

# Reading List

## Recommended Reading List for Key Stage 4

### Classics

*The Great Gatsby* by F Scott Fitzgerald  
*Oliver Twist* by Charles Dickens  
*Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens  
*Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte  
*Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte  
*Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier  
*Sense and Sensibility* by Jane Austen  
*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen  
*Middlemarch* by George Eliot  
*North and South* by Elizabeth Gaskell  
*Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley  
*Vanity Fair* by William Thackeray  
*Beloved* by Toni Morrison  
*The Color Purple* by Alice Walker  
*Animal Farm* by George Orwell  
*Of Mice and Men* by John Steinbeck  
*Their Eyes Were Watching God* by Zora Neale Hurston  
*White Teeth* by Zadie Smith  
*Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe  
*Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Adichie  
*The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy

### Plays

Anything by William Shakespeare  
*Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller  
*The Crucible* by Arthur Miller  
*Look Back in Anger* by John Osborne  
*A Raisin in The Sun* by Lorraine Hansberry  
*Waiting for Godot* by Samuel Beckett

*Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* by Tennessee Williams

*The History Boys* by Alan Bennett

*Blood Brothers* by Willy Russell

*A Doll's House* Henrik Ibsen

### Poetry

*Milk and Honey* by Rupi Kaur

*Poet X Clap When You Land* by Elizabeth Acevedo

*A Change is Gonna Come* by Various authors

*Ariel* by Sylvia Plath

*Birthday Letters* by Ted Hughes

*The World's Wife* by Carol Ann Duffy

*And Still I Rise* by Maya Angelou

*Paper Aeroplane* by Simon Armitage

*The Whitsun Weddings* by Philip Larkin

### Coming of age novels/exploring what it means to be a young person

*The Outsiders* by S E Hinton

*The Perks of Being A Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky

*The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green

*The Catcher in the Rye* by J D Salinger

*Everything I Know About Love* by Dolly Alderton

*I Capture the Castle* by Dodie Smith

*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time* by Mark Haddon

*Brighton Rock* by Graham Greene

*Lord of the Flies* by William Golding

*Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro

*One Day* by David Nicholls

*Starter for Ten* by David Nicholls

*Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* by Gail Honeyman

*Life of Pi* by Yann Martel

*The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath

*Junk* by Melvin Burgess

*Slay* by Brittney Morris

*Brick Lane* by Monica Ali

*A Thousand Acres* by Jane Smiley

*The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas

*On The Come Up* by Angie Thomas

*Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stevenson

*The Sun is Also a Star* by Nicola Yoon

*Girl, Woman, Other* by Bernadine Evaristo

## Science Fiction

*1984* by George Orwell

*Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley

*The Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams

*The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood

*The Testaments* by Margaret Atwood

*Blind Assassin* by Margaret Atwood

*War of The Worlds* by H G Wells

*The Invisible Man* by H G Wells

*Dune* by Frank Herbert

*Jurassic Park* by Michael Crichton

*Ray Bradbury: Short Stories Volume 1* by Ray Bradbury

*Ready Player One* by Ernest Cline

## LGBTQ+

*Two Boys Kissing* by David Levithan

*Boy Meets Boy* by David Levithan

*The Fingersmith* by Sarah Waters

*Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* by Jeannette Winterson

*Call Me by Your Name* by Andre Aciman

*Symptoms of Being Human* by Jeff Garvin

*Simon vs The Homo Sapiens Agenda* by Becky Albertalli

*The Song of Achilles* by Madeleine Miller

*Luna* by Julie Ann Peters

*Boys Don't Cry* by Malorie Blackman

*Will Grayson, Will Grayson* by John Green and David Levithan

