, this is also a love story of immense drama and uncompromising passion.
Erich Maria Remarque	All Quiet on the Western Front	Written shortly after the end of the Great War, this novel is told from the German perspective and is a harrowing depiction of the horrors of trench warfare.

History

Chinua Achebe	Things Fall Apart	Okonkwo is the greatest wrestler and warrior alive, and his fame spreads throughout West Africa. However, when he accidentally kills a clansman, things begin to fall apart.
Kat Dunn	Dangerous Remedy	A historical adventure set in the deadly world of the French Revolution.

Julia Gray	I, Ada	A poignant portrayal of the young life of Ada Lovelace, the nineteenth-century mathematician who is hailed as the world's first computer programmer.
Philippa Gregory	The Constant Princess	A historical novel that tells the early life of Katherine of Aragon.
Lita Judge	Mary's Monster	A graphic novel that brings the story of Mary Shelley and <i>Frankenstein</i> to life.
Matt Killeen	Orphan Monster	Sarah has played many roles – but now she faces the most challenging of all. There's only one way for a Jewish orphan spy to survive at a school for the Nazi elite. And that's to become a monster like them.
Toni Morrison	Beloved	Part ghost story, part profound reflection on the evils of slavery.
Sally Nicholls	Things a Bright Girl Can Do	In the political turbulence of Edwardian Britain, three young women from very different walks of life hear the call for equality and justice.
Anna Seghers	The Seventh Cross	A tense thriller about seven escaped prisoners from Nazi Germany.
Sue Turton	This Book Will (Help You) Change the World	Journalist Sue Turton explains the political system that rules our daily lives while also pointing out its flaws, and empowers readers to change the status quo.
Alison Weir	Innocent Traitor	A wrenching novel about the life and death of Lady Jane Grey: 'The Nine-Day Queen'. This novel is extremely sad.
Markus Zusak	The Book Thief	It is 1939. In Nazi Germany, by her brother's graveside, nine-year-old Liesel picks up a book in the snow and her life is changed forever.

Human Interest

Matthew Fox	The Sky Over Rebecca	When mysterious footprints appear in the Stockholm snow, ten-year-old Kara must discover where they've come from and who they belong to. They lead Kara to Rebecca, a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl and her younger brother. Kara realises they are refugees from another time – World War Two – and they are trying to find their way home.
Kathryn Evans	Beauty Sleep	Laura can't remember who she is. But the rest of the world knows. Because Laura is famous – a dying girl who was frozen until she could be cured. What happens when you wake up one day and the world has moved on forty years?
Alex Wheatle	Cane Warriors	Moa is fourteen and the only life he has ever known is toiling on the Frontier sugar cane plantation. This follows the true story of Tacky's War in Jamaica, 1760.

Our World, Other Worlds

Tracy Banghart	Grace and Fury	In a world where women have no rights, sisters Serine and Nomi face two very different fates: one in the palace, the other on an island prison where women must fight to survive.
Holly Black	The Darkest Part of the Forest	Hazel lives with her brother, Ben, in the strange town of Fairfold where humans and fae exist side by side.

Nick Lake	Nowhere on Earth	It starts with a plane crash. There are survivors: a teenage girl and her little brother. They are running from something. But what? Then the men arrive. They are hunting the girl and boy. And – that’s all we can tell you...
Malinda Lo	Ash	In the world of ‘Ash’, fairies are an older race of people who walk the line between life and death, reality and magic. This is a fairytale about possibility, and recognising opportunities for change.

Poetry

Carol Ann Duffy	The World’s Wife	Behind every famous man is a great woman. From Mrs Darwin to Queen Kong, these are poems that tell the woman’s side of the story.
[ed] Ted Hughes & Seamus Heaney	The School Bag	Heaney and Hughes have chosen an eclectic range of poets read in schools, but also poems that they themselves read whilst they were at school.
[ed] Matthew George Walter	The Penguin Book of First World War Poetry	This anthology reflects the diverse experience of those who lived through the war – bringing together the words of poets, soldiers and civilians affected by the conflict.
Benjamin Zephaniah	Talking Turkeys	An unconventional collection of straight-talking poems about heroes, revolutions, racism, love, animal rights and other subjects.

Plays

Alan Bennett	The History Boys	A play about an unruly bunch of bright, funny sixth-form boys in pursuit of sex, sport and a place at university. A play about a maverick English teacher at odds with the young supply teacher. A play about a headmaster obsessed with results.
Shelagh Delaney	A Taste of Honey	A play about teenage Jo, and her relationship with her irresponsible mother.
Arthur Miller	The Crucible	The story of how the small community of Salem is stirred into madness by superstition, paranoia and malice.
Arthur Miller	Death of a Salesman	Willy Loman is on his last legs. Failing at his job and dismayed at the failure of his son, he is tortured by jealousy at the success of his neighbour. Willy spirals into a well of regret and reminiscence. This play is a scathing criticism of the American Dream.

