



TO BE
GREATER AND
TO ASPIRE
FURTHER

KEY STAGE 4-5

BAY HOUSE
READING
CANON



Bay House
School & Sixth Form

Support

The library aims to promote reading for pleasure in a number of ways and to support students and pupils by providing a range of resources to facilitate learning. We host numerous events throughout the year including an author visit, the celebration of World Book Day and a number of themed reading weeks, alongside our weekly library lessons. The library promotes research and study skills and works closely with pupils requiring reading support and intervention.

Social Media

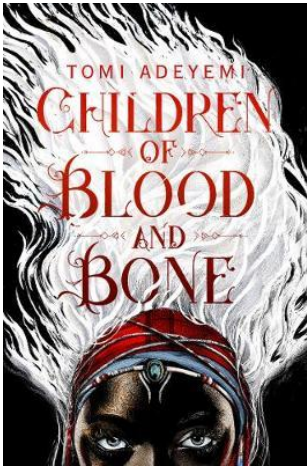
The library actively uses social media to communicate with the school community on:

- Engaging 'Reading for Pleasure'.
- News and events.
- Promotion of books, films and other media.
- Information on study and research skills.

To keep up-to-date with all the latest information, please visit, follow and like:



Fiction

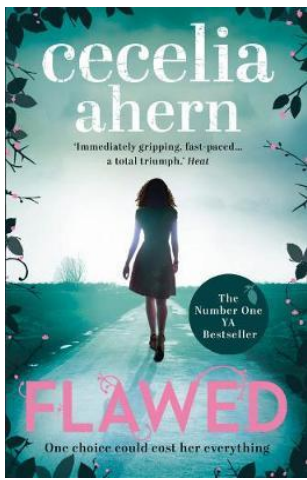


Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi

KS4/5

Zelie Adebola remembers when the soil of Orisha hummed with magic. Burners ignited flames, Tiders beckoned waves, and Zelie's Reaper mother summoned forth souls. But everything changed the night magic disappeared. Under the orders of a ruthless king, maji were targeted and killed, leaving Zelie without a mother and her people without hope. Now Zelie has one chance to bring back magic and strike against the monarchy. With the help of a rogue princess, Zelie must outwit the crown prince, who is hell-bent on eradicating magic for good.

Themes: Africa, Ethnic Minorities, Fantasy, Magic, Oppression



Flawed by Cecelia Ahern

KS4/5

Celestine North lives a perfect life. She's a model daughter and sister, she's well-liked by her classmates and teachers and she's dating the impossibly charming Art Crevan. But then Celestine encounters a situation in which she makes an instinctive decision. She breaks a rule and now faces life-changing repercussions. She could be imprisoned. She could be branded. She could be found FLAWED.

In a society where perfection is valued above humanity, Celestine pays the price for an act of kindness and finds herself fighting for survival - and for love.

Themes: Crime and punishment, Dystopia, Politics, Social Divide



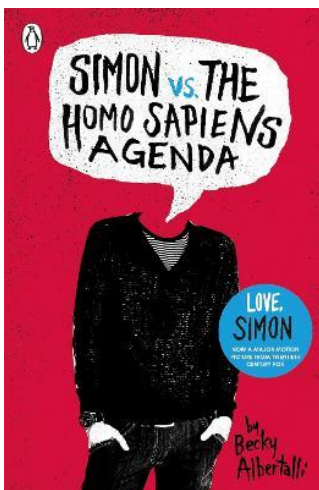
Internment by Samira Ahmed

KS4/5

It's been one year since the census landed Layla and her family on the registry. Five months since the attorney general ruled there was precedent for relocation of citizens during times of war. And one month since the president declared 'Muslims are now a threat to America'. Now, Layla and her parents are taken from their home and forced into a camp for Muslim American citizens.

With the help of new friends also trapped in the camp, her boyfriend on the outside, and an unexpected alliance, Layla begins a journey to fight for freedom.

Themes: Displacement, Dystopia, Ethnic minorities, Islam, Racism

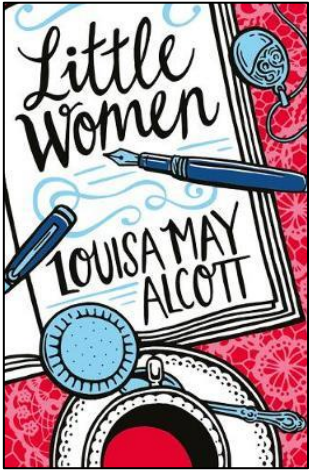


Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda by Becky Albertalli

KS4/5

Sixteen-year-old and not-so-openly gay Simon prefers to save his drama for the school musical. But when an email falls into the wrong hands, his secret is at risk of being thrust into the spotlight. And worse still, so will the privacy of 'Blue', the pen name of the boy he's been emailing. With messy dynamics emerging in his once tight-knit group of friends, and his email correspondence with Blue growing more flirtatious every day, Simon's life suddenly becomes complicated. Now Simon has to find a way to step out of his comfort zone before he's pushed out.

Themes: LGBTQ+, Relationships, Romance, School, Social Media

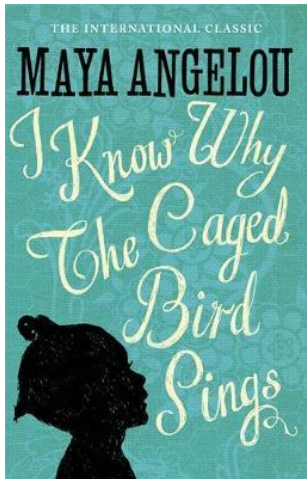


Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

KS4/5

The charming story of the March sisters, Little Women has been adored by generations. Readers have rooted for Laurie in his pursuit of Jo's hand, cried over little Beth's death, and dreamed of travelling through Europe with old Aunt March and Amy. Future writers have found inspiration in Jo's devotion to her writing. In this simple, enthralling tale, both parts of which are included here, Louisa May Alcott has created four of American literature's most beloved women.

Themes: American Civil War, Gender Roles, Families, Social Constraints

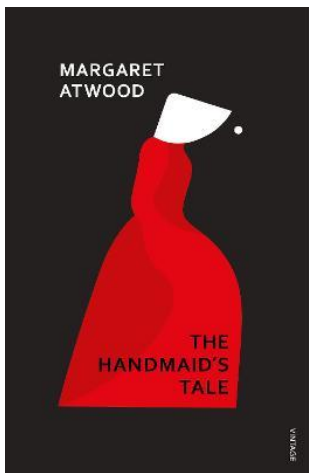


I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou

KS4/5

In this first volume of her seven books of autobiography, Maya Angelou beautifully evokes her childhood with her grandmother in the American south of the 1930s. Loving the world, she also knows its cruelty. As a Black woman she has known discrimination, violence and extreme poverty, but also hope, joy, achievement and celebration.

Themes: Africa, Autobiography, Ethnic minorities, Belonging, Self-acceptance



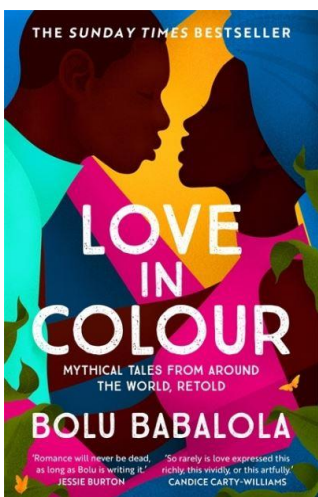
The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood

KS5

The Republic of Gilead offers Offred only one function: to breed. If she deviates she will, like all dissenters, be hanged or sent out to die slowly of radiation sickness.

But even a repressive state cannot obliterate desire - neither Offred's nor that of the two men on which her future hangs.

