



Recommended Reads for Key Stage 4 & 5

Action, Mysteries, Horror & Thrillers

Famous Last Words or **Bad Girls Don't Die**— Alender
The Inheritance Games by Jennifer Lynn Barnes
Frozen Charlotte by Alex Bell
S.T.A.G.S. (& sequels) by M.A. Bennett
Bodyguard series; **Bulletcatcher** by Chris Bradford+
The Bunker Diary; **Martyn Pig**; **iBoy** - Kevin Brooks
Dead Time (& sequels); **The Bone Room+** -A Cassidy
And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie*
Say Her Name by Juno Dawson
Mortal Chaos or **Lie, Kill, Walk Away** -M Dickinson
A Gathering Light by Jennifer Donnelly*
Zero Day by Jan Gangsei
Every Line of You by Naomi Gibson
The Enemy (& sequels) by Charlie Higson
House of Silk, **Moriarty**, **Magpie Murders**-Horowitz+
Silence and Bones by June Hur
A Good Girl's Guide to Murder (& sequels)- Jackson
Sawbones or **Blade & Bone** by Catherine Johnson
The Long Weekend by Savita Kalhan+
Salem's Lot, **Carrie** or **It** by Stephen King*
Watchers by Dean Koontz*
Splinters of Sunshine by Patrice Lawrence
Bluebeard, Bluebeard by Attica Locke*
We Were Liars or **Genuine Fraud** by E Lockhart
Mina and the Undead by Amy McCaw
Girl, Missing; **Here We Lie**; **Blood Ties** by S McKenzie
#Murdertrending by Gretchen McNeil*
One of Us is Lying (& sequels) by Karen McManus
I am Still Alive or **Rules for Vanishing** by K Marshall
Knife Edge*; **Blame** by Simon Mayo
The Recruit (Cherub) (& sequels) by R Muchamore+
Even If We Break by Marieke Nijkamp
Foul Play (& sequels) or **Ghost Stadium** - T Palmer+
13 Minutes by Sarah Pinborough
We Begin At The End by Chris Whitaker*
The First Day of My Life by Lisa Williamson

Autobiographies/Memoirs/Biographies

I Know Why a Caged Bird Sings by M. Angelou*
A Street Cat Named Bob by James Bowen*+

Playing the Enemy by John Carlin*
In Cold Blood by Truman Capote*
Hope in a Ballet Shoe: Michaela & Elaine DePrince
Wave: Life After the Tsunami by S. Deraniyagala*
One Dog at a Time (& sequels) by Pen Farthing*
Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank
I, Ada by Julia Gray (part-fictionalised, part bio)
Marley & Me by John Grogan*
Mud, Sweat and Tears by Bear Grylls*
Fever Pitch by Nick Hornby*
This is Going to Hurt by Adam Kay*
The Story of My Life by Helen Keller*
War Dog (WWII) by Damien Lewis*
The Boy on the Wooden Box by Leon Leyson
Diary of a Young Naturalist by Dara McAnulty
Today Everything Changes by Andy McNab*+
Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah*
A History of the World in 21 Women-Jenni Murray*
The Greatest: Muhammed Ali by WD Myers+
Dreams From My Father by Barack Obama*
Becoming by Michelle Obama*
You Are a Champion by Marcus Rashford
Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi (graphic novel)*+
Touching the Void by Joe Simpson*+
Beautiful Country by Qian Julie Wang*
Educated by Tara Westover*
Night by Elie Wiesel*
Black Boy:A Record of Youth&Childhood-R Wright*
Autobiography of Malcolm X—MalcolmX &A Haley*
I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai

Classics (off the beaten path) & Literary Fiction:

Challenging KS4/5 reads

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe*
Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Adichie*
Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line - Deepa Anapparo*
The Testaments; The Handmaid's Tale – Atwood*
The Vanishing Half by Brit Bennett*
Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury*
The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cicneros*
All The Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr*
Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha by Roddy Doyle*
Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison*
Girl, Woman, Other by Bernadine Evaristo*
Birdsong or **Snow Country** by Sebastian Faulks*
Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi*
The Sweetness of Water by Nathan Harris*
Woman in Black by Susan Hill*

