

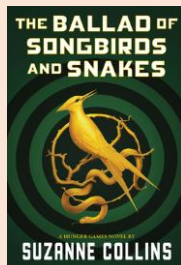
# Recommended KS4 Reading Books



Genre: Adventure

Year 10

Year 11

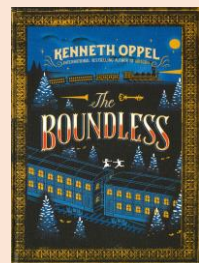


## The Island by Natasha Preston

Jagged Island: a private amusement park for the very rich--or the very influential. Six teenage-age social media influencers with millions of followers--have been invited for an exclusive weekend before the park opens. They'll make posts and videos for their channels and report every second of their VIP treatment. When the teens arrive, they're stunned: the resort is even better than they'd imagined. But soon they'll discover that something's missing from their schedule: getting off the island alive.

## The Ballad of Songbirds and Snakes by Suzanne Collins

An action-packed prequel to the Hunger Games trilogy that explores the origins of President Snow. The prequel explores the origin of a villain, delving into how Snow's worldview is shaped by the devastating aftermath of the war and his family's desperate fall from grace. When is tasked with mentoring District 12 tribute Lucy Gray Baird during the 10th annual Hunger Games his life takes a new direction.

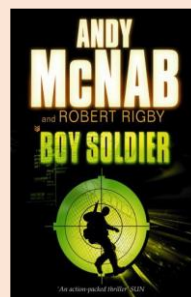
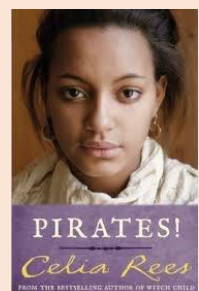


## The Boundless by Kenneth Oppel

Will Everett has always wished for an adventure. Little does he know his started the moment he boarded The Boundless, the longest, most glamorous locomotive in the world, which stretches more than eleven kilometres long. After witnessing a murder during a station stop, he barely makes it back onto the train- with the murderer and his cronies hot on his tail.

## The Bodyguard by Chris Bradford

Recruited into the ranks of a covert young bodyguard squad, 14-year-old Connor Reeves embarks on a rigorous close protection course. Training in surveillance, anti-ambush exercises, hostage survival and unarmed combat, he's put through his paces and wonders if he will actually survive the course. But when the US President summons Connor to protect his impulsive teenage daughter, Connor's training is put to the ultimate test.



## Pirates by Celia Rees

Nancy Kington, daughter of a rich merchant, suddenly orphaned when her father dies, is sent to live on her family's plantation in Jamaica. Disgusted by the treatment of the slaves and her brother's willingness to marry her off, she and one of the slaves, Minerva, run away and join a band of pirates. For both girls the pirate life is their only chance for freedom in a society where both are treated like property, rather than individuals. Together they go in search of adventure, love, and a new life that breaks all restrictions.

## Soldier by Andy McNab

Danny Watts's grandfather, Fergus, was a traitor. One of the worst sort. An SAS explosives expert who betrayed his country and his Regiment for money. Drug money. He was arrested and left to rot and die in a Columbian jail. At least, that's what seventeen-year-old Danny is told when his hopes of becoming a soldier are destroyed for ever. But he knows something the army doesn't seem to know. Fergus Watts is alive and in the UK, living in secret under an assumed name - but where?.



## The Infinity Files by S.M.Wilson

Ash has always dreamed of being a starfighter pilot – she's determined to play her part in the brutal war between planets that killed her family. But when her final test doesn't go as planned, she's given a completely different job – the Guardian of the mysterious Library at the End of the Universe. The library is home to the Infinity Files: vital artefacts from across the galaxy which must be protected, or returned to their rightful homes.

## Blood Red Road by Moira Young

Saba narrates her high tension, action packed journey across the Dust Lands in search of her beloved kidnapped brother. She speaks in a compelling vernacular which strangely mirrors the sparse, sun scorched post apocalyptic landscape she inhabits.

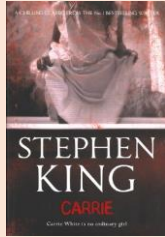
# Recommended KS4 Reading Books



Genre: Horror

Year 10

Year 11

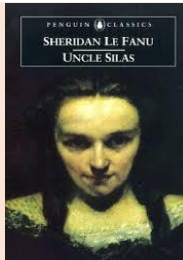
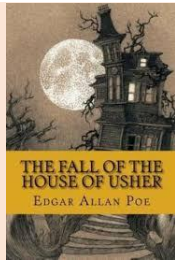


**Carrie by Stephen King**

The story of misfit high-school girl, Carrie White, who gradually discovers that she has telekinetic powers. Repressed by a domineering, ultra-religious mother and tormented by her peers at school, her efforts to fit in lead to a dramatic confrontation during the senior prom.