*My Brother's Name is Jessica* by John Boyne

## Autobiographies/biographies

*This is Going to Hurt* by Adam Kay

*I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou

*Becoming* Michelle Obama

*How to Fail* by Elizabeth Day

*Born a Crime* by Trevor Noah

*How to Build a Girl* by Caitlin Moran

*Eat Pray Love* by Elizabeth Gilbert

*Steve Jobs* by Walter Isaacson

*#Girlboss* by Sophia Amoruso

*The Salt Path* by Raynor Winn

*You Can Get It If You Really Want* by Levi Roots

*A Promised Land* by Barack Obama

*The Autobiography of Malcolm X* by Malcolm X

*Long Walk to Freedom* by Nelson Mandela

*Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt

*Chinese Cinderella* by Adeline Yen Mah

*I am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai

## Humour

*About a Boy* by Nick Hornby

*The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole* by Sue Townsend

*Bridget Jones's Diary* by Helen Fielding

*An Abundance of Katherines* by John Green

*Fever Pitch* by Nick Hornby

*Catch 22* by Joseph Heller

*The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid* by Bill Bryson

*Hyperbole and a Half* by Allie Brosh

*Screen Burn* by Charlie Brooker

*Where'd You Go, Bernadette?* by Maria Semple

*Is Everyone Hanging Out Without Me?* By Mindy Kaling

*The Misadventures of an Awkward Black Girl* by Issa Rae

## Non-fiction/lessons on life

*The Last Lecture* by Randy Pausch

*Notes on a Nervous Planet* by Matt Haig

*Reasons to Stay Alive* by Matt Haig

*Notes on a Small Island* by Bill Bryson

*Shakespeare: The World as Stage* by Bill Bryson

*The Mother Tongue: English and How It Got That Way* by Bill Bryson

*The 7 Habits of Highly Effective Teens* by Sean Covey

*Slay in Your Lane: The Black Girl Bible* by Yomi Adegoke

*Feminist Don't Wear Pink (and other lies)* by Scarlett Curtis

*Think Like a Monk: Train Your Mind for Peace and Purpose Everyday* by Jay Shetty

*31 Songs* Nick Hornby

## Fantasy

*The Hobbit* by JRR Tolkien

*Lord of the Rings* by JRR Tolkien

*Northern Lights* by Philip Pullman

*The Subtle Knife* by Philip Pullman

*The Amber Spyglass* by Philip Pullman

*The Wheel of Time* (series) by Robert Jordan

*The Game of Thrones* (series) by George RR Martin

*Children of Blood and Bone* by Tomi Adeyemi

*American Gods* by Neil Gaiman

*Good Omens* by Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett

*The Night Circus* by Erin Morgenstern

*The Colour of Magic* by Terry Pratchett

*The Dark Tower* by Stephen King

*The Sword of Shannara* by Terry Brooks

*The Assassin's Apprentice* by Robin Hobb

*The Eye of the World* by Robert Jordan

*Note to parents: Some books from this list are written for young adult readers; this means there may be occasional 'gritty' content. Generally, by Key Stage 3 young people are ready for this, but parents know their children best; if you have queries about suitability, please check online reviews or ask your child's teacher.*

## Historical Fiction and War

*The Plantagenet and Tudor Novels* by Philippa Gregory

*Wolf Hall* by Hilary Mantel

*The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak

*Suite Française*, by Irene Nemirovsky

*All The Light We Cannot See* by Antony Doer

*The Tattooist of Auschwitz* by Heather Morris

*Small Island* by Andrea Levy

*Birdsong* by Sebastian Faulks

*Bravo Two Zero: The Original SAS Story* by Andy McNab

*Atonement* by Ian McEwan

*Zero 22* by Chris Ryan

*Strike Back* by Chris Ryan

*All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque

*The Longest Day: June 6, 1944* by Cornelius Ryan

*Band of Brothers* by Stephen E Ambrose

*Born on the Fourth of July* by Ron Kovic

*Generation Kill* by Evan Wright

*If I Die in a Combat Zone* by Tim O'Brien

*The Nightingale* by Kristin Hannah

*Alias Grace* by Margaret Atwood

Journalists (much of their work can be found online).

1. Gary Younge
2. Caitlin Moran
3. Polly Toynbee
4. A A Gill
5. Afua Hirsch
6. Hadley Freeman
7. India Knight
8. Arwa Mahdawi
9. Sathnam Sangera
10. Hugo Rifkind