Themes: American literature, Community, Dystopia, Gender roles, Power



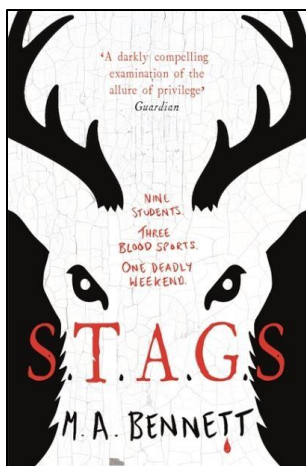
Love in Colour by Bolu Babalola

KS4/5

Focusing on the folktales of West Africa, Babalola reimagines Greek myths, legends from the Middle East, and stories from countries that no longer exist.

A Nigerian goddess feels beaten down by her gregarious lover and longs to be truly seen. A businesswoman attempts to make great leaps in her company, and an even greater one in her love life. A powerful Ghanaian spokeswoman is forced to decide whether to uphold her family's politics, or be true to her heart.

Themes: Africa, Ethnic Minorities, Love, Mythology, Romance, Sacrifice

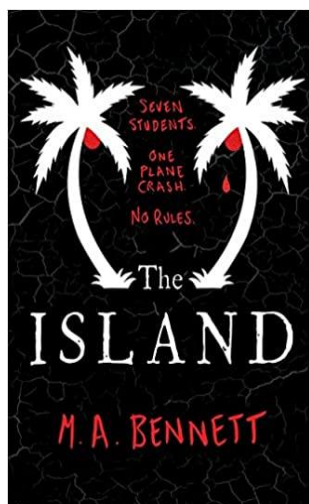


S.T.A.G.S. by M.A. Bennett

KS4/5

Greer is struggling to settle in at St. Aidan the Great boarding school, known to its privileged pupils as S.T.A.G.S., when she receives a mysterious invitation with three words on it: huntin' shootin' fishin'. Greer learns the invitation is to spend the weekend at the country manor of Henry, the most popular boy at S.T.A.G.S. But when Greer joins the chosen few, she realises they're at the mercy of their capricious host and over the next three days, the three blood sports become increasingly dark and twisted.

Themes: Crime, Relationships, Survival, Bullying, Cult, Thriller

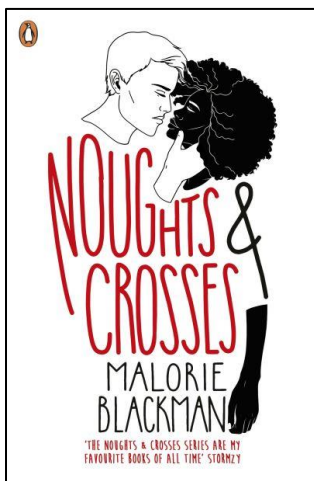


The Island by M.A. Bennett

KS4/5

A contemporary take on the savage classic Lord of the Flies. Newly arrived from America, Link is finding it hard to settle into the prestigious Osney School, where some students are determined to make his life more miserable than others... And, when a school summer trip takes a turn for the worse, when the plane in which they are travelling crash lands on a deserted island, the group of teenagers, none of whom particularly like each other, must learn to survive. When oppressive heat, hunger and thirst start to bite, everyone's true colours will be revealed. Let the battle commence...

Themes: Bullying, Experiment, Morality, Social Class, Survival, Thriller

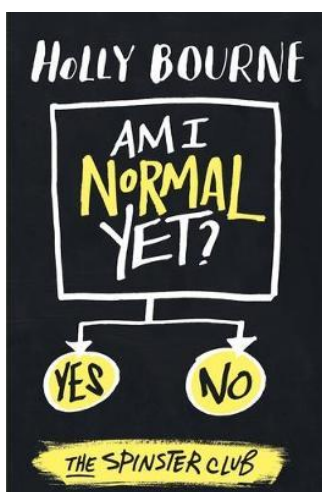


Noughts & Crosses by Malorie Blackman

KS4/5

Sephy is a Cross - a member of the dark-skinned ruling class. Callum is a nought - a 'colourless' member of the underclass who were once slaves to the Crosses. The two have been friends since early childhood. But that's as far as it can go. Against a background of prejudice, distrust and mounting terrorist violence, a romance builds between Sephy and Callum - a romance that is to lead both of them into terrible danger...

Themes: Dystopia, Ethnic Minorities, Racism, Relationships, Superiority

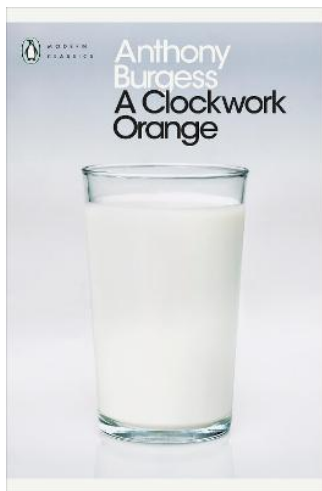


Am I Normal Yet? by Holly Bourne

KS4/5

All Evie wants is to be normal. She's almost off her meds and at a new college where no one knows her as the girl-who-went-nuts. She's even going to parties and making friends. There's only one thing left to tick off her list... But relationships are messy - especially with teenage guys. They can make any girl feel like they're going mad. And if Evie can't even tell her new friends Amber and Lottie the truth about herself, how will she cope when she falls in love?

Themes: Adolescence, Friendship, Mental health, Relationships, Romance



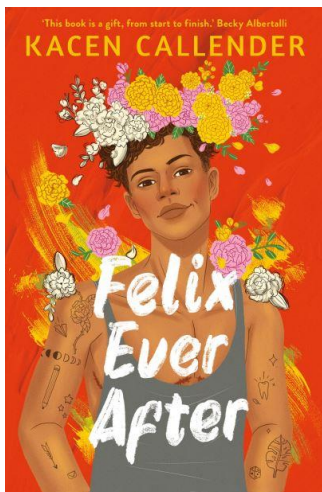
A Clockwork Orange by Anthony Burgess

KS5

Fifteen-year-old Alex likes lashings of ultraviolence. He and his gang of friends rob, kill and rape their way through a nightmarish future, until the State puts a stop to his riotous excesses.

Alex is jailed for his teenage delinquency and the state tries to reform him - but what will his re-education mean?

Themes: Crime, Dystopia, Ethics, Morality, Human Nature



Felix Ever After by Kacen Callender

KS4/5

Felix Love has never been in love - and, he desperately wants to know what it's like. When an anonymous student begins sending him transphobic messages - after publicly posting Felix's deadname alongside images of him before he transitioned - Felix comes up with a plan for revenge. But as he navigates his complicated feelings, Felix begins a journey of questioning and self-discovery that helps redefine his most important relationship: how he feels about himself.

Themes: Identity, Friendship, Fears, Cyberbullying, Transgender



The Bloody Chamber by Angela Carter

KS5

When a 17-year-old virgin marries a mature and charismatic Marquis it seems like a fairy tale. But when the Marquis is called away on their wedding night, leaving her only her only his keys and a single instruction, her curiosity leads her to uncover a dark secret.

From familiar fairy tales and legends, Carter has created an absorbing collection of dark, sensual, fantastic stories.

Themes: Dystopia, Fairy tales, Gender roles, Gothic, Power, Relationships



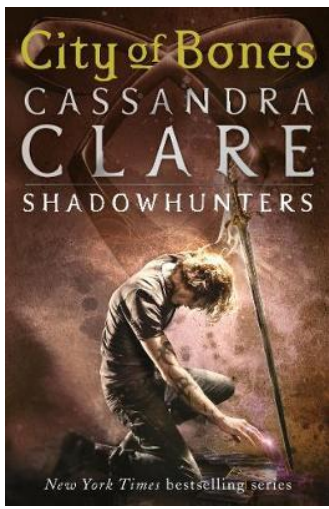
Wranglestone by Darren Charlton

KS4/5

In a post-apocalyptic America, a community survives in a national park, surrounded by water that keeps the Dead at bay.