**Pet Sematary by Stephen King**

Dr Louis Creed and his family lose their pet cat in an accident and bury it in a nearby cemetery. However, this unleashes a darkness that soon haunts the Creeds in terrifying ways. At its core, Pet Sematary is a deeply psychological horror story about the consuming nature of grief and the terrifying consequences of refusing to accept death.

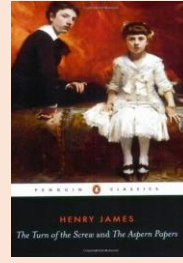
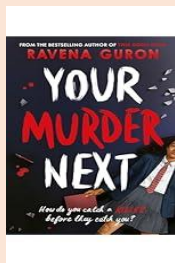


**The Fall of the House of Usher by Edgar Allan Poe**

Poe's 1839 Gothic short story follows an unnamed narrator who visits his childhood friend, Roderick Usher, at his decaying mansion. Roderick and his twin sister suffer from mysterious maladies. After the sister's premature burial and escape, the story culminates in a horrifying climax that destroys both the family and their sentient home.

**Uncle Silas by J. Sheridan LeFanu**

Uncle Silas is an 1864 Victorian Gothic thriller. It follows Maud Ruthyn, a wealthy teenage heiress who is orphaned and placed in the guardianship of her mysterious, estranged uncle. Silas, shadowed by gambling scandals and past murder accusations, begins plotting to murder her to inherit her massive estate. This classic novel blends family secrets, locked-room mysteries, and psychological tension.



**Your Murder Next by Ravena Guron**

When the most popular girl at Myra's new school is found frozen to death in a walk-in chiller, wannabe journalist Myra is sure she was murdered and by somebody she knows. she infiltrates the popular clique's world of envy and backstabbing to prove it. But then a strange boy holds her up at gunpoint in the woods, claiming he's killed the killer. Who is he, who did he kill...and who will die next?

**The Turn of the Screw by Henry James**

This is one of the most famous ghost stories of all time. A governess becomes obsessed with the belief that malevolent forces are stalking the children in her care. But are the children really in danger - and if so, from whom? This novella explores human psychology through ghostly visitations and the uncanny.



**The Haunting of Hill House by Shirley Jackson**

A cornerstone of haunted house fiction, the story follows four people who stay in the notoriously haunted Hill House to study paranormal phenomena—only for the house to begin preying on their minds. Jackson's genius lies in ambiguity—is the house haunted, or is protagonist Eleanor losing her mind? The psychological horror is subtle yet devastating.

**My Dear Henry: A Jekyll & Hyde Remix by**

A young man searches for the reason behind his best friend's disappearance and the arrival of a magnetic stranger in this haunting retelling of Dr. Jekyll & Mr. Hyde. Aside from its' wonderful evocation of misty Victorian London, this updated classic simmers with Gothic imagery, romance, and a robust exploration of what it means to be whole.

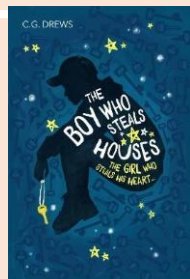
# Recommended KS4 Reading Books



## Genre: Urban Fiction

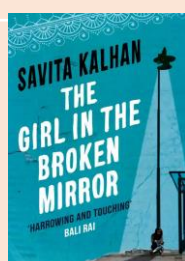
## Year 10

## Year 11



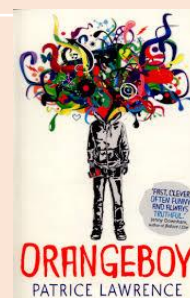
**The Boy who steals Houses by C.G. Drews**  
Abandoned by all their relatives, Sam is trying to build a life for himself and his autistic brother, Avery. He survives by breaking into empty houses when their owners are away. One day he's caught out when a family returns home, but amazingly, this large, chaotic family takes him under their wing. Sadly, betrayed people often find it hard to trust others and Sam has a dark secret from his past.

**Like a Brother by Nathaniel Lessore**  
A hard-hitting novel with references to many of the more challenging aspects of being a teenager today – including homophobia, gang culture, and misogyny – but these themes are explored in an authentic and sensitive way. It tells the story of two mis-matched cousins who support each other through the challenges of urban life.



