Tutor Time Reading Programme

Our tutor time reading programme takes place throughout all Key Stages, Years 7-13.

For Year 7-9, this consists of reading a novel together during two morning registration periods of 20 minutes each and one afternoon tutor time slot of 30 minutes. Our aim is that, just through our Tutor Time Reading Programme, Key Stage 3 students will have read for 117 hours, completed seven novels and read over 1 million words.

In Year 10 and 11, each tutor group has a novel to read, supplemented by a booklet of entertaining non-fiction articles drawn from newspaper columns to engage students with real-world topics and issues in a way that should provoke debate and also enhance their understanding of different writing styles. These are core skills needed not only for English GCSE but in expressing themselves in life outside of the classroom. In addition, there is a folder of articles of academic and general interest that offer “tasters” of the kind of topics and issues covered at A level in subjects across the curriculum. These would need to be printed off, ideally, to maintain the standard of reading from printed material. We aim to give tutors some choice and flexibility in what they read with their groups, but would encourage at least some non-fiction at some point.

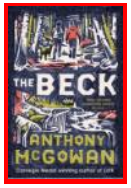
In Year 12 and 13, we encourage students’ independence around reading both for pleasure and wider educational purposes around their A-Level subjects by having a dedicated reading slot each week, where we expect them to engage in their own reading materials. This may be supplemented by their tutor introducing them to something interesting or current, or reminding them of the wealth of e-magazine and online materials we have subscriptions to in order to support their studies. This is further incentivised through our ‘Five to Thrive’ reward cards where students are encouraged to note down something they have read, engage in a discussion with a member of staff and then stamp their card. Each completed card is then entered into a raffle for a prize draw each month.

For each reading slot in Year 7-11, we:

- Focus on reading for pleasure and discussing key concepts or topics as a tutor group;
- The tutor reads to the students while circulating the room, ensuring all students have access to hearing and enjoying the story while the tutor models pace and tone. No student’s reading age or accessibility is then a barrier to them enjoying listening to the story;
- Students follow the text as the tutor reads with either a ruler, provided bookmark or a coloured overlay (larger print copies on coloured paper are also available in limited numbers for ease of reading);
- Where possible, one student is asked to model the tracking of the text under a visualizer to help all to follow along;
- Tutors pause on challenging vocabulary to discuss meaning with students or look up the word together, ensuring students are exposed to opportunities to extend their understanding and their own vocabulary.

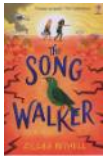
Please see below our tutor time reads.

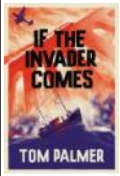
In **Y7**, we aim to keep our novel choices around 200 pages or less to enable tutor groups to read ideally 3 novels across the academic year, introducing students to a range of texts and authors. We focus on stories around transition, change, adventure and courage.

