

The Holy Cross School

KS3 Wider Reading List



Reading challenges:

Aim to read a new book at least every two weeks, select books from different genres and be inspired by our reading challenges! Please check that the books you are selecting are suitable for your age and interests.

Around the World Challenge:

Read books set in or written by authors from different countries around the world. Each book will take you on a journey to a new location, broadening your understanding of different cultures and global perspectives. For example, you could start in the United Kingdom and read *The Secret Garden* by Frances Hodgson Burnett before travelling to France when reading *The Little Prince* by Antoine de Saint-Exupéry and so on!



Book-to-Film Comparison Challenge:

Read books that have been adapted into a film or TV series, then watch the adaptation and compare the two. You can write a brief review discussing which version you preferred and why, focusing on elements like character portrayal, key scenes and themes. Examples could include *"The Secret Garden"* or *"Matilda."*

Reading Road Trip Across the UK:

Create a map of the UK and read books set in different regions. You can start in the Highlands of Scotland (*"Kidnapped"* by Robert Louis Stevenson) before arriving in the streets of London (*"Oliver Twist"* by Charles Dickens) and finish in the countryside of Devon (*"The Hound of the Baskervilles"* by Arthur Conan Doyle). You can track your journey across the UK, learning about different places and cultures.



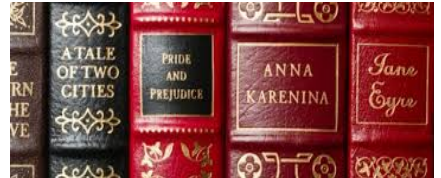


150-Page Book Dash

Read five books that are no longer than 150 pages each! This could include novellas, short stories or plays. For instance, you might read "Animal Farm" by George Orwell or "A Christmas Carol" by Charles Dickens.

Classic vs. Contemporary Challenge

Read one classic novel and one contemporary novel that share a similar theme, setting or genre. Then compare and contrast the two books, discussing how the theme is treated differently based on the time period and the author's style. For example, you could read "Lord of the Flies" by William Golding alongside "The Hunger Games" by Suzanne Collins (both exploring survival and society).

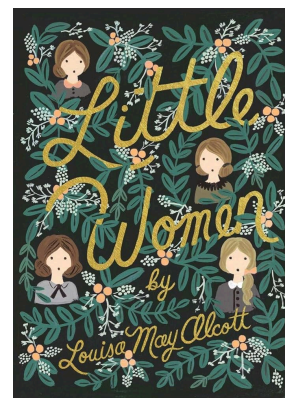


Find our reading recommendations below!

Reading recommendations:

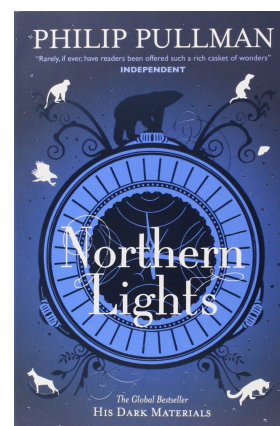
Classics:

1. The Secret Garden by Frances Hodgson Burnett
2. Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll
3. The Wind in the Willows by Kenneth Grahame
4. The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien
5. Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery
6. Peter Pan by J.M. Barrie
7. Charlotte's Web by E.B. White
8. Little Women by Louisa May Alcott
9. The Chronicles of Narnia: The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis
10. Black Beauty by Anna Sewall



Fantasy:

1. Howl's Moving Castle by Diana Wynne Jones
2. The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis
3. Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan
4. Eragon by Christopher Paolini
5. The Golden Compass by Philip Pullman
6. The Northern Lights series by Philip Pullman
7. Skellig by David Almond
8. The Book of Three by Lloyd Alexander
9. Barefoot on the Wind by Zoe Marriott
10. Heartless by Marissa Meyer



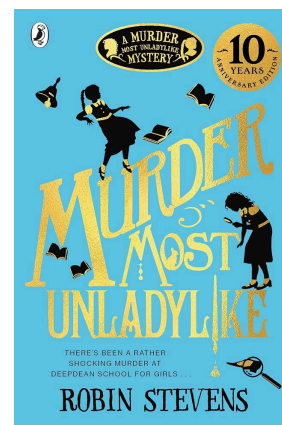
Science Fiction:

1. The Hunger Games series by Suzanne Collins
2. The Gone series by Michael Grant
3. The Giver by Lois Lowry
4. Divergent by Veronica Roth
5. The Maze Runner by James Dashner
6. Shatter Me series by Tahereh Mafi
7. Uglies by Scott Westerfeld
8. A Wrinkle In Time by Madeleine L'Engle
9. The City of Ember by Jeanne DuPrau
10. The War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells