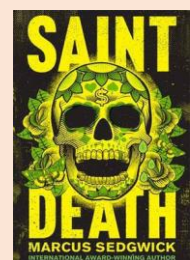
**The Cost of Knowing by Brittney Morris**  
After surviving the car accident that killed their parents, Alex and his little brother, Isaiah, live with their aunt. Alex's psychic ability makes him anxious and isolated, as he constantly witnesses—but was previously powerless to stop—looming tragedies. A poignant exploration of brotherhood, grief and heavy societal themes, including the mental health of young men

**The Girl in the Broken Mirror by Savita Kalhan**  
After her father tragically dies, fifteen year old Jay and her mother are forced to move in with strict, traditional relatives to manage family debts. Jay's situation spirals when she becomes the victim of a violent assault by a family member. This is an unflinching, multi-layered exposition of male privilege, male abuses of women, and the clash of cultures.



**Orangeboy by Patrice Lawrence**  
The dangerous reality of drug pushing and youths being forced into dealing is an important topic highlighted in this gritty urban thriller. After a date ends in tragedy, Marlon inadvertently becomes drawn into this dangerous criminal underworld and is soon living in fear of his life. Mystery and intrigue, urban settings and street language give this book an edge among realistic crime fiction.

**Small Island by Andrea Levy**  
The human story of post-war Caribbean migration told through four narrators – Hortense and Gilbert, who migrate from Jamaica to London in 1948, and the English couple, Queenie and Bernard, in whose house in London Hortense and Gilbert find lodgings. The book sensitively explores themes of identity, displacement, and race relations.



**Saint Death by Marcus Sedgwick**  
A tightly plotted, dark and thrilling tale of crime, poverty and desperation, Saint Death pulls no punches in painting a horribly accurate picture of life for the poorest young people in Mexico, where savage criminality may be the only choice.

**Running Girl by Simon Mason**  
Meet Garvie Smith. Highest IQ ever recorded at Marsh Academy. Lowest ever grades. What's the point? Nothing surprising ever happens. Until Chloe Dow's body is pulled from a pond. His ex-girlfriend. DI Singh is already on the case. Ambitious, uptight, methodical - he's determined to solve the mystery - and get promoted. He doesn't need any 'assistance' from notorious slacker, Smith. Or does he?

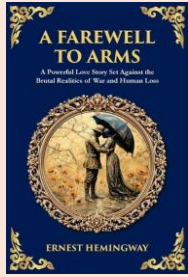
# Recommended KS4 Reading Books



## Genre: Modern Classics

## Year 10

## Year 11

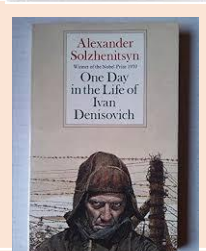
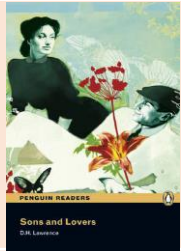


### A Farewell to Arms by Ernest Hemingway

The basis of the novel is author Ernest Hemingway's own experience as an ambulance driver on the Italian front during World War I when he was badly wounded and fell in love with a nurse. This semi-autobiography approach makes for reality as 'A Farewell to Arms' becomes both a love story and a bleak commentary on the horror and futility of war. We are also forced to confront the ultimate truth of existence, that life marches inexorably on even after the most shattering of tragedies.

### Catch-22 by Joseph Heller

A modern anti-war classic that uses satire and dark comedy to brilliantly mock military bureaucracy, highlight the irrationalities of war, and explore the psychological horrors faced by soldiers. It is the story of a bombardier named Yossarian who is frantic and furious because thousands of people he has never met are trying to kill him. His real problem, however, is not the enemy but his own army who seem determined to ensnare him in a Catch 22.

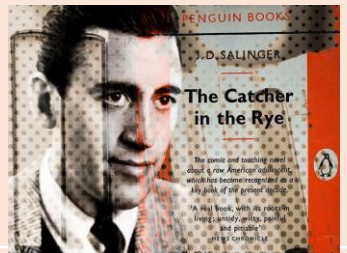


### Sons and lovers by D.H. Lawrence

The story traces the emotional conflicts through the protagonist, Paul Morel, and his suffocating relationships with a demanding mother and two very different lovers, which exert complex influences on the development of his character and masculinity.

### One day in the life of Ivan Denisovich by Alexander Solzhenitsyn

Ivan Denisovich has been sentenced to ten years hard labour in a camp in the Soviet Gulag system. As one of many unjustly imprisoned under the brutal Soviet government, Denisovich gives a voice to all those struggling to survive a brutal regime.