	**World Burn Down** by Steve Cole (2020) 115 pages A young boy whose mother is a soldier protecting the Amazon is kidnapped to teach her a lesson - he escapes but must survive the wildfires all around him. Gripping, fast-moving adventure, with an important environmental message. A good read as well as a supportive, dyslexia friendly text.
	**Swan Song** by Gill Lewis (2021) 119 pages Dylan is struggling. Since he started high school, everything has become too much to handle. Now he's been expelled and is forced to move to the tiny village in Wales where his grandad lives. But when Grandad invites Dylan out on his boat to watch the Whooper swans return, things begin to change. This is a lovely book, good for everyone that likes a good sentimental yarn.
	**Run Wild** by Gill Lewis (2018) 106 pages A group of friends find an injured wolf-dog cross on wasteland near their London home when they try to find somewhere they can skateboard. Positive messages about nature and wilderness conservation abound, as well as not judging people and giving second chances.
	**The Beck** by Anthony McGowan (2025) 141 pages Kyle is less than happy about getting dumped at his eccentric old grandad's on a Saturday afternoon. He thinks the day is going to be a nightmare until his grandad introduces him to the marvels in the little stream or beck at the bottom of his garden. Once filthy and full of rubbish, the beck has been cleaned up and is now home to some amazing creatures. But this amazing world is under threat from a new development. Can Kyle and his grandad carry out their bold plan to save their precious waterway from the builders? This is a tale of fighting for the environment and for what is right.
	**Stitched Up** by Steve Cole (2022) 122 pages The horrific real-life cost of fast fashion is exposed in this gripping tale of survival. When twelve-year-old Hanh is offered a job as a shop assistant in Hanoi, she sees it as a chance to earn money to send back to her family living in poverty in rural Vietnam. But on her arrival in the city, she soon learns that the job offer was a lie and finds herself working in virtual slavery in an illegal garment factory. Life in this sweatshop is a daily hell of long hours, little rest, poor food and regular violence. Hanh is desperate to escape, but when an opportunity arises will she be able to find the courage to take a dangerous chance?
	**Needle** by Patrice Lawrence (2022) 120 pages A powerful and heart-rending exploration of a teenager's journey through grief, rage and getting caught in the criminal justice system from award-winning author Patrice Lawrence. Charlene is a demon knitter. It's the only thing she enjoys and the only thing she believes she's really good at. So when her foster mum's son destroys her latest creation, Charlene loses it and stabs him in the hand with her knitting needle. It damages a nerve and she gets sucked into the criminal justice system for assault. Charlene's not sorry and she's never apologised to anyone in her life. But people keep telling her that if she says sorry, they'll go easier on her. Can she bring herself to say it and not mean it when her freedom's at stake?

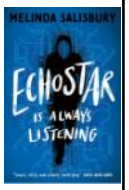
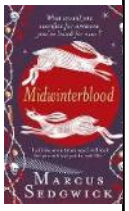
	**Ravencave** by Marcus Sedgewick (2023) 113 pages While mucking about in the ruins of an old farm while on holiday in Yorkshire, James hears strange laughter echoing around the walls. The ghost of a young girl appears to him and urges James to follow her but at first he's too afraid. When she appears again, this time James follows. But will he be able to face the terrible truth she reveals …?
	**The Wolves of Willoughby Chase** by Joan Aiken (1962) 250 pages Can you go a little faster? Can you run? Long ago, at a time in history that never happened, England was overrun with wolves. But as Bonnie and her cousin Sylvia discover, real danger often lies closer to home. Their new governess, Miss Slighcarp, doesn't seem at all nice. She shuts Bonnie in a cupboard, fires the faithful servants and sends the cousins far away from Willoughby Chase to a place they will never be found. Can Bonnie and Sylvia outwit the wicked Miss Slighcarp and her network of criminals, forgers and snitches?
	**Rat** by Patrice Lawrence (2021) 152 pages When his mum is sent back to prison, Al knows exactly who is to blame. Mr Brayker, who lives downstairs, has been making trouble for Al's mum ever since they moved in, and Al's determined to get his revenge. He involves the only two creatures he can rely on: his pet rats, Venom and Vulture. This is a moving story of community, loneliness, and how you never quite know what's going on in someone else's life.
	**Private Peaceful** by Michael Morpurgo (2003) 192 pages Heroism or cowardice? A stunning story of the First World War from a master storyteller. 'Full of warmth as well as grief, conveying vividly how precious it is to be alive' (Sunday Times). As young Thomas Peaceful looks back over his childhood from the battlefields of the First World War, his memories are full of family life deep in the countryside. But the clock is ticking, and every moment Tommo spends remembering how things used to be, means another moment closer to something that will change his life forever. A heart-warming tale of family, friendship and love.
	**Boy 87** by Ele Fountain (2018) 208 pages Shif is just an ordinary boy who likes chess, maths and racing his best friend home from school. But one day, soldiers with guns come to his door - and he knows that he is no longer safe. Shif is forced to leave his mother and little sister, and embark on a dangerous journey through imprisonment and escape, new lands and strange voices, and a perilous crossing by land and sea. *Boy 87* is a gripping, uplifting tale of survival; it echoes the story of young people all over the world today.
	**The First Year** by Matt Goodfellow (2025) 480 pages Don't be alarmed by the number of pages! This is an accessible verse novel about a working-class boy starting secondary school. With raw energy and warmth, it covers perennial issues such as friendship, bullying and anger management, as well as the ups and downs of growing up and fitting in with the big kids and changing times at home.

