



Recommended Reading List

YEAR 7 IDENTITY

'After the War' by Tom Palmer: set in the Lake District in the aftermath of World War Two, Yossi, Ben, and Mordecai are part of a group of three hundred children who have been brought to safety from the Nazi concentration camps. But Yossi is haunted by the fear that his father is missing and is worried his friends will move on without him. Will his new home help him begin to heal?

'Can You See Me?' by Libby Scott and Rebecca Westcott: Tally, an autistic girl, is starting secondary school and thinks she needs to act 'normal' but what is 'normal' and can she be true to herself? Libby Scott is a British teenager who has published a series of young adult novels inspired by her autism diagnosis. Can You See Me? was written when she was just thirteen!

'Nura and the Immortal Palace' by M. T. Khan Steeped in the magic of Muslim folklore, our hero, Nura, travels from Pakistan into a richly imagined underground world where the trickster jinns hold sway.

'Coming to England' by Floella Benjamin: Floella Benjamin shares her story of leaving Trinidad with her siblings to join her parents in England after being separated for fifteen months to begin their new life in London.

'Booked' by Kwame Alexander: Nick's family is breaking up. To cope, he's drawing on football, friendship and poetry.

'The Weight of Water' by Sarah Crossan: Life is lonely for Kasienka. At home her mother's heart is breaking and at school friends are scarce. But when someone special swims into her life, hope appears.

'The Deepest Breath' by Meg Grehan: 11-year-old Stevie is deeply confused by the emotions she feels towards a girl in her class.

'The Bone Sparrow' by Zana Fraillon: Subhi was born in a refugee detention centre in Australia and he meets Jimmie, a girl who lives outside in the local village, who needs Subhi to read her mother's stories to her.

'The Night Diary' by Veera Hiranandani: Set in 1947 The Night Diary is the story of twelve-year-old twins, Amil and Nisha, who live in what was once India but has now, almost overnight, turned into Pakistan. Follow the twins as they delve into the meaning of identity and learn to live in their new world.

YEAR 8 SOCIETY

'Oliver Twist' by Charles Dickens: Oliver Twist is the story of a young orphan, Oliver, and his attempts to stay good in a society that is trying to lead him astray.

'Murder on the Orient Express' by Agatha Christie: A classic murder mystery, led by Hercule Poirot, to discover the murderer on a train from a pool of suspects from all

parts of society.

'A Christmas Carol' by Charles Dickens: set in Victorian London, a miserable, old man is visited by a series of spirits who aim to help him become a kinder member of society. Will Scrooge change his 'bah humbug!' attitude, or will he be doomed to wander the earth as a tormented ghost like his partner Marley?

'The London Eye Mystery' by Siobhan Dowd: the story of how Ted, a boy with Asperger syndrome, and his sister Kat, solve the mystery of how their cousin, Salim, seemingly vanishes from inside a sealed capsule on the London Eye.

'The Time Machine' by H.G. Wells: a Victorian scientist who has built the world's first time machine travels on a terrifying journey to the year 802,701 AD and discovers a strange, utopian world inhabited by two groups: the Eloi and the Morlocks. However, this perfect world has a dark side – the consequence of deep divisions within society – and the Time Traveller soon discovers that he is in more danger than he first believed...

'Uglies' by Scott Westerfeld: Tally is about to turn sixteen, and she can't wait to have the operation that will turn her from an ugly into a pretty, where her only job is to have fun.

'Legend' by Marie Lu: June, a future military leader, and Day, the country's most wanted criminal unexpectedly meet and uncover shocking secrets.

YEAR 9

RELATIONSHIPS

Autumn Term

'To Kill a Mockingbird' by Harper Lee: the story of Scout and Jem and how their life changes when their father, Atticus, takes on a case to defend a wrongly convicted black man in 1930s America. Following their journey through childhood, Lee explores the ways that relationships within a community can be divided by prejudice and the ways kindness and understanding bring people closer together.

