

Year 10 Recommended Reading List

Those that have been marked with a * are to indicate that the events the novels depict may be distressing and require maturity of understanding: parental guidance may be needed in these cases.

Author /Title	Themes	Guided Reading Questions
Adams – A Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy	Humour/space	How can this book be seen as a criticism of society?
Atkinson – Behind the Scenes of the Museum*	Family/death/role of women	What does this book show about the role of women in family life?
Ballard – Empire of the Sun	WW2/imprisonment/childhood	How does war affect children differently from adults?
Bronte – Wuthering Heights	Relationships/gothic	Is Heathcliff a villain?
Bryson – Notes from a Small Island	Travel writing	How does Bryson’s writing style fit the label ‘literary non-fiction’?
Collins – The Woman in White	Detective	How is the use of multiple narrators effective? Is it successful?
Cormier – After the First Death	Thriller/terrorist	How is the way this story is told effective?
Forster – A Passage to India	Colonialism/culture	During the British Empire could an Englishman and an Indian be friends?
Gainman – American Gods*	Fantasy/Americana/ mythology	How are myths created?
Golding – Lord of the Flies	Survival/ leadership	Would the story change if it was a group of girls or is it just basic human instincts?
Harris – Archangel	Russian history / fear	What are the dangers of learning history from reading fiction?
Ishiguro – Never Let Me Go	Dystopian /control/identity	Horror author Ramsey Campbell labelled it as one of the best horror novels - do you agree?
McCarthy – The Road*	Post-apocalyptic	Some believe McCarthy’s novel is a fable – do you agree?
McEwan – A Child in Time*	Time / grief / dystopian	Some have suggested that the main theme of this book is time travel – do you agree with this?
Salinger – The Catcher in the Rye	Teenage confusion/ rebellion	This book was censored in America in the 1960s – do you agree?
Seabold – The Lovely Bones*	Thriller/supernatural	How far would you agree that the narrative voice is successful and well crafted?
Schlink – The Reader*	Post War Germany/relationships	Can a generation and a nation truly move past a war?
Simpson – Touching the Void	Survival/danger/non-fiction	Would you have cut the rope?
Smiley – A Thousand Arces	Retelling/power/psychological	How does a modern setting differ from Shakespeare’s original?
Wilde – The Picture of Dorian Grey	Identity/growing old	How would life be different if we didn’t grow old?