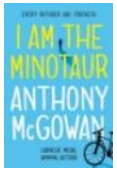
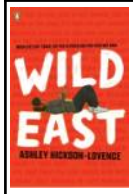
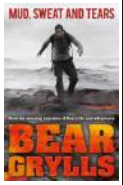
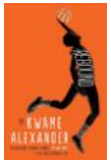
In **Y8**, we introduce students to more diverse texts including stories of refugees and challenges of moving to new places. We also explore texts around family relationships, loss and grief. Most texts are between 200-300 pages, increasing students' attention and stamina in reading longer texts. We aim for students to read at least two of these novels across the year.

	**Tyger** by S F Said (2023) 304 pages In an alternative London in which the British Empire still exists and foreigners are segregated, a young boy and girl work with the mysterious being called Tyger to open a mythical gateway and bring about social change. Full of rich language, compelling action, engrossing mythology, this is teeming with religious and social comment. Beautiful writing that delivers something unusual but memorable. Winner of the British Book Award for Children's Fiction Book of the Year 2023
	**The Boy Who Made Everyone Laugh** by Helen Rutter (2021) 304 pages A young boy with a stammer dreams of becoming a stand-up comedian. An emotional roller-coaster of a story handling a number of serious issues sensitively through the eyes of a likeable main character that readers will be rooting for. A captivating read interspersed with some groan-worthy jokes!
	**The Climbers** by Keith Grey (2021) 120 pages He can scale the Twisted Sister's tangled branches and clamber up Double Trunker with ease.But when new kid Nottingham shows up and astonishes everyone with his climbing skills, Sully's status is under threat and there's only one way to prove who's best. Sully and Nottingham must race to climb the last unnamed tree.Whoever makes it to the top will become a legend. But something spiteful and ugly has reared its head in Sully … Is it worth losing everything just to reach the top? **Content advisory**: some bad language, appropriate in context but may need to be wary
	**The Song Walker** by Zillah Bethell (2023) 368 pages When a young girl wakes up in the middle of the desert, she has no idea who she is. A wonderful read, surprisingly gripping as the main character slowly discovers who she is. The landscape of the Outback is beautifully portrayed and the thread of the Songlines gives the novel a poetic rhythm.
	**Wonder** by R. J. Palacio (2013) 315 pages Auggie does ordinary things - eating ice cream, playing on his Xbox. He feels ordinary - inside. But ordinary kids don't make other ordinary kids run away screaming in playgrounds. Ordinary kids aren't stared at wherever they go. Born with a terrible facial abnormality, Auggie has been home-schooled by his parents his whole life. Now, for the first time, he's being sent to a real school - and he's dreading it.
	**Pax by** Sara Pennypacker (2017) 275 pages A twelve year old boy journeys to find his pet fox that his father made him abandon in the woods - along the way he discovers much about himself and the people he encounters. Beautifully written and presented, with a dual narrative perspective involving boy and fox, and a novel with a lot to say about war, friendship and self-knowledge.