The Kite Runner by Khalid Hosseini*
Not Without Laughter by Langston Hughes*
A More Perfect Union by Tammye Huf*
Brave New World by Alex Huxley*
Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro*
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee*
Cider With Rosie by Laurie Lee*
Small Island by Andrea Levi*
The Road by Cormac McCarthy*
Circe or *Song of Achilles* by Madeline Miller*
The Bluest Eye or *Beloved* by Toni Morrison*
Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell*
All Quiet on the Western Front by EM Remarque*
The God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy*
Home Fire by Kamila Shamsie*
Anita and Me by Meera Syal*
The Color Purple by Alice Walker*
Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead*
Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit – J Winterson*

Complex/Difficult/Thought-provoking Issues

Change is Gonna Come – various BAME authors
Poet X; Clap When You Land; With the Fire on High
by Elizabeth Acevedo^
7 Days or *Magpie* by Eve Ainsworth
Simon vs the Homo Sapiens Agenda – B Albertalli
Booked; Rebound; Crossover-Kwame Alexander+^
The Hypnotist by Laurence Anholt
Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher
Black Flamingo by Dean Atta^
Noughts & Crosses or *Boys Don't Cry* -M Blackman
Tiger Eyes or anything by Judy Blume
Firekeeper's Daughter by Angeline Boulley
Am I Normal Yet? (Spinster Club series)- H. Bourne
See Through Me; Dumb Chocolate Eyes - K Brooks
Hate List by Jennifer Brown
Junk or *The Hit* by Melvin Burgess
Heart-Shaped Bruise or *Afterlove* y Tanya Byrne
Looking for JJ; No Virgin/No Shame-Anne Cassidy
The Perks of Being a Wallflower by S. Chbosky
Stolen by Lucy Christopher
The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier
Toffee; One; Moonrise by S Crossan+^
Meat Market or *What's the T* by Juno Dawson
A Swift Pure Cry; Solace of the Road -S. Dowd
The Pavee and the Buffer Girl by Siobhan Dowd+
Furious Thing; Before I Die by Jenny Downam

Out of My Mind or *Out of My Heart* by S Draper
Heroic; Being Billy; Saving Daisy by Phil Earle+
Mockingbird; Seeing Red by Kathryn Erskine
The Universe versus Alex Woods by G. Extence
If I Stay; Just One Day by Gayle Forman
The Ones That Disappeared by Zana Fraillion
Full Disclosure of *Off the Record* by Camryn Garrett
Baby Girl by Emma Hill
After the Fire by Will Hill
Looking at the Stars by Lewis Hine
The Outsiders by SE Hinton
And the Stars Were Burning Brightly by D Jawando
That Asian Kid; Girl in Broken Mirror by S Kalhan
That's Not What Happened by Kody Keplinger
I am Thunder; Kick the Moon - Muhammed Khan
Rose, Interrupted, Indigo Donut, Orangeboy or Eight Pieces of Silva by Patrice Lawrence
Brock, Pike, Rook & Lark by Anthony McGowan+
Run, Rebel or *The Crossing* y Manjeet Mann^+
Out of Heart; A Beautiful Lie by Irfan Master
Sister Heart by Sally Morgan^
Slay by Brittney Morris
The Sky is Everywhere or *I'll Give You...*by J Nelson
No Fixed Address; Word Nerd by Susin Nielson
All the Bright Places & Holding Up Universe - Niven
Before I Fall; Vanishing Girls by Lauren Oliver
Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens*
My Sister's Keeper; Small Great Things -J Picoult*
Patron Saints of Nothing or *After the Shot Drops*
by Randy Ribay
Rani & Sukh; (Un)arranged Marriage; Killing Honour; The Gun; Stay a Little Longer - Bali Rai+
Gloves Off^; Wrecked^; Black Heart Blue by L Reid
Long Way Down^; All American Boys - J Reynolds
Extraordinary Means by Robyn Schneider
The Lovely Bones or *Lucky* by Alice Sebold*
The Boxer or *Run, Riot* Nikesh Shukla
Counting by 7s by Holly Sloan
The Million Pieces of Neena Gill by E Smith-Barton
Stone Cold by Robert Swindells
Everything I Thought I Knew by Shannon Takaoka
Lies We Tell Ourselves by Robin Talley
The Hate U Give or *On the Come Up* by A Thomas
The List by Siobhan Vivian
It's Kind of a Funny Story by Ned Vizzini
My Name is Leon by Kit de Waal
What Momma Left Me by Renee Watson