Mystery/Thriller:

1. Sherlock Holmes: The Hound of the Baskervilles by Arthur Conan Doyle
2. The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin
3. The Mysterious Benedict Society by Trenton Lee Stewart
4. Nancy Drew: The Secret of the Old Clock by Carolyn Keene
5. Murder Most Unladylike Series by Robin Stevens
6. A Series of Unfortunate Events by Lemony Snicket
7. Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs
8. The 39 Clues by Rick Riordan et al.
9. Catch Your Death by Ravena Guron



10. The Five Clues by Anthony Kessel

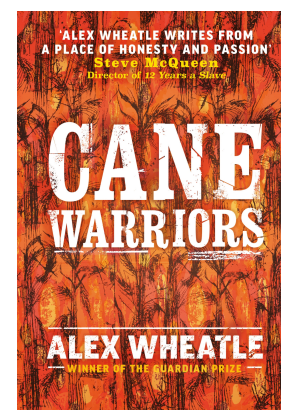
Horror:

1. Coraline by Neil Gaiman
2. Goosebumps by R.L. Stine
3. The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman
4. A Skinful of Shadows by Francis Hardinge
5. Cirque Du Freak by Darren Shan
6. The Haunting of Aveline Jones by Phil Hicke
7. Wait Till Helen Comes by Mary Downing Hahn
8. Something Wicked This Way Comes by Ray Bradbury
9. Haunted by Susan Cooper Joseph Delaney Berlie Doherty
Jamila Gavin Matt Haig Robin Jarvis Derek Landy Sam
Llewellyn Mal Peet Philip Reeve
10. Lockwood & Co.: The Screaming Staircase by Jonathan Stroud



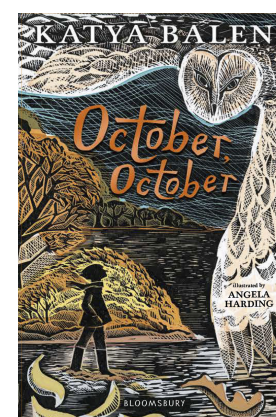
Historical Fiction:

1. Cane Warriors by Alex Wheatle
2. Why Sky Falls by Phil Earle
3. Orphan, Monster, Spy by Matt Killeen
4. The Book Thief by Markus Zusak
5. Windrush Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah
6. War Horse by Michael Murpurgo
7. Safiyyah's War by Hiba Noor Khan
8. Guard Your Heart by Sue Divin
9. Nisha's War by Dan Smith
10. Witch by Finbar Hawkins



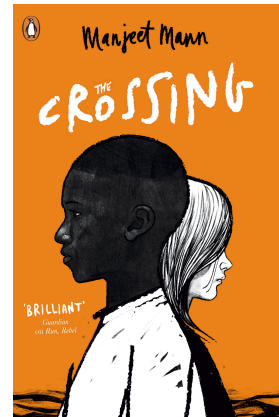
Contemporary Fiction / YA novels:

1. Wonder by R.J. Palacio
2. The Fault in Our Stars by John Green
3. October October, The Light In Everything by Katya Balen
4. Tsunami Girl by Julia Sedgwick
5. On Midnight Beach by Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick
6. Holes by Louis Sachar
7. Look Both Ways by Jason Reynolds
8. On The Come Up by Angie Thomas
9. Noughts and Crosses series by Malorie Blackman
10. Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah
11. The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Rauf
12. Away With Words by Sophie Cameron
13. Steady For This by Nathanael Lessore
14. The Song Walker by Zillah Bethell
15. The Explorer by Katherine Rundell



Verse novels:

1. The Crossing by Manjeet Mann
2. Run Rebel by Manjeet Mann
3. Crossing The Line by Tia Fisher
4. The Door Of No Return by Kwame Alexander
5. The Crossover by Kwame Alexander
6. Apple and Rain by Sarah Crossan
7. The Weight of Water by Sarah Crossan
8. Inside Out & Back Again by Thanhha Lai
9. Ain't Burned All the Bright by Jason Reynolds
10. Jazz Owls: A Novel of the Zoot Suit Riots by Margarita Engle