'Things Fall Apart' by Chinua Achebe: a

story exploring the life and relationships of Okonkwo, an Igbo leader who makes a fatal error that leads to misery for himself and his community.

'Ugly Dogs Don't Cry' by D D Armstrong: a modern retelling of 'Of Mice and Men', which features best friends Kyle and Sideeq, as they navigate life in their first year of college in West London. Kyle has ambitions to become a rapper and businessman, while Sideeq dreams of being an artist. Will social pressures tear them apart?

Spring Term

'Pride and Prejudice' by Jane Austen: Mr and Mrs Bennet have five unmarried daughters who they would like to match with eligible men but it does not run smoothly!

'These Violent Delights' by Chloe Gong: a retelling of 'Romeo and Juliet' set in Shanghai during the 1920s. The Scarlet Gang and the White Flowers have been engaged in a deep-rooted feud for years as they battle for control over the city. But when Juliette Cai returns to her role as the heiress of the Scarlet Gang, will she be able to face the heir to the White Flowers Roma Montagov, her first love... and first betrayal.

'Heartstopper' by Alice Oseman: Boy meets boy. Boys become friends. Boys fall in love.

Summer Term

'Jane Eyre' by Charlotte Brontë: this Gothic novel follows Jane's life as she battles through a series of challenges, including the poor treatment she experienced from her aunt and the terrible conditions of her school and finally (and most significantly). However, after accepting a position as a governess for the daughter of the darkly mysterious Rochester, her life changes dramatically as their relationship develops...

'The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes' by Arthur Conan Doyle: students are already familiar to you from Year 8. There is a wealth of other stories to explore, and they give you a vivid picture of crime and social relationships in Victorian London, as well as showing you how the plots of detective stories are constructed in ways that mirror what Stevenson has accomplished in Jekyll and Hyde.

'Great Goddesses' by Nikita Gill: a collection of poetry written from the perspective of the Greek goddesses, gods and other mythological beings, retelling their stories of their lives and relationships with each other with their own, unique voices.

YEAR 10

POWER & CONFLICT

Autumn Term

'The Woman in Black' by Susan Hill: tells the haunting testimony of a young solicitor, Arthur Kipps, who records in detail the nightmarish events of his stay in a house on a marsh in northern England, and the terrible events that alter his life forever.

Short Stories by Edgar Allen Poe: the original Gothic writer in the USA, his short stories have captured imaginations since the Victorian era. 'The Murders in the Rue Morgue' was the inspiration for Sherlock Holmes, and 'The Fall of the House of Usher' has similar themes to Jekyll and Hyde.

Short Stories by Carson McCullers or Flannery O'Connor: these two women pioneered the genre that is now known as 'Southern Gothic'. It takes Gothic elements and transport them to the deep South of the USA, so instead of being in London's streets, we are in the bayous or Louisiana or the Texan backwoods. Grotesque, carnivalesque tales are at the centre of each woman's work.

'Frankenstein' by Mary Shelly is an archetypal Gothic text, exploring similar themes to Jekyll and Hyde. There's a scientist messing around with transforming the body, the contrast between the wild nature of the external world and the darkened laboratory Victor Frankenstein works in, AND the whole story is told through letters (which is called an 'epistolary novel'). At its core, this text asks us what it means to be human and explores man's internal conflict between his desire for knowledge and his own humanity.

'The Picture of Dorian Grey' by Oscar Wilde was written around the same time as Jekyll and Hyde, and both consider the

idea of being trapped in a body and trying to escape the limitations of society. Dorian wants to indulge in a debauched, sinful lifestyle – just like Henry Jekyll – but how will he maintain this whilst still being seen as a respectable gentleman in society?

'Great Expectations' by Charles Dickens is the tale of a young boy becoming a gentleman in Victorian London, and all of the obstacles that get in the way of his path from poverty to respectability, as well as how becoming wealthy effects his character. Is becoming a gentleman worth turning your back on everyone who has ever loved you?