Then homebody Peter puts the camp in danger by naively allowing a stranger to come ashore and he's forced to leave the community of Wranglestone. Now he must help rancher Cooper, herd the Dead from their shores before the lake freezes over. But as love blossoms, a dark discovery reveals the sanctuary's secret past. One that forces the pair to question everything they've ever known.

Themes: Community, Dystopia, LGBTQ+, Social Conformity, Zombies

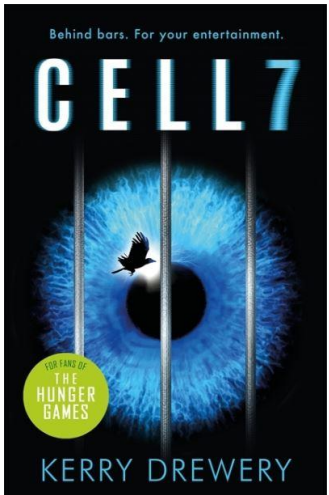


City of Bones by Cassandra Clare

KS4/5

Sixteen-year-old Clary Fray is an ordinary teenager, who likes hanging out in Brooklyn with her friends. But everything changes the night she witnesses a murder, committed by a group of teens armed with medieval weaponry. The murderous group are Shadowhunters, secret warriors dedicated to driving demons out of this dimension and back into their own. Drawn inexorably into a terrifying world, Clary slowly begins to learn the truth about her family - and the battle for the fate of the world.

Themes: Horror, Jealousy, Magic, Powers, Revenge, Supernatural, Vampires



Cell 7 by Kerry Drewery

KS4/5

A world where the fate of those accused of murder is decided by public telephone vote. If you are voted innocent you are set free; if you are voted guilty you are committed to death by electric chair. Those awaiting their sentence reside in ever smaller cells, until Cell 7, where they near their fate. Martha has confessed to killing a famous celebrity. But has she done it? And if not, why has she claimed the murder? Perhaps she wants to show up the flawed and brutal system by sacrificing herself in the hope of a better world...

Themes: Crime, Dystopia, Justice, Society, Social Morality

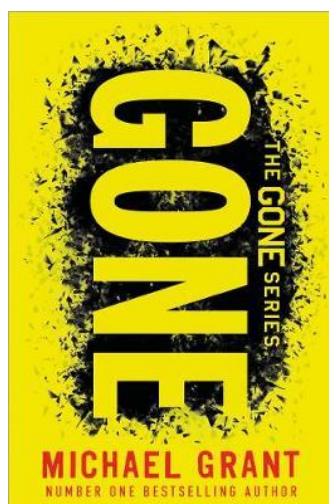


Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier

KS4/5

On a trip to the South of France, the shy heroine of Rebecca falls in love with Maxim de Winter, a handsome widower. Although his proposal comes as a surprise, she happily agrees to marry him. But as they arrive at her husband's home, Manderley, a change comes over Maxim, and the young bride is filled with dread. Friendless in the isolated mansion, she realises that she barely knows him. In every corner of every room is the phantom of his beautiful first wife, Rebecca, and the new Mrs de Winter walks in her shadow.

Themes: Ghosts, Gothic, Psychology, Society and Class, Thriller



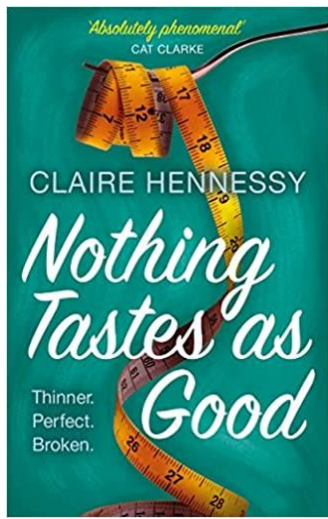
Gone by Michael Grant

KS4/5

In the blink of an eye all the adults disappear in a small town in southern California and no one knows why. Cut off from the outside world, those that are left are trapped, and there's no help on the way.

They must do all they can to survive. Chaos rules the streets. Gangs begin to form. Sides are chosen - strong or weak. Cruel or humane. And then there are those who begin to develop powers...

Themes: Dystopia, Science-fiction, Powers, Gangs, Survival, Leadership



Nothing Tastes as Good by Claire Hennessy

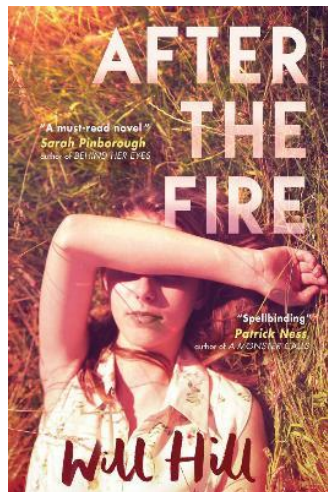
KS4/5

A teenage girl who died from anorexia is given the opportunity to be a guardian angel (of sorts) to a fellow pupil with self-esteem and food issues.

Annabel is dead. And despite having striven to be 'lighter than air' back when she was alive, the consequences of that yearning haven't quite sunk in yet.

Julia Jacobs is fat. Which Annabel immediately notices when she's assigned as Julia's ghostly helper. And as her helper, Julia's problem seems pretty obvious to Annabel. Fat = problem = unhappy. Sorted.

Themes: Eating Disorders, Self-esteem, Mental Health, Family



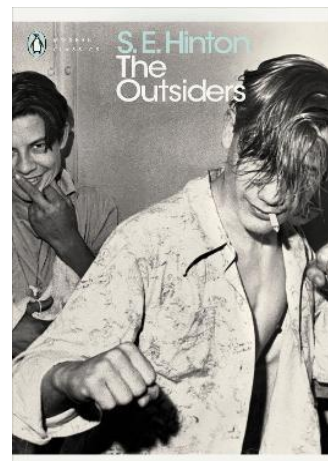
After the Fire by Will Hill

KS4/5

Without rules, things fall apart. That's what Father John says.

Moonbeam knew what her future held. Protected from the dangers of the outside world by rules and the Fence, she was destined to marry Father John, head of their little community. But that was before her mother was banished; before Nate arrived and forced her to question everything. What do you do when everything you thought you knew turns out to be a lie?

Themes: Communities, Power, Relationships, Religion, Cults



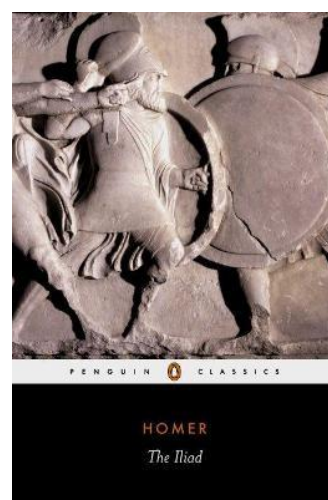
The Outsiders by S. E. Hinton

KS4/5

Teenagers in a small Oklahoma town have split into two gangs, divided by money, tastes and attitude. The Socs' idea of having a good time is beating up Greasers like Ponyboy Curtis.

Ponyboy knows what to expect and knows he can count on his brothers and friends - until the night someone takes things too far, and life is changed forever.

Themes: Adolescence, Bullying, Power, Violence, Socioeconomics, Social Divide

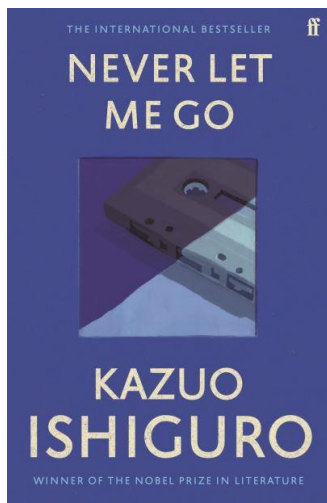


The Iliad by Homer

KS5

Achilles, the greatest warrior-champion of the Greeks, refuses to fight after being humiliated by his leader Agamemnon. But when the Trojan Hector kills Achilles' close friend Patroclus, he storms back into battle to take revenge, knowing this will ensure his own early death. Interwoven with this tragic sequence of events are powerfully moving descriptions of the ebb and flow of battle, of the domestic world inside Troy's besieged city of Ilium and of the conflicts between the gods on Olympus as they argue over the fate of mortals.