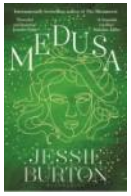
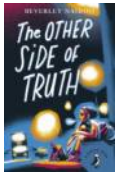
	**If the Invader Comes** by Tom Palmer (2026) 198 pages The latest from the prolific and highly readable Tom Palmer is set in June 1940 with Britain facing the terrifying prospect of a Nazi invasion. In these dark days, three children whose parents are involved in top-secret war work are brought together as unlikely comrades, who have to cover for their parents and confront gossip and suspicion in their local community. Each child must dig deep to find the courage to play their part, rescuing survivors and refugees at sea and undertaking river patrols to detect German E-boat incursions. A gripping and immersive read.
	**My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece** by Annabel Pitcher (2011) 256 pages Five years ago, Jamie's sister, Rose, was blown up by a terrorist bomb.His family is torn apart by their grief. His mum runs away. His dad turns to drink and hate. Rose's surviving twin sister Jasmine stops eating, gets piercings and dyes her hair pink - anything to look different to her twin. But Jamie hasn't cried in all that time. It is a heart wrenching and somehow relatable story about grief, jealousy, racism and the fight for acceptance.
	**The Rescue of Ravenwood** by Natasha Farrant (2023) 352 pages An epic adventure with a call to arms: we must fight to save the most treasured things on our planet and the places that make us whole. To Bea and Raffy, Ravenwood is home, until it's under threat of being demolished. A beautiful, soulful, exciting story about holding onto what's precious, and guarding the extraordinary nature that surrounds us and the extraordinary lengths to which people will go to do the right thing. **Content advisory:** Bea runs away when she is on a family holiday in Italy and makes her way back to the UK by train, with help from a stranger on the train.
	**Ghostlines** by Katya Balen (2025) 251 pages A sea-soaked tale of friendship, loss and the healing power of nature, Katya Balen's latest is set on an island where everybody knows everybody and nothing seems to change. This apparently blissful equilibrium is disturbed when a newcomer, Albie, arrives and proud islander Tilda wants to show him everything the island has to offer, but not all goes to plan - and ghosts of the past begin to be dredged up with dangerous consequences.
	**The Railway Children** by E Nesbit (1905) 312 pages "'Stand firm'" said Peter, "and wave like mad!"' They were not railway children to begin with. All-board for an all-time children's fiction classic! When their Father mysteriously leaves home Roberta (everyone calls her Bobbie), Phyllis and Peter must move to a small cottage in the countryside with Mother. It is a bitter blow to leave their London home, but soon they discover the hills and valleys, the canal and of course, the railway. But with the thrilling rush and rattle and roar of the trains comes danger too. Will the brave trio come to the rescue? And most importantly, can they solve the disappearance of their Father?
	**Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank** (1947) 350 pages Aged thirteen when she went into the secret annexe, Anne kept a diary. She movingly revealed how the eight people living under these extraordinary conditions coped with hunger, the daily threat of discovery and death and being cut off from the outside world, as well as petty misunderstandings and the unbearable strain of living like prisoners. The Diary of a Young Girl is a timeless true story of extraordinary courage and struggle to be rediscovered by each new generation.

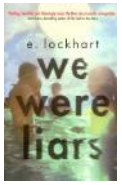
In **Y9**, we offer a wide variety of texts to inspire students and fire their imaginations with a range of authors. We include an autobiography, verse novel and collection of short stories.

	**Echostar Is Always Listening** by Melinda Salisbury (2024) 128 pages A dyslexia-friendly novel that explores the darkside of new technologies: Ruby and Deva have won places at a prestigious summer camp, but only if their school grades dramatically improve! So when Deva suddenly starts getting high marks in all their subjects, leaving her friend behind, Ruby is confused and jealous. It turns out that Deva's success is down to EchoStar, a new app that's helping her get ahead, but is there more to EchoStar that meets the eye? The pair get more than they bargained for when they discover that EchoStar is always watching and listening.
	**Running out of time** by Simon Fox (2022) 304 pages When Alex and his father are forced to flee their home to escape a brutal government, they begin a life-threatening journey across Europe. Very topical subject that really highlights the dangerous reality as a refugee in the hands of people smugglers. The sci-fi elements totally grip and lead to a great twist. Ideal for discussion and a real-page turner. **Content advisory:** Some scenes showing the treatment of refugees, whilst not graphic, are harrowing.
	**Amari and the Night Brothers** by BB Alston (2021) 384 pages A young girl finds herself in a supernatural world when she tries to find her missing older brother. Strongly written and creative fantasy with plenty of creative ideas. Well worth having, great to promote to fans of HP, Riordan and similar.
	**Phoenix Brothers** by Sita Brahmachari (2025) 149 pages Amir has faced more challenges than any teenager should ever have to, all in the simple quest for survival. And now he's finding out that life in his new country is bringing a new set of challenges. At his new school, Amir decides to enter a prestigious public-speaking competition to help others understand what he's been through: we see the world through Amir's eyes as he finds the courage to tell the truth he knows not everyone will want to hear of his journey with his 'Phoenix Brother' Mo, as unaccompanied refugees from Iraq to a new life in England.
	**Midwinterblood** by Marcus Sedgwick (2012) 288 pages Have you ever had the feeling that you've lived another life? Been somewhere that has felt totally familiar even though you've never been there before, or felt that you've known someone even though you are meeting them for the first time? What would you sacrifice for someone you've loved forever? Winner of the Michael L. Printz Award, MIDWINTERBLOOD is a dark, breathtaking and cleverly crafted paranormal love story like no other, beautifully told in seven parts and spanning ten centuries. **Content advisory:** Contains some scenes of sacrificial violence.
	**Windrush Child** by Benjamin Zephaniah (2020) 208 pages A young Jamaican boy arriving in Britain with his parents in the late 1940s tries to make the best of things despite the racism he encounters.A timely novel which encapsulates the tragedy of the WR generation. The open-ended finale is effective and realistic.

