

Recommended Reading List for Key Stage 4 Students



MODERN CLASSICS

Anne Cassidy *Looking For JJ*

JJ is released from prison, 10 years after killing a friend, and tries to live with her new identity. Amazing teenage thriller.

Mark Haddon *Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time*

A genuine cult classic. A boy with autism investigates the "murder" of his neighbour's dog. Funny, original and moving.

Marcus Zusak *The Book Thief*

Death takes an interest in an orphaned girl. This Nazi Germany set novel is deep in humanity and compassion.

Patrick Ness *The Knife of Never Letting Go*

This award winning book is the first in the *Chaos Walking* series and features a boy called Todd, the only boy in a town of men. A virus has killed all the women and everyone is able to hear everyone else's thoughts, including those of animals.

Malorie Blackman *Noughts and crosses*

The first book in a ground breaking series which tackles racism, terrorism and forbidden love from an unusual viewpoint. This is hard hitting and extremely thought provoking.

HUMOUR

Frank Cottrell Boyce *Millions*

When a bag stuffed full of money drops out of the sky, Damien and Anthony find themselves rich. Action packed.

Sue Townsend *Secret Diary of Adrian Mole*

Classic series of diaries featuring 13 $\frac{3}{4}$ year old Adrian and his obsession with the lovely Pandora. Very funny start to a series.

CLASSICS

George Orwell *Animal Farm*

The animals of Manor Farm find the pigs as nasty as the humans. One of the 20th century's leading political satires.

Mary Shelley *Frankenstein*

The fable of the scientist who creates a man-monster, only to see it inflict murder on the human race.

William Golding *Lord of the Flies*

After their plane crashes on a desert island, a group of schoolboys wait to be rescued. Their behaviour takes on a murderous, savage turn.

THE SUPERNATURAL

Becca Fitzpatrick *Hush Hush* series

One of the best supernatural romance novels around. A sacred oath, a fallen angel, a forbidden love...

Marcus Sedgwick *White Crow*

Tale of two girls' friendship in a long, hot, summer, but it is interwoven with a 17th century tale of bizarre experiments into the afterlife.

Susan Hill *The Woman in Black*

Terrifying & atmospheric tale of a lawyer who stumbles upon a curse when dealing with the estate of a deceased old lady.

Juno Dawson *Say her name*

"The truth is more terrifying than the legend."

MONSTERS, VAMPIRES & DEMONS

Andrew Fukuda *The Hunt*

Nail biting thriller where humans have been hunted to near extinction by vampire like creatures.

Stephanie Meyer *Twilight* series

Great teenage vampire series.

Charlie Higson *The Enemy* series

All adults have been infected with a virus that either kills them or turns them into flesh eating zombies. This book follows the lives of the kids who are surviving in a world where every move they make could kill them.

Maggie Stiefvater *Shiver*

One of the many 'Dark Romance' supernatural titles to emerge after Twilight, this is a gripping romance about a girl who falls in love with a boy who periodically changes into a wolf.

WAR & HISTORY

Laurie H Anderson *Chains & Forge*

Compelling story of a slave girl during the American Civil War.

Meg Rosoff *How I live now*

Fifteen-year-old Daisy is sent from Manhattan to England to visit her aunt and cousins she's never met. The next day bombs go off as London is attacked and occupied by an unnamed enemy.

Paul Dowsell *Auslander*

A hugely impressive thriller set during World War 2.

Benjamin Zephaniah *Refugee Boy*

A powerful novel of suffering amongst refugees.

DYSTOPIAN WORLDS: THE FUTURE LOOKS DARK.....

Allie Condie *Matched & Crossed*

Teenagers are forced to marry the perfect "match" in this dark thriller series in which their lives are controlled by the Elders.

Gemma Malley *The Declaration* trilogy

Drugs allow people to live for hundreds of years and having children is banned. Dark, original look at a possible future.

Scott Westerfeld *Uglies* quartet

In the future plastic surgery is taken to the extreme. Those who reject the process are known as Uglies, and cast out of civilized society.

Richard Kurti *Maladapted*

Cillian and Tess are caught between two powerful and dangerous factions. What should they believe? Who should they trust?

Suzanne Collins *The Hunger Games*

This is a dystopian tale set sometime in the future where a Big Brother type society arranges the Hunger Games, a reality TV event in which a boy and girl from each district are chosen to take part in a fight to the death.

DEALING WITH LIFE (AND DEATH)

Annabel Pitcher *My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece*

Amazing study of loss as a family fails to recover from their loss of a daughter in a suicide bomb attack, and relocate to the North of England.

Susin Nielsen *We are all made of molecules*

Stewart is geeky, gifted but socially clueless. Ashley is popular, cool, but her grades stink. Their worlds are about to collide...

John Green *The fault in our stars*

A novel of life and death and the people caught in between.

Sarah Crossan *One*

Grace and Tippi are twins-conjoined twins. And their lives are about to change.

Bali Rai *(Un) arranged Marriage*

This was the title which brought the popular teen author Bali Rai to the world's attention and he has followed this with other bestsellers like 'Rani and Sukh' and 'The Crew'. The book is written from the standpoint of a British Asian boy who is tricked into going to the Punjab to go through an arranged marriage. As so much press is given to the problem of forced marriages from the female point of view, this book is refreshing to read from a male standpoint.

CULT NOVELS

Kevin Brooks Road of the Dead

Nasty and edgy thriller about two teenage boys out to avenge the death of their murdered sister. A grim & challenging read.

Melvin Burgess Junk

Powerful novel about two teenagers whose lives begin to spin out of control when they discover drugs.

TEEN THRILLERS

Kevin Brooks Black Rabbit Summer

Gritty psychological thriller about an accident in a fair-ground that has terrifying consequences for all the teenagers involved.

Kathy Reichs Virals & Seizure

Adult crime writer, Reichs, turns to teen-thrillers, starring Tory Brennan, niece of the bones expert in Reich's adult thrillers.

Robert Muchamore The Recruit

A real favourite of teenage boys over the last few years, this title was the first in a series of thrillers (Cherub) which is still going today. An ordinary Year 7 boy gets into trouble at school and ends up in a school training child spies. A thoroughly enjoyable read.