Themes: Ancient Greece, Mythology, Relationships, Religion, War

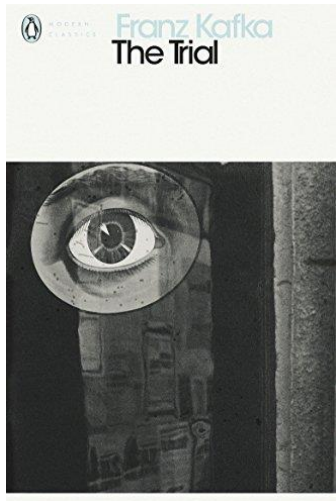


Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro

KS4/5

Ishiguro imagines the lives of a group of students growing up in a darkly skewed version of contemporary England. Kathy, now thirty-one, 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, the narrative is charged throughout with a sense of the fragility of life.

Themes: Adolescence, Dystopia, Identity, Loss, Relationships, Science-fiction

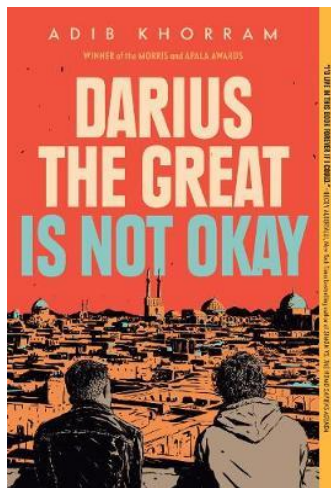


The Trial by Franz Kafka

KS5

A terrifying psychological trip into the life of Joseph K., an ordinary man who wakes up one day to find himself accused of a crime he did not commit, a crime whose nature is never revealed to him. Once arrested, he is released, but must report to court on a regular basis. As his fate grows more uncertain, his life - including work at a bank and his relations with his landlady and a young woman who lives next door - becomes increasingly unpredictable. As K. tries to gain control, he succeeds only in accelerating his own excruciating downward spiral.

Themes: Control, Crime, Isolation, Justice, Politics, Power

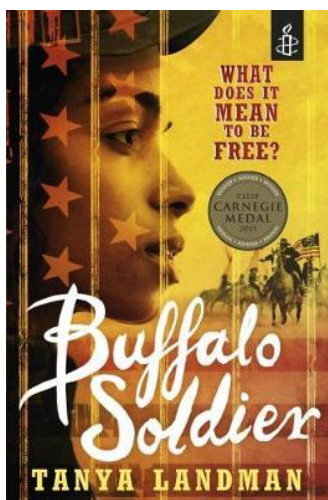


Darius the Great is Not Okay by Adib Khorram

KS4/5

Darius is Persian and his first-ever trip to Iran is about to change his life. Darius has never fit in, and he's sure things will be the same in Iran. His depression doesn't help, and trying to explain his medication to his grandparents only makes things harder. Then Darius meets Sohrab, and everything changes. Soon, they're spending their days together, playing football, eating faludeh, and talking for hours on a secret rooftop. Sohrab calls him Darioush - the Persian version of his name. He has never felt more like himself than he does when he's Darioush.

Themes: Ethnic Minorities, Friendship, Iran, LGBTQ+, Mental health

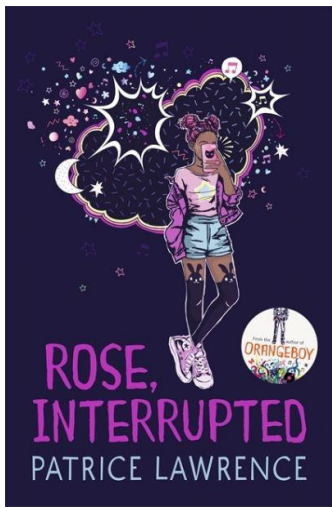


Buffalo Soldier by Tanya Landman

KS4/5

At the end of the American Civil War, Charley - a young African-American slave - is ostensibly freed. But then her adopted mother is raped and lynched at the hands of a mob and Charley is alone. In a lawless land, where the colour of a person's skin can bring violent death, Charley disguises herself as a man and joins the army. Soon she's being sent to the prairies to fight a whole new war against the "savage Indians". Trapped in a world of injustice, Charley begins to learn what it is to be truly free when she is posted to Apache territory.

Themes: American history, Ethnic Minorities, Racism, Slavery, War

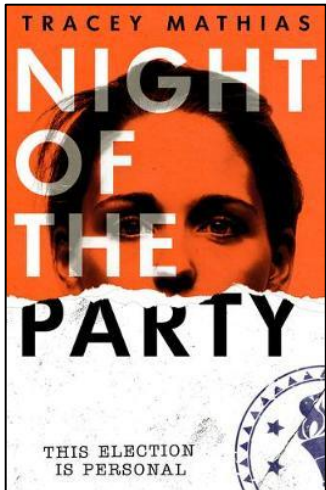


Rose, Interrupted by Patrice Lawrence

KS4/5

Seventeen-year-old Rose and her 13-year-old brother, Rudder escaped a strict religious sect. Goodbye, rigid rules; hello, mobile phones and make-up. But there's so much Rose has no idea how to handle. It's totally normal for girls to let their boyfriends take topless pictures of them, right? When Rudder accidentally sets a devastating chain of events in motion, Rose must decide whether to sacrifice everything and return to the life she hates to save the people she loves.

Themes: Ethnic Minorities, Relationships, Religion, Sex Crimes, Self-expression

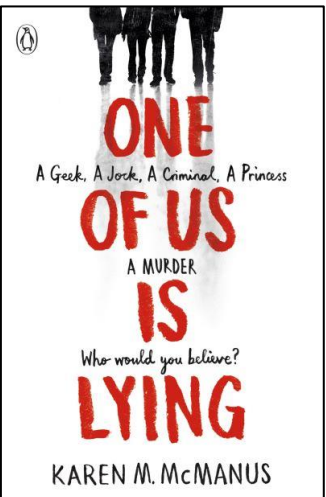


Night of the Party by Tracey Mathias

KS4/5

Britain is governed by a far-right nationalist party whose flagship policy is that only those born in Britain get to live here. Everyone else is an "illegal", subject to deportation. 18-year-old Ash is wrestling with grief after the death of his sister, Sophie. He meets Zara on a train and immediately falls for her. But Zara has secrets: not only is she an "illegal", she's the only one who knows the truth about Sophie's death. Being with Zara could jeopardise Ash's future, and if Zara speaks out about what she knows, she'll have no future in Britain at all.

Themes: Dystopia, Immigration, Politics, Romance, Surveillance, Thriller

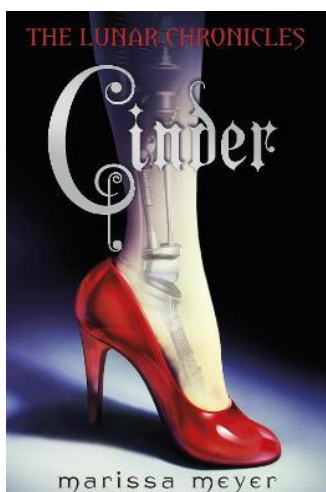


One of Us is Lying by Karen M. McManus

KS4/5

Five students walk into detention. Bronwyn is Yale-bound and never breaks a rule. Addy is the perfect homecoming princess. Nate is already on probation for dealing drugs. Cooper is the all-star baseball pitcher. And Simon is the creator of a notorious gossip app. Before the end of detention, Simon's dead. And his death wasn't an accident. The next day he'd planned to reveal secrets about each of his classmates, which makes all four of them suspects in his murder. Or are they the perfect patsies for a killer who's still on the loose? Everyone has secrets, right?