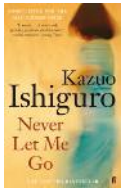
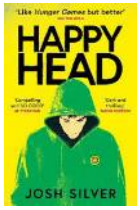
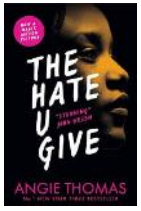
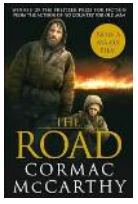
	**Girl Missing** by Sophie McKenzie (2006) 298 pages What if everything you thought you knew about your life was a lie? Lauren is adopted and eager to know more about her mysterious past. But when she discovers she may have been snatched from her family as a baby, her whole life suddenly feels like a sham. Could her adoptive parents really have been responsible for kidnapping her? A gripping thriller that students will not want to put down. **Content advisory:** Has some mild bad language: 'bloody'
	**I am the Minotaur** by Anthony McGowan (2021) 136 pages Matthew is 14 and is struggling to fit in - something that's extra hard when you're taking care of your mum, being bullied at school, and have earned the nickname Stinky Mog because of your poor personal hygiene. On top of all that, he wants to catch the attention of one of the coolest girls in school, Ari.This is a gritty yet touching story of one teenager's struggles with bullying and isolation, written by Carnegie Medal Winning author Anthony McGowan, and is perfect for less-confident readers.
	**Wild East** by Ashley Hickson-Lovence (2024) 268 pages A book that is meant to be heard… When fourteen-year-old Ronny's life is struck by tragedy, his mum decides it's finally time they move out of East London.In his new city, as a black teenager in a mostly white school, Ronny feels like a complete outsider and struggles to balance keeping his head down with his ambition of becoming a rapper. But when a local poet comes into class, Ronny discovers a world he's never considered before. Rap is like spoken word, bars equal poetry – and maybe the combination of both could be the key to achieving his dreams? This is a verse novel that should really connect. **Content advisory:** Some strong language, incidents of gang violence and discussion of county lines drug dealing which involves some secondary characters
	**Mud, Sweat and Tears by** Bear Grylls (2012) 352 pages This is the thrilling story of everyone's favourite real-life action man - from secret childhood missions to climb the town's school buildings and steeples, to starring in his own global TV series and becoming Chief Scout to the Scouting Association. Known and admired by millions, Bear Grylls has survived in dangerous environments few would dare to visit. Find out what it's like to take on mountaineering, martial arts, parachuting, life in the SAS - and all that nature can throw at you! **NOTE:** This is an abridged edition for younger readers of the adult title of the same name
	**Rebound** by Kwame Alexander (2018) 414 pages *This is a verse novel* It's 1988. Charlie Bell is still mourning his father, and struggling to figure out how he feels for his best (girl) friend, CJ. When he gets into trouble one too many times, he's packed off to stay with his grandparents for the summer. There his cousin Roxie introduces him to a whole new world: basketball. A legend on the courts is born. But can Charlie resist when trouble comes knocking once again? From the *New York Times*-bestselling author Kwame Alexander, *Rebound* is a stunning coming-of-age novel in verse about basketball, family and staying true to yourself.