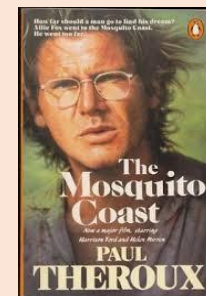
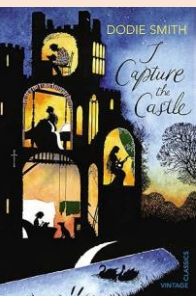


### Jamaica Inn by Daphne du Maurier

On the death of her mother, Mary Yellan journeys to Cornwall's rugged coast to live with her aunt and uncle, little realizing that she will become caught up with a dangerous band of smugglers and wreckers. A dark and gripping Gothic tale that sees Mary fleeing for her life across brooding moorland but towards an even greater danger.

### The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger

A 1951 American coming-of-age novel whose central character, Holden Caulfield, has become an icon for teenage rebellion. The novel is defined by its themes of angst and alienation, and as a critique of superficiality in society. Caulfield gives his opinion on a wide variety of topics as he narrates his recent life events. The legacy of the book is that it changed the way youth are portrayed in fiction.



### I Capture the Castle by Dodie Smith

Cassandra Mortmain lives with her bohemian and impoverished family in a crumbling castle in the middle of nowhere. Her journal records her life with her beautiful, bored sister, Rose, her fading glamorous stepmother, Topaz, her little brother Thomas and her eccentric novelist father who suffers from a financially crippling writer's block.

However, all their lives are turned upside down when the American heirs to the castle arrive and Cassandra finds herself falling in love for the first time.

### The Mosquito Coast by Paul Theroux

*The Mosquito Coast* is an adventure novel about Allie Fox, a brilliant but paranoid inventor who uproots his family from Massachusetts to the jungles of Honduras. Disillusioned by American consumerism, he attempts to build a self-sustaining utopia. However, his escalating obsessions and descent into madness ultimately destroy his family.

# Recommended KS4 Reading Books

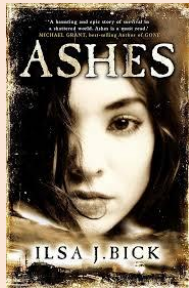
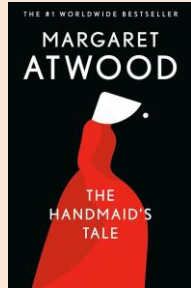


Genre: Fantasy	Year 10	Year 11
	 <p><b>The Cruel Prince</b> by Holly Black One terrible morning, Jude and her sisters see their parents murdered in front of them. The terrifying assassin abducts all three girls to the world of Faerie, where Jude is installed in the royal court but mocked and tormented by the Faerie royalty. A Prisoner in this strange world, Jude must fulfil her destiny.</p>	 <p><b>City of Bones</b> by Casandra Clare The Mortal Instruments series follows Clary Fray as she uncovers her family history and meets the Shadowhunters, a group of secret warriors dedicated to driving demons out of this dimension and back into their own.. Drawn into a terrifying paranormal world, Clary encounters the dark side of New York City—and the dangers of forbidden love.</p>
	 <p><b>My Swordhand is Singing</b> by Marcus Sedgwick Peter and his father Tomas arrive at a remote village plagued with mysterious deaths. At first Peter is confused when his father builds a moat around their small woodcutter's hut but soon Peter realizes that a vampire is hunting the woods searching for new victims. Set in the seventeenth century amid the bleakness of winter in Eastern Europe, and inspired by vampire folklore, this is a superbly crafted, dark and menacing tale.</p>	 <p><b>The Amulet of Samarkand</b> By Jonathan Stroud The Bartimaeus Sequence is set in a parallel universe where trained people can summon demons to do their bidding. In the first book, magician's apprentice Nathaniel is thrown together with the djinni, Bartimaeus, as they both get swept up in the middle of magical espionage, murder, blackmail, and revolt spanning centuries and empires.</p>
	 <p><b>Incarceron</b> by Catherine Fisher Incarceron - a futuristic prison, sealed from view, where the descendants of the original prisoners live in a dark world torn by rivalry and savagery. It is a terrifying mix of high technology - a living building which pervades the novel as an ever-watchful, ever vengeful character, and a typical medieval torture chamber -chains, great halls, dungeons. Young prisoner Finn is planning his escape...</p>	 <p><b>Legend</b> by Marie Lu What was once the United States is now home to the Republic, a nation perpetually at war with its neighbours. Born into an elite family, June is a prodigy being groomed for success in the Republic's highest military circles. Born into the slums, fifteen-year-old Day is the country's most wanted criminal. Unexpectedly, their paths cross and they uncover the truths about their lives.</p>
	 <p><b>The Priory of the Orange Tree</b> by Samantha Shannon This is an epic fantasy novel set in a divided world where the Eastern and Western hemispheres are separated by cultural isolation and ancient myths. The narrative follows four interconnected protagonists—Ead, Tané, Niclays, and Loth—as they must unite their fractured realms to prevent the return of the Nameless One, an ancient, apocalyptic dragon. A perfect mixture of fantasy, adventure, romance, and politics told through a combination of four unique narrators.</p>	 <p><b>Remade</b> by Alex Scarrow Leon and his younger sister, Grace, have recently moved to London from New York and are struggling to settle into their new school, when rumours of an unidentified virus in Africa begin to fill the news. Within a week the virus hits London. The siblings witness people turning to liquid before their eyes. Barely a month after touching Earth's atmosphere, the virus has assimilated the world's biomass.</p>