Themes: Crime, Marginalisation, Power, School, Secrets, Social Media

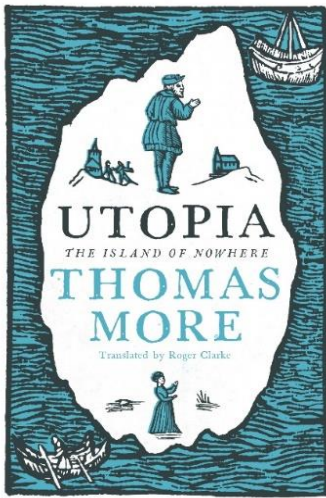


Cinder by Marissa Meyer

KS4/5

Cinder, a gifted mechanic in New Beijing, is also a cyborg. But when her life becomes entwined with the handsome Prince Kai's, she finds herself at the centre of a violent struggle between the desires of an evil queen - and a dangerous temptation. Cinder is caught between duty and freedom, loyalty and betrayal. Now she must uncover secrets about her mysterious past in order to protect Earth's future.

Themes: Bravery, Fairy tales, Romance, Sacrifice, Science-fiction, Stereotypes

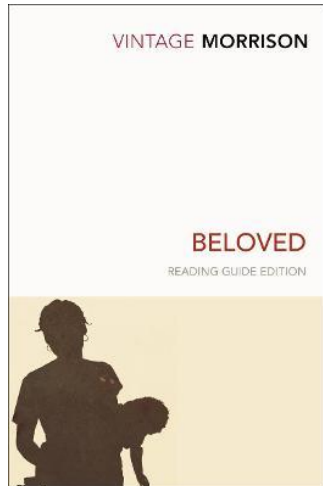


Utopia by Thomas More

KS5

A traveller recounts a newly-discovered island where the inhabitants enjoy a social order based on natural reason and justice, and human fulfilment is open to all. As the traveller describes the island, a bitter contrast is drawn between this rational society and the practices of Europe. How can the philosopher reform his society? It's discussed how this question, first raised by Plato, is still a challenge in the contemporary world.

Themes: Communities, Dystopia, Politics, Philosophy

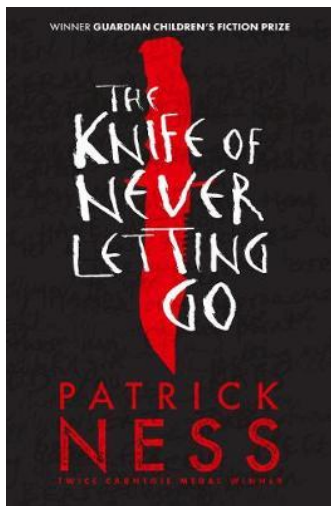


Beloved by Toni Morrison

KS5

Terrible, unspeakable things happened to Sethe at Sweet Home, the farm where she lived as a slave for so many years until she escaped to Ohio. Her new life is full of hope but eighteen years later she is still not free. Sethe's new home is not only haunted by the memories of her past but also by the ghost of her baby, who died nameless and whose tombstone is engraved with a single word: beloved.

Themes: American history, Ethnic minorities, Racism, Slavery



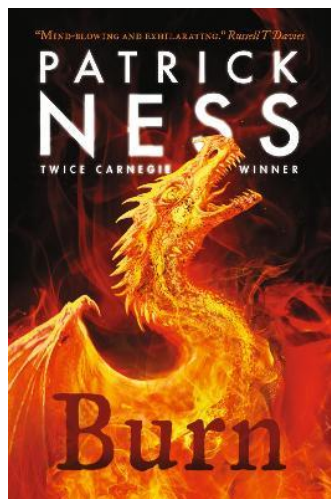
The Knife of Never Letting Go by Patrick Ness

KS4/5

Imagine you're the only boy in a town of men. You can hear everything they think and they can hear everything you think. But you don't fit in with their plan.

Todd Hewitt is just one month away from the birthday that will make him a man. But his town has been keeping secrets from him. Secrets that are going to force him to run...

Themes: Adolescence, Community, Dystopia, Isolation, Science-fiction



Burn by Patrick Ness

KS4/5

It's 1957, Sarah Dewhurst waited with her father in the parking lot of the Chevron Gas Station for the dragon he'd hired to help on the farm. This dragon, Kazimir, has more to him than meets the eye. Sarah can't help but be curious about him, as an animal who supposedly doesn't have a soul but is seemingly intent on keeping her. Kazimir knows something she doesn't. He has arrived at the farm because of a prophecy; one that involves a deadly assassin, a cult of dragon worshippers, two FBI agents - and somehow, Sarah Dewhurst herself.

Themes: Cold War, LGBTQ+, Mythical Creatures, Prophecy, Racism, Religion

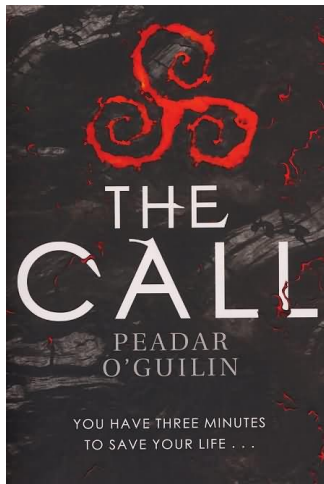


All the Bright Places by Jennifer Niven

KS4/5

Finch is fascinated by death, and constantly thinks of ways he might kill himself. Violet lives for the future, counting the days until graduation, when she can escape her town. When Finch and Violet meet on the ledge of the bell tower, it's unclear who saves whom. Then they pair up on a project to discover the 'natural wonders' of their state, and discover that it's only with Violet that Finch can be himself. And it's only with Finch that Violet can forget to count away the days and start living them. But as Violet's world grows, Finch's begins to shrink.

Themes: Death, Emotions, Grief, Mental health, Relationships, Romance

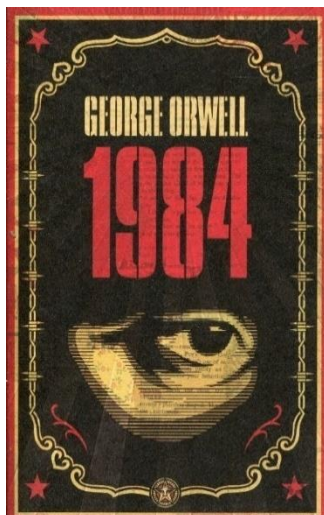


The Call by Peadar O'Guilin

KS4/5

Nessa and her friends attend Boyle College to train for the most dangerous time of their lives - THE CALL. Without warning, each one of them will wake in a terrifying land, alone and hunted, with a one-in-ten chance of returning alive. No one believes Nessa can make it, but she's determined to prove them all wrong. And she will need every ounce of spirit and courage in order to survive...

Themes: Adventure, Disability, Fantasy, Folklore, Ireland, Survival

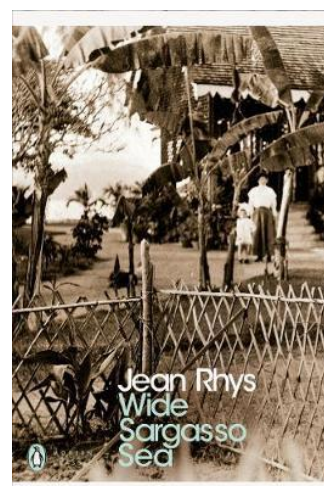


1984 by George Orwell

KS4/5

Winston Smith has always been a dutiful citizen of Oceania, rewriting history to meet the demands of the Ministry of Truth. But with each lie he writes, Winston starts to resent the totalitarian party that seeks power for its own sake and punishes those that desire individuality. When Winston begins a secret relationship with his colleague Julia, he soon realises it's virtually impossible to escape the watchful eye of Big Brother...