Our **Y10** choices build on the literary and thematic mix of Y9, offering fresh and diverse “young adult” reads that should appeal to older teens along with contemporary classics, covering a range of important issues, and the famous Second World War memoir of Anne Frank to mark our status as a Holocaust Beacon school and remember that outrage perpetrated upon the Jewish people.

	**Medusa** by Jessie Burton (2021) 224 pages *Includes a hard-back teacher copy with beautiful illustrations. A visualiser needed to show this.* The why, the how, the what happened next of one of the most famous Greek myths of all? Monster. Man-hater. Murderess. Forget everything you’ve been told about Medusa. Internationally bestselling author Jessie Burton flips the script in this astonishing retelling,, illuminating the woman behind the legend at last.
	**The Other Side of Truth** by Beverley Naidoo (2000) 330 pages When twelve-year-old Sade's mother is killed, she and her little brother Femi are forced to flee from their home in Nigeria to Britain. They're not allowed to tell anyone - not even their best friends - as their whole journey is secret, dangerous - and illegal. A powerful novel which explores what it means to be classified as 'illegal' and the difficulties which come with being a refugee - based on the real-life events involving Ken Saro-Wiwa in the early 1990s. Winner of the Carnegie Medal 2000.
	**Unstoppable** by Dan Freedman (2019) 307 pages Fourteen-year-old twins, Roxy and Kaine, have only one thing in common. They HATE each other. Kaine is loud, brash and brilliant at football. Roxy is heading for tennis superstardom. When tragedy strikes, their worlds are ripped apart. Can they come together before it's too late? A thrilling page-turner about the causes of knife crime while offering solutions and hope. A book every young person should read.
	**Run Rebel** by Manjeet Mann (2020) 477 pages *I am restless, my feet need to fly.* So says 15-year-old Amber trapped by her father's rules, by his expectations, by her own fears. But freedom always comes at a price. This is a tightly crafted series of punchy, often heartbreaking narrative poems that deal with bullying and domestic violence, as Mann's brilliant, coruscating verse novel lays out the anatomy of Amber's revolution, and the tentative first flowerings of hope and change.
	**The Hunger Games** by Suzanne Collins (2008) 435 pages Set in a dark vision of the near future, a terrifying reality TV show is taking place. Twelve boys and twelve girls are forced to appear in a live event called The Hunger Games. There is only one rule: kill or be killed. When sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen steps forward to take her younger sister's place in the games, she sees it as a death sentence. But Katniss has been close to death before. For her, survival is second nature.
	**Noughts and Crosses** by Malorie Blackman (2001) 446 pages Set in a Dystopian Britain in which society is divided by racism, dark-skinned Crosses are privileged in society over the light-skinned noughts. Sephy is a Cross – a member of the dark-skinned ruling class. Callum is a nought – a ‘colourless’ member of the underclass, and the two have been friends since early childhood. But that’s as far as it can go. Against a background of prejudice and distrust, intensely highlighted by violent terrorist activity by Noughts, a romance builds between Sephy and Callum – a romance that is to lead both of them into terrible danger… Malorie Blackman was inspired by real events from history and her own life when she wrote this novel.