Little Bit (& sequels), *Uprising* or *The Humiliations of Welton Blake+* by Alex Wheatle
The Art of Being Normal by Lisa Williamson
Frankly in Love by David Yoon
In The Wild Light by Jeff Zentner
Teacher's Dead, Face, Terror Kid or *Gangsta Rap* by Benjamin Zephaniah

Dystopian or Science Fiction

The Power by Naomi Alderman*
Chasing the Stars by Malorie Blackman
Gamer (& Virtual Combat series) by Chris Bradford+
Ink (& sequels) by Alice Broadway
World War Z by Max Brooks*
Three Bullets by Melvin Burgess
The Girl With All the Gifts by MR Carey*
Matched (& sequels) by Ally Condie
The Maze Runner (& sequels) by J. Dashner
Cell 7 (& sequels) by Kerry Drewery
The Upper World by Femi Fadugba
The Gender Game by Bella Forrest
Gone; Front Line (& sequels) by Michael Grant
Lifers by M.A. Griffin
Department 19 (& sequels) by Will Hill
The Outrage by William Hussey
Bearmouth by Liz Hyder
Raybearer by Jordan Ifueko
The Loneliest Girl in the Universe or *The Quiet at the End of the World* by Lauren James
Maladapted by Richard Kurti
I Am Number Four (& sequels) by Pittacus Lore
Legend (& sequels) by Marie Lu
Station 11 by Emily Mandel*
The Passengers; The One by John Marrs*
The 100 by Kass Morgan
Killer T by Robert Muchamore
No Man's Land by Joanna Nadin
The Knife of Never Letting Go series by Patrick Ness
Z For Zachariah by Robert O'Brien
The Loop by Ben Oliver
Replica or *Delirium* (& sequels) by Lauren Oliver
Only Ever Yours by Louise O'Neill
Divergent (& sequels) by Veronica Roth
Plague Land by Alex Scarrow
Scythe, Unwind (& sequels) -N Shusterman
Concentr8 by William Sutcliffe
Contagion or *Slated* (& sequels) by Teri Terry
The Martian or *Project Hail Mary* by Andy Weir*

Partials (& sequels) by Dan Wells
Uglies or *Zeroes* (& sequels) by Scott Westerfield
The Foreverers by Chris Whitaker
The Infinity Files by SM Wilson
The 5th Wave (& sequels) by Rick Yancey

Environment or Climate Change Fiction

American War by Omar El Akkad*
The Drowned World by J.G. Ballard*
Exodus by Julie Bertanga
Parable of the Sower by Octavia Butler*
The Well by Catherine Chanter*
Greenwood by Michael Christie*
Breathe by Sarah Crossan
The Ice People by Maggie Gee*
The Territory by Sarah Govett
Floodworld & *DustRoad* by Tom Huddleston
The End We Start From by Megan Hunter
Green Rising by Lauren James
Runners by Ann Kelley
Unsheltered, Prodigal Summer or *Flight Behaviour* by Barbara Kingsolver*
The Carbon Diaries by Saci Lloyd
The Dog Runner & *Across Risen Sea* - B MacDibble
The Overstory by Richard Powers*
Floodland or *Snowflake, AZ* by Marcus Sedgwick
Dry by Neal & Jarrod Shusterman
The Survival Game or *The Island* by Nicky Singer
The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck*

Fantasy, Epic or Urban Fantasy or Magic Realism

Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi
A Jigsaw of Fire & Stars by Yaba Badoe
Six of Crows; Crooked Kingdom by Leigh Bardugo
Cinderella is Dead by Kalynn Bayron
City of Bones (& sequels) by Cassandra Clare
Legendborn by Tracy Deonn
Half Bad (& sequels) by Sally Green
The Gilded Ones by Namina Forna
The Deathless Girls by Kiran Millwood Hargrave
The Eye of the World (Wheel of Time) by R Jordan
A Blade So Black (& sequels) by L.L. McKinney
Burn by Patrick Ness
Way of Kings (Stormlight Archive) by B Sanderson
Voyages in Underworld of Orpheus Black-Sedgwick
Oh My Gods by Alexandra Sheppard
An Ember in the Ashes (& sequels) by Sabaa Tahir
Children of the Quicksands by Efua Traore