# Recommended KS4 Reading Books

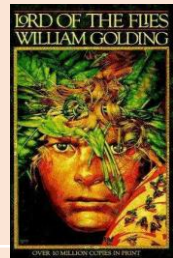


Genre: Dystopian Fiction	Year 10	Year 11
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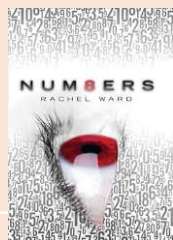
**The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood**  
 Offred is a Handmaid in The Republic of Gilead. She is placed in the household of The Commander, Fred Waterford – her assigned name, Offred, means 'of Fred'. She has only one function: to breed. If Offred refuses to enter into sexual servitude to repopulate a devastated world, she will be hanged. Yet even a repressive state cannot eradicate hope and desire. This is classic modern dystopian fiction.

**Ashes by Ilsa J. Bick**  
 An electro-magnetic pulse flashes across the sky, destroying every electronic device, wiping out every computerized system, and killing billions. Alone after the death of her parents, Alex meets up with a group of other survivors and together they must learn to live amidst the devastation and, most importantly, to recognize who can be trusted and who is no longer human.



**Lord of the Flies by William Golding**  
 This compelling story about a group of very ordinary small boys marooned on a coral island has become a modern classic. As ordinary standards of behaviour collapse, another world is revealed beneath, primitive and terrible, and life on the island turns into a nightmare of panic and death. Both a morality tale and a vision of the Apocalypse.

**Boy 23 by Jim Carrington**  
 Blindfolded, abducted and abandoned in a forest, Boy 23 is told to run as far as he can and fight for his life. But who is he? Why do people want him dead? More to the point, who is the voice that wants to save him? Boy 23 isn't in My Place anymore. He can't see The Screen; he can't hear The Voice. Boy 23 is alone.



**Numbers by Rachel Ward**  
 Jem has always seen the numbers, she has seen them since she was a baby but she has never known what they meant. But then when her mother dies she realises what the dates really mean. They're death dates. When she looks into people's eyes she sees the date that they will die.

**The Loneliest Girl in the Universe by Lauren James**  
 Romy Silvers is the only surviving crew-member of a spaceship travelling to a new planet, on a mission to establish a second home for humanity amongst the stars. Alone in space, she is the loneliest girl in the universe until she hears about a new ship which has launched from Earth – with a single passenger on board. A boy called J.



**Best of all Worlds by Kenneth Oppel**  
 Xavier and his family wake up one day to inexplicably find themselves trapped inside a dome with no means of escape and no choice but to adapt to a new way of life. Part sci-fi, part coming of age, part speculative fiction. Are they victims of a govt. or alien experiment?

**Eve of Man Trilogy by Giovanna & Tom Fletcher**  
 Eve is like any other teenage girl... Except that she's the first girl born in fifty years. At sixteen, she must face her destiny and choose from three suitors. The fate of the entire world lies on her shoulders but will she make the right choice, no matter who she really loves?

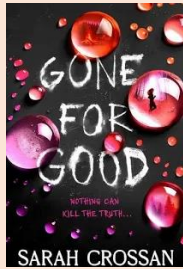
# Recommended KS4 Reading Books



Genre: Thrillers

Year 10

Year 11

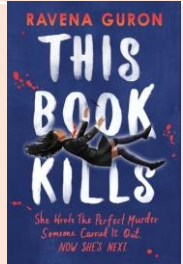


**Gone for Good by Sarah Crossan**

Connie Ryder is taken from her home in the dead of night and sent to Silver Lake Academy - a remote, high-security facility for 'troubled' teens. At Silver Lake, the vulnerable and the violent are locked in together under a brutal regime that aims to improve their behaviour. A hugely propulsive 'missing girl' thriller, set against the backdrop of America's controversial Troubled Teen industry.