Classics

Charlotte Bronte	Jane Eyre	The story of an orphan, Jane Eyre, who finds employment as a governess for the young ward of Mr Rochester. As her feelings for Mr Rochester develop, Jane uncovers a terrible secret.
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Emily Bronte	Wuthering Heights	A novel that follows Cathy and Heathcliffe's self-destructive relationship amidst the wild, feral atmosphere of the Yorkshire moors. A novel that deals with the violence of doomed relationships.
Tracy Chevalier	Girl With a Pearl Earring	Johannes Vermeer can spot exceptional beauty. When a servant girl catches his eye, she soon becomes both his student and his muse. But when he gives her his wife's earring to wear for a portrait, a huge scandal erupts.
Wilkie Collins	The Woman in White	When Walter Hartright meets the woman in white, it is the start of an exciting and dangerous adventure. Who is she, and what does she want?
Arthur Conan Doyle	Sign of the Four	A Sherlock Holmes novel: this is classic detective fiction.
L. P. Hartley	The Go Between	The exploitation of a young boy who is drawn into conveying messages between a farmer and a rich young woman at Brandham Hall. This is a moving exploration of a young boy's loss of innocence.
Gaston Leroux	The Phantom of the Opera	Discover the classic Gothic horror novel about haunted cellars, murder and unrequited love.
George Orwell	1984	George Orwell's terrifying vision of a totalitarian future in which everything and everyone is slave to a tyrannical regime.
John Steinbeck	The Grapes of Wrath	Set against the backdrop of dust bowl Oklahoma and Californian migrant life, this novel tells the story of the Joad family, who, like thousands of others, are forced to travel West in search of promised land.
Robert Louis Stevenson	The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde	This is a dark psychological fantasy novel that explores the idea of the 'split personality'. Stevenson looks at humanity's capacity for the worst sorts of evil.
Alice Walker	The Color Purple	Set in the deep American South, this is the classic tale of Celie, a young black girl who is born into poverty and segregation.
Oscar Wilde	A Picture of Dorian Grey	Dorian Gray is so enthralled by his own exquisite portrait that he exchanges his soul for eternal youth and beauty.

Non-Fiction

Maya Angelou	I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings	Angelou's memoir about growing up as a Black woman in twentieth-century America.
Tim Bono	When Likes Aren't Enough	This book is filled with engaging research, practical exercises, honest advice and simple habits that can build lasting changes. This is the perfect guide for the generation looking for science-based, real-world ways to feel just a little bit happier every day.
Vera Brittain	Testament of Youth	One of the most famous autobiographies of the First World War.
Aidan Harvey-Craig	18 Wellbeing Hacks for Students	Through 18 short chapters, Aidan Harvey-Craig uncovers the unexpected secrets of hacking your wellbeing.
Claire Eastham	We're All Mad Here	A guide to beating social anxiety. This book covers everything from surviving university and the workplace, through to social media and making it through parties and dates.
Bryony Gordon	You Got This	It was only until recently that I realised, not wanting to be me is at the heart of every dumb decision I ever made. And so, this book is full of

		the life lessons I wish someone had taught me. This is a book for the teenage girl in me. And for every other teenage girl out there.
Walker Isaacson	Steve Jobs	Based on more than forty interviews with Steve Jobs, this is the acclaimed, bestselling biography of the ultimate icon of inventiveness.
Nelson Mandela	Long Walk to Freedom	The riveting memoirs of the outstanding moral and political leader.
Nicola Morgan	Exam Attack	This book will help you avoid bad stress and give you the greatest change of doing your best when exams arrive. This book covers a huge range of learning techniques.
Joe Simpson	Touching the Void	Joe Simpson and Simon Yates set out to be the first to reach the summit of the Siula Grande in the Peruvian Andes. As they are about to embark on the descent down the mountain, one Simpson breaks his leg and Yates must decide whether to cut the rope and risk Simpson's likely death.
Dashka Slater	The 57 Bus	A book for teenagers about race, gender and identity.
Louise Spilsburg & Yas Necati	What is Consent?	This book explores how consent works, and why it matters. It explains how consent plays a part in almost every interaction or relationship we have, and how it affects almost every area of life, from healthcare to the law. It talks about how to say no, and what to do if you feel your consent has been violated.
Alexandra Wilson	In Black and White: A Young Barrister's Story of Race and Class in a Broken Justice System	When Alexandra's friend was stabbed on his way home from football, she felt compelled to enter the legal profession in search of answers.