

Year 9 Recommended Reading List

All of the books on this list are recommended by Mr Johnston, Mr Banks and the English Teachers. These books have been ranked according to reading level, but anybody can read any book in this list. They are all in the LRC. See which level matches you the best below.

Key:

Anything in orange - I am a confident reader and enjoy books

Anything in Blue - I am a competent reader, but I don't like thick books

Anything in Green - I struggle with some words and don't really enjoy books

Historical

Brighton Rock	Graham Greene	It is 1930s Brighton and gangs are in control of the town. When a journalist is murdered, a chance acquaintance, Ida Arnold sets out to track down the guilty and comes up against Pinkie Brown, a teenage gang leader.	
Coram Boy	Jamila Gavin	A saga of growing up, struggle, tradition and corruption in eighteenth-century London and Gloucester. Coram Boy spans the lives of several fortunate and less fortunate young people of the day.	
Thicker than water	Anne Cassidy	George and Lennie are drifters with a dream to own a record shop, who come to Hastings looking for work. Inspired by Of Mice and Men	
Captain Corelli's Mandolin	Louis De Bernieres	It is 1941, and Captain Antonio Corelli is posted to Greek island Cephallonia as part of the occupying Italian army. Corelli's aim is to have an easy war. A love affair against a backdrop of difficult times.	
Buffalo Soldier	Tanya Landman	After being freed from slavery, Charlotte decides to join the US army in the guise of a man and changes her name to Charley. She is sent to the American frontier to fight native American Indian tribes, where death is always near at hand.	
Frankenstein	Mary Shelley	A gifted scientist attempts to break new frontiers and create human life from nothing, but has his quest driven him mad? Can he control the monster he has unleashed on the world?	
A Thousand Splendid Suns	Khaled Hosseini	This novel is set against the three decades of Afghanistan's history shaped by Soviet occupation, civil war, and the Taliban and tells the stories of two women, Mariam and Laila, who grow close despite the horrors they must endure.	

Classics Old and New

Dracula	Bram Stoker	The chilling tale of Bram Stoker's Count Dracula, a vampire who comes to England from Transylvania to find new victims and drink new blood.	
Catcher in the Rye	J.D. Salinger	A teenager explains the events following his expulsion from prep school and subsequent nervous breakdown.	
One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich	Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn	One man struggles to maintain his dignity as a man in a Russian concentration camp.	
Homage to Catalonia	George Orwell	A first hand account of the brutal conditions of the Spanish Civil War	Not on AR
The Wave	Morton Rhue	A classroom experiment that went too far. Laurie Saunders and David Collins recognise the frightening momentum of 'The Wave' and realise they must stop it. Based on a real life event.	
The Outsiders	S E Hinton	A coming of age novel. The book follows two rival groups, the <u>Greasers</u> and the Socs in the mid 1960s.	
Brave New World	Aldous Huxley	Far in the future, the World Controllers have created the ideal society. Through clever use of genetic engineering and brainwashing, all its members are happy consumers. Bernard Marx seems alone harbouring an ill-defined longing to break free.	
I Capture the Castle	Dodie Smith	The romantic isolation ends for Cassandra and her sister when the wealthy and adventurous Cotton family takes over the nearby estate.	

Junk	Melvin Burgess	Tar loves Gemma, but Gemma doesn't want to be tied down to anyone or anything and heroin has the power to tie them both down.	
Dystopian/Spooky/Fantasy			
What I Was	Meg Rosoff	A Pupil runs away from boarding school and lives in a hut on the norfolk coast	
Only Ever Yours	Louise o'Neill	The tale of school girls coming of age in a misogynistic society, where beauty and blind obedience are all that are expected of a woman. Like a modern Handmaids Tale.	
At the World's End	Catherine Fisher	After surviving for nine years inside the Store, Caz and Will are kicked out to make their way alone in the frozen city.	
The Running Man	R A Bachman (Stephen King)	Ben Richards as he participates in futuristic game show, The Running Man in which contestants, allowed to go anywhere in the world, are chased by "Hunters" employed to kill them.	
Close your pretty eyes	Sally Nicholls	Olivia's new home was once a notorious baby farm, where unwanted children were left to die. Olivia becomes convinced that the place is haunted and is desperate to save her new family from the ghosts.	
Midwinterblood	Marcus Sedgewick	Seven short stories linked by a Scandinavian island inhabited by Vikings, vampires, ghosts, and a curiously powerful plant.	

Life, School, Growing Up

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The Hate U Give	Angie Thomas	Starr lives in two worlds: the poor neighbourhood where she was born and raised and her posh high school in the suburbs and is the only witness to the fatal shooting of her unarmed best friend. Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, this is a powerful and gripping YA novel about one girl's struggle for justice.	
Inside My Head	Jim Carrington	Three views of the same story: Gary, constantly victimised by the school bully in a nasty, name-calling and vindictive way; the bully's friend, David and a new girl to the school, Zoë.	
Brick Lane	Monica Ali	Still a teenager, Nazneen finds herself in an arranged marriage with a man who is twenty years older. Home is now a cramped flat in a high-rise block in London's East End. Nazneen knows not a word of English, and is forced to depend on her husband. But unlike him she is practical and wise.	Not on AR
Speak	Laurie Halse Anderson	Melinda Sordino knows she's an outcast. Her old friends won't talk to her, and people she doesn't know glare at her. If only she could explain, but she just can't find the right words.	
The Absolutely True Diary of a Part Time Indian	Alexie Sherman	Budding cartoonist Junior leaves his troubled school on the Spokane Indian Reservation to attend an all-white farm town school where the only other native american is the school mascot.	
Thirteen Reasons Why	Jay Asher	When high school student Clay Jenkins receives a box in the mail containing thirteen cassette tapes recorded by his classmate Hannah, who committed suicide, he spends a heartbreaking night listening to her recount the events leading up to her death.	
I'll Give You The Sun	Jandy Nelson	This story of first love, family, loss, and betrayal is told from different points in time and in separate voices by artists Jude and her twin brother, Noah.	