**Kill me Now by Helen Price**

School golden boy Riley North is dead and 'Reaper' Mortimer, the funeral director's son, stands accused of his murder. Keen to clear his name, Reaper teams up with four friends, and together they unravel the twisted layers of school, where secrets hide and deception is rife. What starts as a search for answers becomes a fight for survival, because the killer knows the truth and means to expose it- one deadly sin at a time.

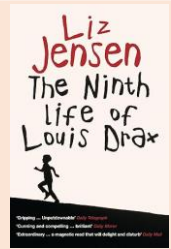


**This Book Kills by Ravena Guron**

A boarding school drama with a meticulously plotted Agatha Christie-style mystery at its heart, This Books Kills is not only mysterious and funny, but also an insightful exploration of elitist culture. The death of a popular and very wealthy student needs to be solved quickly before another student can be falsely blamed- or murdered, too!

**Five Survive by Holly Jackson**

Five strangers are stranded in a remote wilderness. As they battle the elements, secrets emerge, tensions rise and survival becomes a test of trust and resourcefulness. This thriller explores the depths of human resilience in the face of danger, in this case a hidden sniper waiting in the shadows to get information and exact revenge.

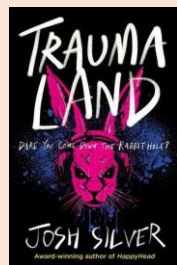


**The Ninth Life of Louis Drax by Liz Jensen**

Louis Drax is a boy who is accident prone and believes he is living his ninth life after losing the previous eight (due to his accidents). Louis is very intelligent, precocious and deceitful (for reasons that will become clear) but now lies in a coma from which he may never recover. Only he holds the key to the mystery surrounding his fall - and he can't communicate. Or can he?

**The Moonstone by Wilkie Collins**

The Moonstone is a foundational Victorian detective novel centering on the theft of a priceless, cursed yellow diamond looted from an Indian temple. Told through multiple characters' perspectives, the complex mystery follows the jewel's tangled journey, uncovering hidden motives, opium-induced sleepwalking, and the pursuit of the devoted Hindu priests.



**Every line of you by Naomi Gibson**

Lydia has been creating her AI, Henry, for years – since before her little brother died in the accident that haunts her nightmares; since before her dad walked out, leaving her and Mum painfully alone; since before her best friend turned into her worst enemy. Now, Henry is strong, clever, loving and scarily capable: Lydia's built herself the perfect boyfriend in a hard-drive filled with lines of code. But what is Henry really – and how far is he willing to go to be everything Lydia desires?

**Traumaland by Josh Silver**

Eli has been in a near-fatal accident, which has left him with no memory and no emotions. Desperate to feel something again, he winds up at TraumaLand, an underground club where crowds of emotionally numb party-goers seek a new thrill. Through hyper-real virtual reality simulations, they can experience nightmarish events happening to other people. Darkness and danger await the unwary.

# Recommended KS4 Reading Books



Genre: War and Conflict	Year 10	Year 11
		<p><b>Stay Where You Are And Then Leave</b> by John Boyne                      Boyne's children's novels tackle difficult subjects. His latest book looks at the horrors of trench warfare in World War One, telling the story of how a family, broken by war, cope with the return home of their father who has been afflicted by shell-shock and is now being treated in a hospital for the mentally ill. The child narrator offsets innocence against the bitter reality of adult experience and trauma.</p>
		<p><b>The Women</b> by Kristin Hannah                      In 1965, twenty-year-old Frankie horrifies her wealthy parents by enlisting as a nurse for Vietnam. It's a baptism of fire for the newly qualified nurse, experiencing in visceral detail the frenzy and blood-soaked chaos of combat nursing. After the war she returns home to the USA, but finds it hard as a traumatised female veteran to find her place in society.</p>
	<p><b>Code Name Verity</b> by Elizabeth Wein                      In 1943 a British spy plane crashes in Nazi-occupied France. Its pilot and passenger are best friends. One of the girls has a chance at survival. The other has lost the game before it's barely begun. When "Verity" is arrested by the Gestapo, she's sure she doesn't stand a chance. As a secret agent captured in enemy territory, she's living a spy's worst nightmare. Reveal her secret mission or face execution. Would trading her secrets be enough to save her life?</p>	<p><b>All Quiet on the Western Front</b> by Erich Maria Remarque                      Set during World War I, the book follows the life of an idealistic young German soldier named Paul Bäumer. After enlisting in the German Army with his friends, he finds himself exposed to the realities of war, shattering his early hopes of becoming a hero as he does his best to survive. His romantic view of the war is shattered by the brutal realities of trench warfare on the Western Front and the relentless horrors of military life.</p>
		<p><b>Allies</b> by Alan Gratz                      This is D-Day, just as the invasion of France by Allied forces fighting against Nazi Germany is about to begin. The novel interweaves the stories of young soldiers and two young French girls. The violence builds as the day unfolds and becomes constant, vividly recounted, and sometimes unexpected. However, it is also about friendship, loyalty, heroism, and fighting against prejudice.</p>
		<p><b>The Siege</b> by Helen Dunmore                      Leningrad, September 1941. Hitler orders the German forces to surround the city at the start of the most dangerous, desperate winter in its history. For two couples, Anna and Andrei, and Anna's father and his girlfriend, the siege becomes a battle for survival. They will soon discover what it is like to be so hungry you boil shoe leather to make soup, so cold you burn furniture and books.</p>
	<p><b>Welcome to Nowhere</b> by Elizabeth Laird                      This book offers a deeply moving perspective on the Syrian Civil War through the eyes of a child, making complex geopolitical conflict accessible and personal. When civil war shatters their peaceful life in Bosra, Omar and his family are forced to flee their home, navigating the terrifying realities of becoming refugees and the desperate search for safety.</p>	<p><b>Schindler's Ark</b> by Thomas Keneally                      As thousands faced death in Nazi-occupied Poland, an unlikely saviour materialised in the shadow of Auschwitz. Oskar Schindler was a heavy drinking, womanising German industrialist whom the war transformed into a man with a mission. Schindler defied and outwitted the SS to protect and ultimately save the lives of 1,200 beleaguered Jews who worked for him.</p>