	**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time** by Mark Haddon (2004) 280 pages A murder mystery novel like no other. The detective, and narrator, is Christopher Boone. Christopher is fifteen and has Asperger's Syndrome. He knows a very great deal about maths and very little about human beings. He loves lists, patterns and the truth. He hates the colours yellow and brown and being touched. He has never gone further than the end of the road on his own, but when he finds a neighbour's dog murdered he sets out on a terrifying journey which will turn his whole world upside down. WARNING: contains a lot of swearing!
	**The Black Flamingo** by Dean Atta (2020) 356 pages This is not about being ready, it's not even about being fierce, or fearless, IT'S ABOUT BEING FREE. Michael waits in the stage wings, wearing a pink wig, pink fluffy coat and black heels. One more step will see him illuminated in the spotlight. He has been on a journey of bravery to get here, and he is almost ready to show himself to the world in bold colours … *Can he emerge as The Black Flamingo?*
	**Everything, Everything** by Nicola Yoon (2015) 310 pages Maddy is allergic to the world; stepping outside the sterile sanctuary of her home could kill her. But then Olly moves in next door. And just like that, Maddy realizes there's more to life than just being alive.You only get one chance at first love. And Maddy is ready to risk everything, everything to see where it leads.
	**Clap When You Land** by Elizabeth Acevedo (2020) 416 pages Camino Rios lives for the summers when her father visits her in the Dominican Republic. But this time, on the day when his plane is supposed to land, Camino arrives at the airport to see crowds of crying people... In New York City, Yahaira Rios is called to the principal's office, where her mother is waiting to tell her that her father, her hero, has died in a plane crash. Separated by distance - and Papi's secrets - the two girls are forced to face a new reality in which their father is dead and their lives are forever altered. And then, when it seems like they've lost everything of their father, they learn of each other. In a dual narrative novel in verse that brims with both grief and love, author Elizabeth Acevedo writes about the devastation of loss, the difficulty of forgiveness, and the bittersweet bonds that shape our lives.
	**We Were Liars** by E Lockhart (2014) 256 pages It's been a Booktok phenomenon and is now an Amazon Prime TV series! Cadence belongs to the seemingly perfect and wealthy Sinclair family, who spend their vacations on their private island. She grows up with her cousins Johnny and Mirren, and family friend Gat. Together, the four inseparable teens form a tight-knit group known as "the Liars". In time, Cadence and Gat fall deeply in love, although their relationship is frowned upon by Cadence's controlling grandfather. After a terrible accident in her 15th summer, Cadence returns to the island two years later with amnesia, desperately trying to piece together her fragmented memories but lies are everywhere. Lies upon lies. Will she uncover the truth?
	Ten O'clock Caller by Peter J MURRAY (2012) 181 pages This book is a collection of ten short and spooky horror stories designed to thrill and chill readers both young and old. Peter J Murray uses puppets, clowns, demon trees and a whole host of other scary subjects to create suspense and intrigue in his creepy tales. So wait until dark, draw the curtains, find a quiet place to sit back and turn the pages...and don't ever look over your shoulder!

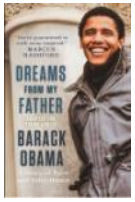
In **Y11**, it is more of the same approach begun in Y10, but the content and sophistication of the novels becomes more challenging and mature - including classics from early in the 20th-century to more recent ones, as well as powerful contemporary works that have resonated with younger readers. Non-fiction is included in the form of an update on Greek myths and Obama's memoir.

	**Never Let Me Go** by Kazuo Ishguro (2010) 304 pages Kazuo Ishiguro imagines the lives of a group of students growing up in a darkly skewed version of contemporary England. Narrated by Kathy, now thirty-one, *Never Let Me Go* dramatises her attempts to come to terms with her childhood at the seemingly idyllic Hailsham School and with the fate that has always awaited her and her closest friends in the wider world. A story of love, friendship and memory, *Never Let Me Go* is charged throughout with a sense of the fragility of life.
	**All Boys Aren't Blue** by Geroge Johnson (2021) 304 pages This powerful YA memoir-manifesto follows journalist and LGBTQ+ activist George M. Johnson as they explore their childhood, adolescence, and college years, growing up under the duality of being black and queer. From memories of getting their teeth kicked out by bullies at age five to their loving relationship with their grandmother, to their first sexual experience, the stories wrestle with triumph and tragedy and cover topics such as gender identity, toxic masculinity, brotherhood, family, inequality, consent, and Black joy.
	**HappyHead** by Josh Silver (2023) 383 pages An epidemic of unhappiness. Friends, here is the good news: HappyHead has the answer. When Seb is offered a place on a radical retreat designed to solve the national crisis of teenage unhappiness, he is determined to change how people see him and make his parents proud. But as he finds himself drawn to the enigmatic Finn, Seb starts to question the true nature of the challenges they must undergo. The deeper into the programme the boys get, the more disturbing the assessments become, until it's clear there may be no escape…
	**The Hate U Give** by Angie Thomas (2017) 437 pages Starr lives in two worlds: the poor neighborhood where she was born and raised and her posh high school in the suburbs. The uneasy balance between them is shattered when Starr is the only witness to the fatal shooting of her unarmed best friend, Khalil, by a police officer. Now what Starr says could destroy her community. It could also get her killed. Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, this is a powerful and gripping YA novel about one girl's struggle for justice.
	**The Road** by Cormac McCarthy (2006) 336 pages The landscape is destroyed. Nothing moves save the ash on the wind. Cruel, lawless men stalk the roadside, lying in wait. Attempting to survive in this brave new world, the young boy and his protector have nothing but a pistol to defend themselves. They must keep walking. In this unflinching study of the best and worst of humankind, Cormac McCarthy boldly divines a future without hope, but one in which, miraculously, this young family may yet find tenderness.