Themes: Communism, Dystopia, Politics, Power, Totalitarianism

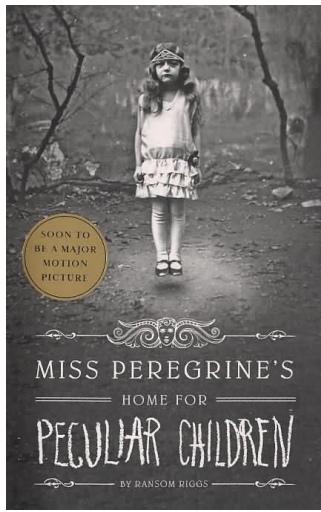


Wide Sargasso Sea by Jean Rhys

KS5

If Antoinette Cosway, a spirited Creole heiress, could have foreseen the terrible future that awaited her, she would not have married the young Mr Rochester. Initially drawn to her beauty and sensuality, he becomes increasingly frustrated by his inability to reach into her soul. He forces Antoinette to conform to his rigid Victorian ideals, unaware that in taking away her identity he is destroying a part of himself as well as pushing her towards madness, towards becoming Bertha Rochester in Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre*.

Themes: Caribbean, Ethnic minorities, Psychology, Racism

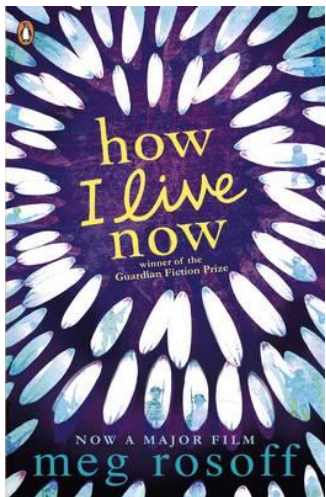


Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs

KS4/5

A horrific family tragedy sets sixteen-year-old Jacob journeying to a mysterious remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of an abandoned orphanage. As Jacob explores its empty bedrooms and hallways, it becomes clear that the children who once lived here - one of whom was his own grandfather - were more than just peculiar. They may have been dangerous. They may have been quarantined on a desolate island for good reason. And somehow - impossible though it seems - they may still be alive.

Themes: Belonging, Gothic, Family, Fantasy, Identity, Isolation, Legacy, Mystery

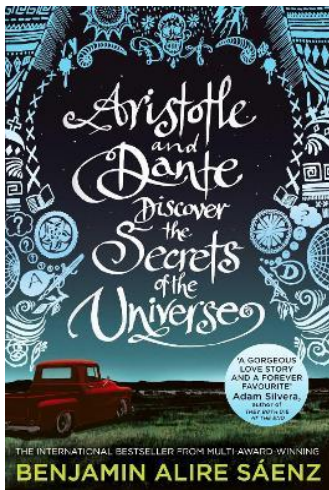


How I Live Now by Meg Rosoff

KS4/5

Fifteen-year-old New Yorker Daisy thinks she knows all about love. Her mother died giving birth to her, and now her dad has sent her away for the summer, to live in the English countryside with cousins she's never even met. There she'll discover what real love is: something violent, mysterious and wonderful. There her world will be turned upside down and a perfect summer will explode into a million bewildering pieces. How will Daisy live then?

Themes: Dystopia, Romance, Society, Terrorism, War

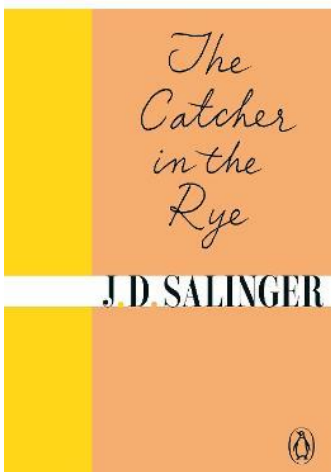


Aristotle and Dante Discover the Secrets of the Universe by Benjamin Alire Sáenz

KS4/5

Aristotle is an angry teen with a brother in prison. Dante is a know-it-all who has an unusual way of looking at the world. When they meet, they seem to have nothing in common. But as the two loners start spending time together, they discover they share the kind of friendship that changes lives and lasts a lifetime. And it is through their friendship that they learn the most important truths about themselves - and about the kind of people they want to be. But there are big hurdles in their way...

Themes: Adolescence, Ethnicity, Families, Friendship, LGBTQ, Ourselves

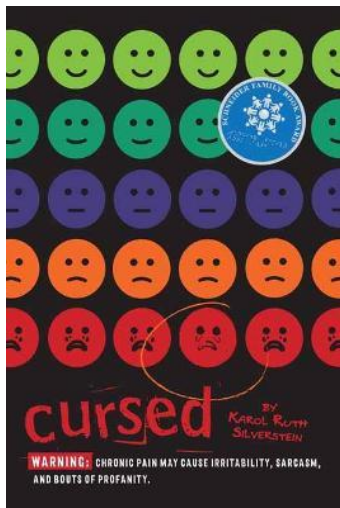


The Catcher in the Rye by J. D. Salinger

KS5

Holden, a seventeen-year-old dropout, has been kicked out of his fourth school. Holden dissects the 'phony' aspects of society, and the 'phonies' themselves: the headmaster who depends on the wealth of parents, his roommate who scores with girls using sickly-sweet affection. Holden speaks to you personally, as though you too have seen through the pretences of the American Dream and are growing up unable to see the point of contributing to the society around you. A boy leaving childhood, dealing with society, love, loss, and expectations.

Themes: Adolescence, Appearances, Classic fiction, Religion, Society

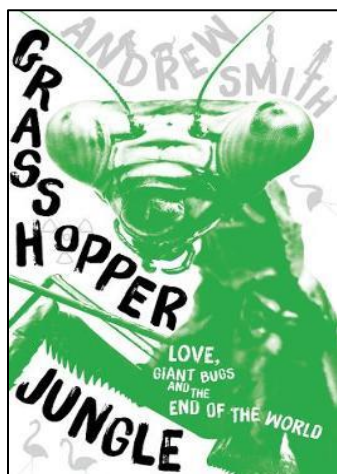


Cursed by Karol Ruth Silverstein

KS4/5

As if her parents' divorce and sister's departure for college weren't bad enough, fourteen-year-old Ricky Bloom has just been diagnosed with a life-changing chronic illness. Her days consist of trying to keep her parents from realising just how bad things are. Ricky's afraid, angry, alone, and one suspension away from repeating ninth grade when she realises she can't be held back. She'll do whatever it takes to move forward - even if it means changing the person she's become. Maybe asking for help isn't the worst thing in the world. Maybe accepting circumstances doesn't mean giving up.

Themes: Acceptance, Adversity, Disease, Divorce, Emotions, Family, Illness



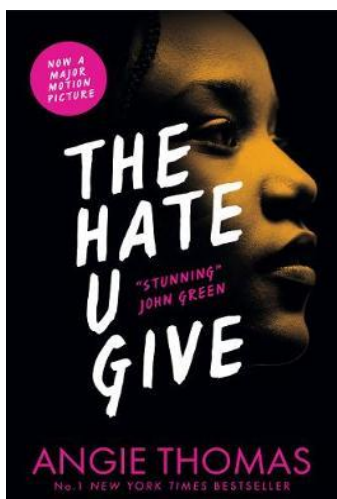
Grasshopper Jungle by Andrew Smith

KS4/5

In the small town of Ealing, Iowa, Austin and his best friend Robby have accidentally unleashed an unstoppable army. An army of horny, hungry, six-foot-tall praying mantises that only want to do two things.

This is the truth. This is history. It's the end of the world. And nobody knows anything about it.