YEAR 11

POWER & CONFLICT

Autumn Term

'Postscripts' by J.B. Priestley is the name for the collection of radio speeches that Priestley gave in opposition to Winston Churchill during the Second World War. They are available online to read or to listen to through the BBC archives, and make Priestley's opinions on class, patriarchy, capitalism and responsibility abundantly clear.

'Death of a Salesman' by Arthur Miller is the story of the American Dream gone wrong – you might enjoy it if you liked *Of Mice and Men*'s themes of alienation, masculinity and shattered ambitions. Or you might like this play if you enjoyed Miller's other famous work – *The Crucible*. Miller was writing around the same time as Priestley, and his plays comment on the political and cultural landscape of the USA in parallel with Priestley's comments on Britain.

'Mother Courage and her Children' by Bertolt Brecht is a great example of the Epic Theatre form which inspired J.B. Priestley's staging, lighting, props and use of performance. Brecht was a hugely influential figure on Priestley, as Brecht also believed that theatre should be created to evoke social and political change rather than just to entertain. Be warned – this play might be unlike anything else you've read or seen...

'A Doll's House' by Henrik Ibsen is regarded as the Norwegian playwright's best work. It is about the internal dynamics of not-so-happy marriage between husband and wife and the widespread female emancipation of the nineteenth century. Priestley used Ibsen's ideas about social commentary, detailed narrative and stage directions in his construction of *An Inspector Calls*.

'Noughts and Crosses' by Malorie Blackman: two young people are forced to make a stand in this thought-provoking look at racism and prejudice in an alternate, dystopian society.

'Clap when you Land' by Elizabeth Acevedo: tells the story of two sisters separated by distance – one living in the Dominican republic, and one in New York – and separated by the fact that they don't know the other exists...until their father dies, and the truth comes out.

YEAR 10 & YEAR 11

POWER & CONFLICT

Spring & Summer Term

'Hamlet' is the tragic story of the young prince of Denmark, who returns home to attend his father's funeral. When he arrives, Hamlet is shocked to find his mother already remarried to his Uncle Claudius, the dead king's brother. And Hamlet is even more surprised when his father's ghost appears and declares that he was murdered! Will Hamlet do as his ghostly father wishes and seek revenge, or will he falter?

'Othello' is a tragic tale of love, jealousy, and backstabbing friends. Arguably Shakespeare's greatest villain, Iago is furious about being overlooked for promotion and plots to take revenge against his General: Othello. Iago manipulates Othello into believing his wife Desdemona is unfaithful, stirring Othello's jealousy. Will Othello

allow his jealousy to consume him, or will he realise his so-called 'friend' is plotting his downfall?

'Richard III' is a historical play, which fictionalises the life of the jealous and crippled Richard of Gloucester. He wants to be King of England and uses manipulation, ruthlessness, and deceit to achieve his goal. He murders his brothers, nephews, and any opposition to snatch the crown. But will he be able to hold onto his kingship? Or will his arch nemesis, Henry of Richmond, manage to defeat him?

'As I Descended' by Robin Talley: is an LGBTQ+ young adult reimagining of Macbeth, set in an elite boarding school in the USA, as power couple Lily and Maria try to secure the coveted Cawdor Kingsley prize...

'Long Way Down' by Jason Reynolds: a boy is visited by ghosts of family and friends he knew as he takes the lift down from his family's flat to exact revenge on the person who shot his brother dead in a gangland attack.

'Stolen' by Lucy Christopher: told in a moving letter to her captor, sixteen-year-old Gemma relives her kidnapping from Bangkok airport while on holiday.

'Ketchup Clouds' by Annabel Pitcher: a teenage girl starts writing to an American prisoner on Death Row to try to process her belief that she is a murderer too.

'Beloved' by Toni Morrison: terrible, unspeakable things happened to Sethe at Sweet Home, the farm where she lived as a slave for many years until she escaped. Her new life is full of hope, but she is still not free, haunted by the ghost of her baby.

'Refugee Boy' by Benjamin Zephaniah Alem thinks he is on holiday with his father in London, but his father has brought him to the UK to escape the war in Ethiopia, leaving him to survive by himself as a refugee.