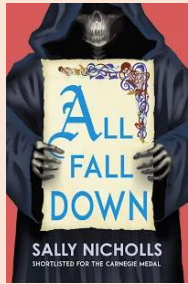
# Recommended KS4 Reading Books



Genre: Historical Fiction

Year 10

Year 11

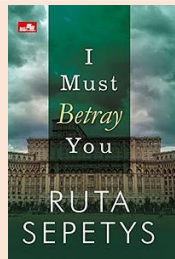
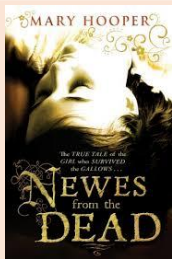


## All Fall Down by Sally Nicholls

The Black Death of 1349 was the deadliest plague in human history. When the deadly contagion races through England Isabel and her family have nowhere to run from a disease that has killed half of Europe. As a backdrop to this horror, the sheer drudgery of life at that time and the pervasive presence of the church and religion is powerfully described. A thought provoking book which looks squarely at an historical cataclysm of unimaginable proportion.

## A Respectable Trade by Philippa Gregory

The devastating consequences of the slave trade in 18th century Bristol are explored through the powerful but impossible attraction of well-born Frances and her Yoruban slave, Mehuru, who was born an African prince. Frances has entered into a loveless marriage of convenience to gain social status and security but finds true love with someone she would never be allowed to associate with in her social circle. Their forbidden love will have unforeseen and devastating consequences.



## Newes from the Dead by Mary Hooper

In 1650 Anne Green, a young servant girl, is accused of infanticide when her baby dies. In front of a large crowd she was hanged and then carried to the College of Physicians for use in medical science. However, she survived the hangman's noose and, through flashbacks to her earlier life, tells her sad tale of misuse and betrayal by her wealthy employer.

## I Must Betray You by Ruta Sepetys

The novel follows Cristian Florescu, a 17-year-old boy living in Romania during Nicolae Ceaușescu's final year of dictatorship in 1989. He is forced to become an informer on his friends and family for the Romanian Secret Police Agency but attempts, even so, to resist this betrayal of everyone he holds dear. A compelling portrait of a people living in fear under a brutally repressive regime.

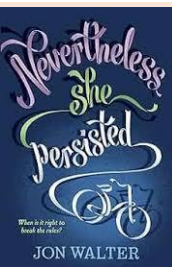


## Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel

The Wolf Hall Trilogy is the magnificent historical saga of the rise and fall of Thomas Cromwell in the court of Henry VIII. It provides a sympathetic, character-driven biography of Thomas Cromwell, tracing his rise from an abused blacksmith's son to one of King Henry VIII's most powerful advisors amid the political chaos of the English Reformation.

## Doctor Zhivago by Boris Pasternak

The life of a Russian physician and poet who, although married to another, falls in love with a political activist's wife and experiences hardship during World War I and then the October Revolution. This is a sweeping historical tale of forbidden love amid the devastation of a revolution that changed the course of Russian history and gave way to a new era of repression and brutality.