Themes: Apocalypse, Friendships, Homophobia, Horror, Insects, LGBTQ+

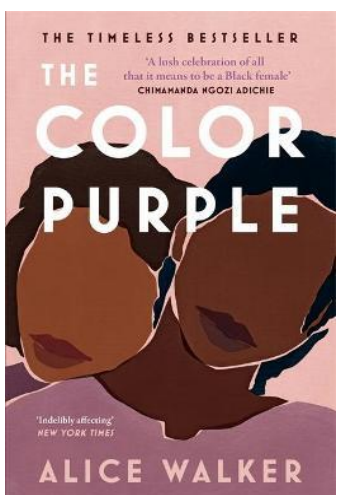


The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

KS4/5

Sixteen-year-old Starr lives in two worlds: the poor neighbourhood 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. What Starr says could destroy her community. It could also get her killed.

Themes: BAME, Crime, Police Brutality, Poverty, Power, Racism

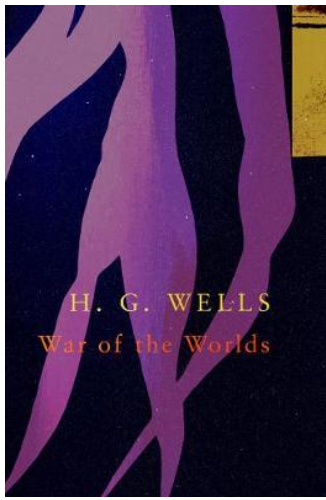


The Color Purple by Alice Walker

KS4/5

Set in the deep American south between the wars, it is the tale of Celie, a young black girl born into poverty and segregation. Raped repeatedly by the man she calls "father", she has two children taken away from her, is separated from her beloved sister Nettie, and is trapped into an ugly marriage. But then she meets the glamorous Shug Avery, singer and magic-maker - a woman who has taken charge of her own destiny. Gradually Celie discovers the power and joy of her own spirit, freeing her from her past and reuniting her with those she loves.

Themes: American literature, Ethnic minorities, Power, Racism, Sex crimes

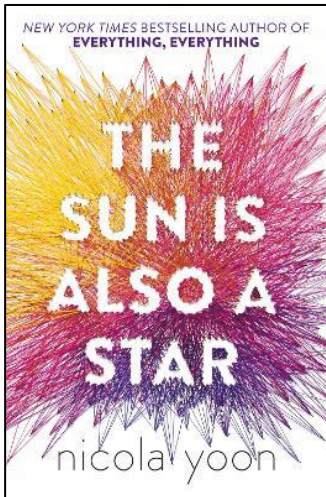


The War of the Worlds by H. G. Wells

KS4/5

The first modern depiction of extra-terrestrials attacking Earth, this remains one of the most influential of all science-fiction works. It shows the whole of human civilization under threat, as terrifying, tentacled Martians land in England, build gigantic killing machines, destroy all in their path with black gas and burning rays and feast on the warm blood of trapped, still-living human prey. The forces of the Earth, however, may prove harder to beat than they first appear.

Themes: Aliens, Imperialism, Natural Selection, Science-fiction



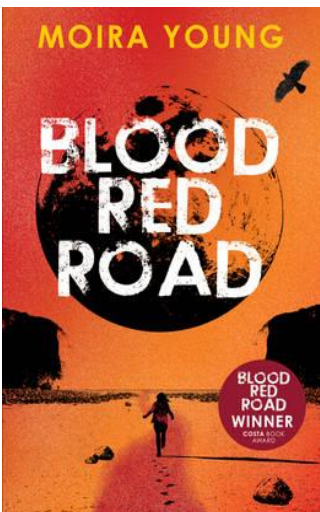
The Sun is Also a Star by Nicola Yoon

KS4/5

Natasha: I'm a girl who believes in science and facts. Not fate. Not destiny. I'm definitely not the kind of girl who meets a boy on a New York City street and falls in love with him. Not when my family is about to be deported to Jamaica.

Daniel: I've always been the good son, the good student. Never the dreamer. But when I see her, I forget about all that. Something about Natasha makes me think that fate has something much more extraordinary in store - for both of us.

Themes: Culture, Ethnic minorities, Immigration, Romance, USA



Blood Red Road by Moira Young

KS4/5

Saba's twin is golden. She is his living shadow. He is strong and beautiful. She is scrawny and dark. Nothing will separate them... Raised in isolated Silverlake, Saba is ignorant of the harsh and violent world beyond her home. But when her twin is snatched by black-robed riders, red rage fills her soul. How will Saba find him in a wild, scorching and lawless land? Racing across the cruel dustlands to find him, she can spare no one. Not even the boy who saves her life. She must silence her heart to survive. Blood will spill.

Themes: Adventure, Dystopia, Fate, Free Will, Relationships, Survival

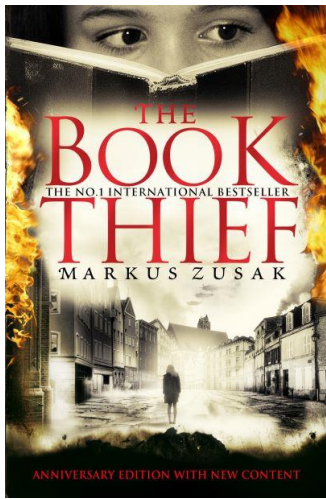


Punching the Air by Ibi Zoboi and Yusef Salaam

KS4/5

One fateful night, an altercation in a gentrifying neighbourhood escalates into tragedy. 'Boys just being boys' turns out to be true only when those boys are white. Suddenly, at just sixteen years old, Amal Shahid's bright future is upended: he is convicted of a crime he didn't commit and sent to prison. Despair and rage almost sink him until he turns to the refuge of his words, his art. This never should have been his story. But can he change it?

Themes: BAME, Crime, Mental Health, Poetry, Prison, Racism, Violence



The Book Thief by Markus Zusak

KS4/5

It is 1939. In Nazi Germany, Death has never been busier - and will become busier still. By her brother's graveside, Liesel's life is changed forever when she picks up an object, abandoned in the snow. It is The Gravedigger's Handbook, and this is her first act of book thievery. So begins Liesel's love affair with books and words, and soon she is stealing from Nazi book-burnings, the mayor's wife's library... wherever there are books. But these are dangerous times, and when Liesel's family hides a Jew in their basement, nothing will be the same again.

Themes: Anti-Semitism, Books, Death, Fostering, Holocaust, War

Plays

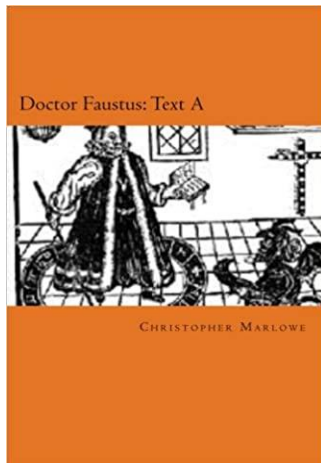


Waiting for Godot by Samuel Beckett

KS4/5

The play consists of conversations between Vladimir and Estragon, who are waiting for the arrival of the mysterious Godot, who continually sends word that he will appear but never does. They encounter Lucky and Pozzo, they discuss their miseries and their lots in life, they consider hanging themselves, and yet they wait. A true innovation in drama, and the Theatre of the Absurd's first theatrical success.

Themes: Drama, Philosophy, Relationships, Religion, Friendships



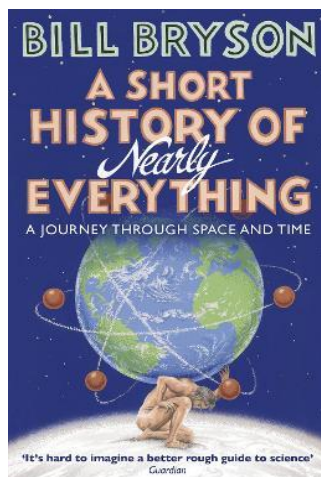
Doctor Faustus (Text A) by Christopher Marlowe

KS4/5

Based on the German story, Faust, in which a man sells his soul to the devil for power, experience, pleasure, and knowledge. Doctor Faustus was first published in 1604, eleven years after Marlowe's death and at least twelve years after the first performance of the play. It is the most controversial Elizabethan play outside of Shakespeare, with few critics coming to any agreement as to the date or the nature of the text.