History & War

The Short Knife by Elen Caldecot
Wolf Children, Bomber, Red Shadow, Eleven Eleven
or *The Great Revolt* by Paul Dowswell
Copper Sun by Sharon M Draper
When the Sky Falls by Phil Earle
Under a War-Torn Sky or *Suspect Red* by L. Elliott
Fatal Throne: Henry VIII (multiple YA writers)
An Act of Love or *The Trap* by Alan Gibbons
Grenade, Ground Zero or *Prisoner B-3087* - A Gratz
Bone Talk by Candy Gourlay
The Mercies by Kiran Millwood Hargrave*
Sawbones or *Blade and Bones* by C Johnson
Orphan, Monster, Spy by Matt Killeen
Among Red Stars by Gwen Katz
When the World Was Ours by Liz Kessler
The Librarian of Auschwitz by Antonio Iturbe*
The Beekeeper of Aleppo by Christy Lefteri*
Dog Tags: Semper Fido or *Strays* by CA London
A Berlin Love Song by Sarah Matthias
Red Stars by Davide Morosinotto
Fallen Angels or *Sunrise over Fallujah*-WD Myers
Things a Bright Girl Can Do; Silent Stars - S Nicholls
Salt to the Sea or *Fountains of Silence* - R Sepetys
Maus by Art Spiegelman (graphic novel)*+
Milkweed by Jerry Spinelli
The Land (& sequels) or *Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred Taylor
Code Named Verity & Enigma Game; Firebird+ by Elizabeth Wein
Cane Warriors or *Kemosha of the Caribbean* by Alex Wheatle
Kent State by Deborah Wiles^
My Dear I Wanted to Tell You by Louisa Young*

Humorous books

Half My Facebook Friends Are Ferrets by J Buckle
The Princess Diaries by Meg Cabot
A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman*
The Private Blog of Joe Cowley by Ben Davis
Boys Don't Knit or *An English Boy in NY* by T Easton
An Abundance of Katherines by John Green
Noah Can't Even; Alex in Wonderland - SJ Green
The Boomerang Effect by Gordon Jack

The Reformed Vampire Support Group by Jinks
Hellbent or *Henry Tumour* by Anthony McGowan
Don't Even Think About It – Sarah Mylnowski
Discworld series by T Pratchett (try *The Last Hero*)*
Good Omens by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman*
Geekhood series by Andy Robb
The Rosie Project (& sequel) by Graeme Simsion*
Something I Said by Ben Bailey Smith
The Gifted, The Talented and Me by W Sutcliffe
Dark Lord: The Teenage Years by Jamie Thomson
The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole – Sue Townsend
The Savages and *American Savage* by M Whyman

Relationships

Ace of Spades by Faridah Abike-Iyime
Yes, No, Maybe So by R Albertalli & Aisha Saeed
Beautiful Broken Things or *Fierce Fragile Hearts*
Sara Barnard
Tender Earth by Sita Brahmachari
We Come Apart by S Crossan & Brian Conaghan^
Alex & Eliza by Melissa de la Cruz (Hamilton)
Floored: When Seven Lives Collide (various authors)
Fault in Our Stars or *Looking for Alaska* by J Green
Why We Broke Up by Daniel Handler
To All the Boys I've Loved Before by Jenny Han
Slammed or *Regretting You* by Colleen Hoover
Hold Back the Stars by Katie Khan
Falling Fast (& sequels) by Sophie McKenzie
Release by Patrick Ness
One Day or *Sweet Sorrow* by David Nicholls*
Unboxed; Second Best Friend by Nan Pratt
Heartstopper graphic novels by Alice Oseman+
The Boy in the Black Suit by Jason Reynolds
Attachments & Fangirl by Rainbow Rowell
Written in the Stars by Aisha Saeed
The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein*
Shiver or *The Raven Boys*(&sequels) - M. Stiefvater
Our Chemical Hearts by Krystal Sutherland
They Both Die at the End by Adam Silvera
Love is a Revolution by Renee Watson
If You Come Softly by Jacqueline Woodson
Everything, Everything & Sun is Also a Star-Yoon

* = Books written for adults; may contain mature content
+ = top picks for reluctant readers or readers who prefer visual/less dense texts. Includes some dyslexia-friendly titles; quick-paced reads of longer books
^ = verse novel

Credit to Alice Visser Furay