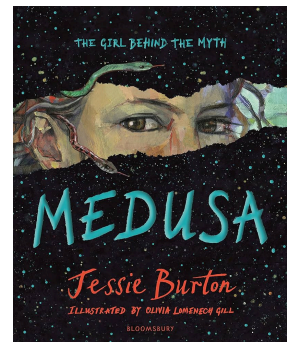
Graphic novels:

1. Heartstopper series by Alice Oseman
2. Trish Trash: Rollergirl of Mars - The Collected Edition by Jessica Abel; backgrounds and design by Lydia Roberts; colours by Walter
3. Ethel & Ernest by Raymond Briggs
4. Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi
5. Awkward by Svetlana Chmakova
6. Line Of Fire: Diary Of An Unknown Soldier by Barroux, Translator: Sarah Ardizzone
7. The Isobel Journal by Isobel Harrop
8. The Sad Ghost Club by Lize Meddings
9. Amulet Series by Kazu Kibuishi
10. Smile by Raina Telgemeier



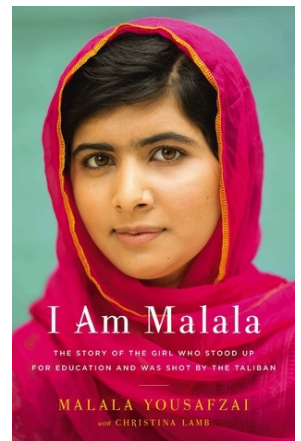
Mythology and Folklore:

1. Medusa by Jessie Burton
2. Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes by Edith Hamilton
3. The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan
4. The Odyssey by Homer (adapted)
5. The Heroes by Charles Kingsley
6. The Shadow of the Minotaur by Alan Gibbons
7. Tales of the Greek Heroes by Roger Lancelyn Green
8. Beowulf by Michael Morpurgo (adaptation)
9. The Sword in the Stone by T.H. White
10. The Norse Myths by Kevin Crossley-Holland



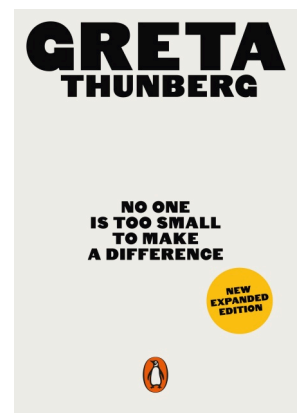
Biography/Autobiography:

1. I Am Malala by Malala Yousafzai
2. Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank
3. Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different by Karen Blumenthal
4. Becoming by Michelle Obama (adapted for young readers)
5. Unbroken by Laura Hillenbrand (adapted for young readers)
6. Long Walk to Freedom by Nelson Mandela (abridged)
7. My Life With The Chimpanzees by Jane Goodall
8. Chinese Cinderella: The True Story Of An Unwanted Daughter by Adeline Yen Mah
9. I Am Rosa Parks (Young Readers) by Rosa Parks
10. Sir David Attenborough (A Life Story) by Lizzie Huxley-Jones



Non-Fiction:

1. No One Is Too Small To Make A Difference by Greta Thunberg
2. How To Be A Bawse by Lilly Singh
3. The Bigger Picture: Women Who Changed The Art World by Sophia Bennett
4. Politics For Beginners by Alex Firth and Rosie Hore and Louie Stowell
5. The Girl Guide: 50 Lessons In Learning To Love Your Changing Body by Marawa Ibrahim
6. The Reason I Jump by Naoki Higashida
7. Failsophy: A Handbook For When Things Go Wrong by Elizabeth Day
8. Kay's Anatomy: A Complete Guide To The Human Body by Adam Kay
9. Black and British: A Short, Essential History by David Olusoga
10. Stamped: Racism, Antiracism, And You by Jason Reynolds



Further links to find the books you want to read:



Reading recommendations by key stage:

<https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/category/secondary-ks3-ks4-reading-lists/>

The Book Trust has a fantastic selection of books recommended for teens:

Fiction:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/booklists/b/best-books-for-teens-teen/>

Non-fiction:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/booklists/n/non-fiction-books-to-help-teens-understand-the-world-around-them/>

An easy way for teens to discover recommendations based on the genres they enjoy:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/books-and-reading/bookfinder/>

Graphic and Verse Novels are popular with teens:

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/booklists/g/graphic-novels-teens/>

<https://www.booktrust.org.uk/booklists/f/poetry-books-teens/>

Carnegie Shortlist: recent publications that have been nominated for this prestigious award:

<https://yotocarnegies.co.uk/writing-shortlist-2024/>

Waterstones also allows you to filter by age:

<https://www.waterstones.com/category/childrens-teenage/facet/499>