Themes: Fantasy, Magic, Redemption, Religion, Sin, Supernatural, Temptation

Non-Fiction

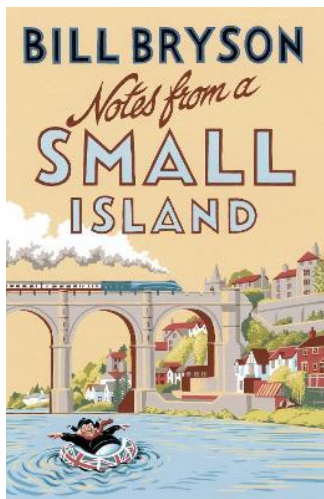


A Short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson

KS4/5

Bill Bryson describes himself as a reluctant traveller, but even when he stays safely at home he can't contain curiosity about the world around him. This book is his quest to understand everything that has happened from the Big Bang to the rise of civilization - how we got from there, being nothing at all, to here, being us. The ultimate eye-opening journey through time and space, revealing the world in a way most of us have never seen it before.

Themes: Discovery, History, Leisure, Progress, Science, Wonder

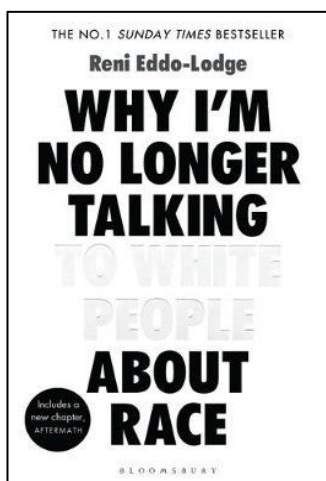


Notes from a Small Island by Bill Bryson

KS4/5

After nearly two decades in Britain, Bill Bryson took the decision to move back to the States for a while. His reasons included letting his kids experience life in another country, giving his wife the chance to shop until 10pm seven nights a week, and, most of all, because he had read that 3.7 million Americans believed they had been abducted by aliens at one time or another, and it was thus clear to him that his people needed him.

Themes: Humour, Leisure, Travel

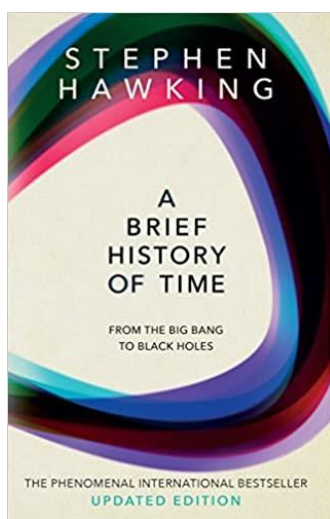


Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race by Reni Eddo-Lodge

KS4/5

A searing, illuminating, absolutely necessary exploration of what it is to be a person of colour in Britain today, covering issues from eradicated black history to white privilege, the fallacy of 'meritocracy' to whitewashing feminism, and the inextricable link between class and race. Full of passionate, personal and keenly felt argument, this is a wake-up call to a nation in denial about the structural and institutional racism occurring in our homes.

Themes: Ethnic Minorities, History, Power, Racism

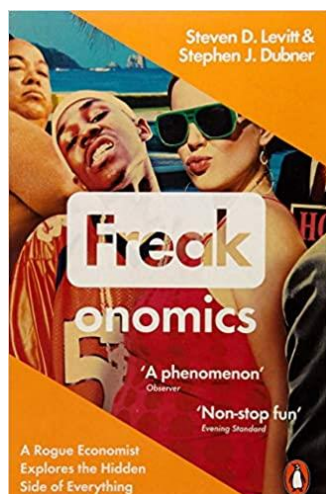


A Brief History of Time by Stephen Hawking

KS4/5

Was there a beginning of time? Could time run backwards? Is the universe infinite or does it have boundaries? These are just some of the questions considered in this internationally acclaimed masterpiece. Beginning by reviewing the great theories of the cosmos from Newton to Einstein, this text goes on to delve into the secrets which still lie at the heart of space and time, from the Big Bang to black holes, via spiral galaxies and string theory.

Themes: Astrophysics, Creation, Physics, Science, Space, Time



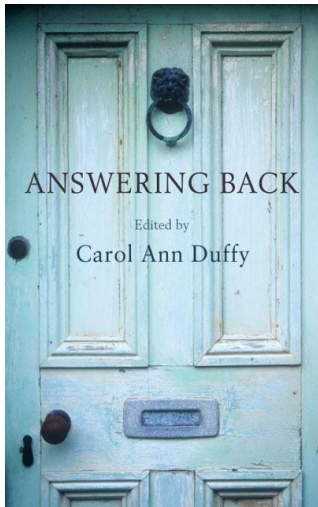
Freakonomics by Steven D. Levitt & Stephen J. Dubner

KS4/5

What do estate agents and the Ku Klux Klan have in common? Why do drug dealers live with their mothers? How are schoolteachers and sumo wrestlers alike? And how can your name affect how well you do in life? The answer: Freakonomics. It's at the heart of everything we do, from parenting to politics, fear to traffic jams. And its focus is using information about the world around us to get to the heart of what's happening under the surface of everyday life.

Themes: Economics, Philosophy, Psychology, Sociology

KS4 recommended literature - English

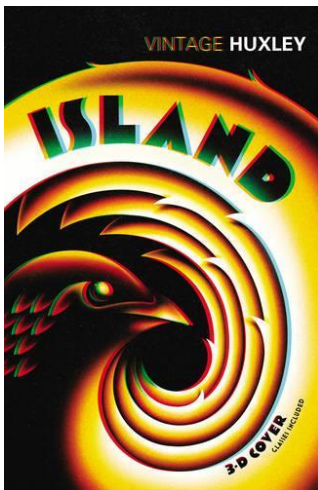


Answering Back by Carol Ann Duffy

KS4

Carol Ann Duffy has invited fifty of her peers to choose and respond to a poem from the past. With up-and-coming poets alongside more established names and original poems alongside the new works they have inspired - Paul Muldoon, Vickie Feather and U. A. Fanthorpe, for example, engage with classic works by Philip Larkin, Emily Dickinson and Christina Rossetti - the result is a collection of voices that speak to one another across the centuries.

Themes: Anthology, Analysis, Translation, The Past, Replies

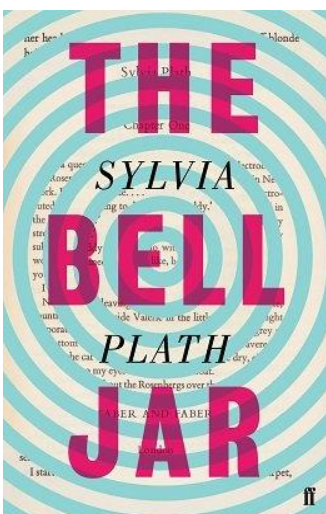


Island by Aldous Huxley

KS4

For over a hundred years the Pacific island of Pala has been the scene of a unique experiment in civilisation. Its inhabitants live in a society where western science has been brought together with Eastern philosophy to create a paradise on earth. When cynical journalist, Will Farnaby, arrives to research potential oil reserves on Pala, he quickly falls in love with the way of life on the island. Soon the need to complete his mission becomes an intolerable burden and he must make a difficult choice.

Themes: Utopia, Overpopulation, Ecology, Greed, Modernity, Democracy, Mysticism, Entheogens



The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath

KS4

Working in New York one hot summer, Esther Greenwood is on the brink of her future. Yet she is also on the edge of a darkness that makes her world increasingly unreal.

In this vivid and unforgettable novel about the struggles of growing up, Esther's world shines through: the wide-eyed country girls, her crazed men-friends, hot dinner dances and nights in New York, and a slow slide into breakdown.

Themes: Feminism, Madness, Sanity, Ambition, Social Expectations, Medication