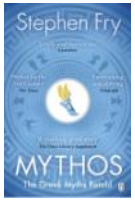
The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini (2003) 368 pages

Afghanistan, 1975: Twelve-year-old Amir is desperate to win the local kite-fighting tournament and his loyal friend Hassan promises to help him. But neither of the boys can foresee what will happen to Hassan that afternoon, an event that is to shatter their lives. After the Russians invade and the family is forced to flee to America, Amir realises that one day he must return to Afghanistan under Taliban rule to find the one thing that his new world cannot grant him: redemption.



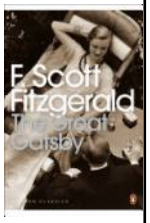
Dreams from My Father (Adapted for Young Adults): A Story of Race and Inheritance by Barack Obama (2022) 341 pages

A revealing portrait of one of the most important voices in America long before he became president: a young Black man asking questions about self-discovery and belonging. Barack Obama brings readers along as he faces the challenges of high school and college, living in New York, becoming a community organizer in Chicago and travelling to Kenya. On his journey to adulthood from a humble background, he forges his own path by trial and error while staying connected to his roots, determined to lead a life of purpose, service and authenticity. Obama's powerful and enduring memoir has been skilfully abridged to make it accessible and engaging for young readers, giving them the opportunity to reflect on where they have come from – and where they are capable of going.



Mythos: The Greek Myths Retold by Stephen Fry (2017) 441 pages

No one loves and quarrels, desires and deceives as boldly or brilliantly as Greek gods and goddesses. In Stephen Fry's vivid retelling, we gaze in wonder as wise Athena is born from the cracking open of the great head of Zeus and follow doomed Persephone into the dark and lonely realm of the Underworld. We shiver in fear when Pandora opens her jar of evil torments and watch with joy as the legendary love affair between Eros and Psyche unfolds. Mythos captures these extraordinary myths for our modern age - in all their dazzling and deeply human relevance.



The Great Gatsby by F Scott Fitzgerald (1925) 177 pages

Jay Gatsby is the man who has everything. But one thing will always be out of his reach ... Everybody who is anybody is seen at his glittering parties. Day and night his Long Island mansion buzzes with bright young things drinking, dancing and debating his mysterious character. For Gatsby - young, handsome, fabulously rich - always seems alone in the crowd, watching and waiting, though no one knows what for. Beneath the shimmering surface of his life he is hiding a secret: a silent longing that can never be fulfilled. And soon this destructive obsession will force his world to unravel.



Ten Twisty Tales by Teresa Bassett (2024) 173 pages

A split-second decision. A life changed forever. Decisions may be made in the blink of an eye, but their consequences can last a lifetime. If you enjoy stories with tricky dilemmas at their heart, you'll love these twisty tales all about ordinary people and their choices: sometimes good, sometimes bad … and sometimes deadly. A law-abiding student's life unravels after her boyfriend begs for help in plotting revenge. A loving daughter is thrilled when her dad takes her and her brother on an unexpected day out. So why is there a gun in the glovebox?A lonely fifteen-year-old can't believe her luck when a popular highflier seeks her out. The new friend exudes confidence and charm, but what lies beneath that perfect exterior?