## Nevertheless She Persisted by Jon Walter

Two sisters. Two choices. One crucial moment in history. 1913. Clara and Nancy work with imprisoned suffragettes who are on hunger strike. Seeing the struggles of these women is going to force them to decide whether fighting for what you believe in is worth giving up your freedom. While Nancy is convinced by them, for Clara their example - when levelled at her own situation, balancing career aspirations with the ties that bind - leaves her conflicted.

## Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell

Here is the story of the unknown life of Shakespeare's son Hamnet, and his death at the tender age of 11 years old in 1596. We learn about the caring, loyal and beautiful boy that Hamnet was. We learn about his mother and her determination to make the lives of others better. We discover that his father is a famous playwright who is away at the theatre more often than he is at home with his family. We also see that his parent's marriage is a loving but troubled one.

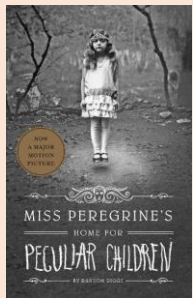
# Recommended KS4 Reading Books



Genre: Magical Realism

Year 10

Year 11

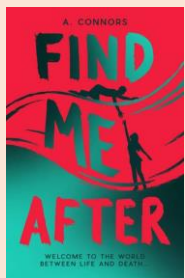


### Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs

Desperate to uncover the truth about his grandfather's death, sixteen-year-old Jacob sets out on a life-altering quest. Arriving on a remote island off the coast of Wales, he hopes to revisit the past his grandfather left far behind, at Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. As he meets its inhabitants, and the truth about them is gradually revealed, everything Jacob thought he knew is challenged. And though what he finds at first seems impossible, it is only in seeing it that it can be believed.

### The House of the Spirits by Isabel Allende

A blend of magical realism, historical fiction and an epic family saga. It details generations of the Trueba family, juxtaposing supernatural events with the harsh, real-world political upheaval of 20th-century Latin America (Chile). Spanning four generations, the book is populated by a memorable, often eccentric cast of characters. Together, men and women, spirits, the forces of nature, and of history, converge in an unforgettable, wholly absorbing and brilliantly realised novel. Richly entertaining and a masterpiece of modern literature.

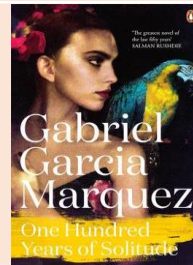
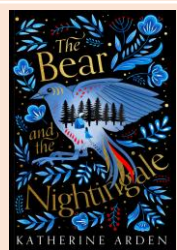


### Find Me After by A. Connors

In one of his epileptic fits, Kyle realizes that he has the ability to travel to The Stillness, an eerie dimension populated by those who are between life and death. There he meets his real-world crush, Farah, who is in a coma back home. But the way back to life is dark and dangerous. And time is running out...

### Beloved by Toni Morrison

Set in the period following the American Civil War with its commonplace mysticism and dream-like imagery, Beloved tells the story of a formerly enslaved woman, whose home is haunted by a spiteful spirit thought to be the ghost of her eldest daughter. The novel explores slavery, weaving together places and times in the network of motifs. There is enormous power in the depiction of the protagonist Sethe's action to liberate her child from threat of enslavement, and the consequences of this action for her own life.



### The Bear and the Nightingale by Katherine Arden

Winter lasts most of the year at the edge of the Russian wilderness. In order to protect their village, Vasya and her family honor the spirits that protect their homes from evil. But when Vasya's widowed father brings home a new wife who is very devout, she forbids the family from honoring these spirits, and misfortune begins to stalk the village.

### One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

A sweeping epic that chronicles seven generations of the Buendía family in the fictional Colombian town of Macondo. Blending magical realism with Latin American history, the novel explores themes of cyclical time, inescapable destiny, and the profound isolation that haunts each family member.



### The Accident Season by Moira Fowley-Doyle

Cara and her family, living in rural Ireland, experience an annual October period of accidental injuries and misfortunes, which casts a shadow over their lives. This year Cara investigates the mysterious disappearance of her friend, Elsie, whose image, incredibly, keeps appearing in old photographs. As she searches, she uncovers disturbing family secrets which may begin to explain the paranormal visitations which have afflicted her family through so many generations.

### Midnight's Children by Salman Rushdie

Born at the stroke of midnight at the exact moment of India's independence, Saleem Sinai is a special child. However, this coincidence of birth has consequences he is not prepared for: telepathic powers connect him with 1,000 other 'midnight's children' all of whom are endowed with unusual gifts. Inextricably linked to his nation, Saleem's story is a whirlwind of disasters and triumphs that mirrors the course of modern India at its most impossible and glorious.