



# Eastwood Academy Secondary School



## Recommended Reading List Ages 11-16

“If I were a young person today, trying to gain a sense of myself in the world, I would do that again by reading, just as I did when I was young.” – Maya Angelou

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“Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.” - Margaret Fuller

# **“Books are a uniquely portable magic.”**

**– Stephen King**

Reading is a way of visiting worlds and experiencing lives outside of our own. To hold a book in your hands is to hold a whole universe full of characters that you can revisit whenever you want. Texts can provide us with the ideas to imagine what we might never experience for ourselves.

Developing a love for reading (and a consistent reading habit) is incredibly important for students. It is proven that people who read regularly have a much more extensive vocabulary and are able to express themselves and understand the world around them on a much deeper level. Students who are readers are more likely to perform better in school - and beyond - in addition to developing their creativity and empathy. Not only this, but reading is an excellent way to relax and wind down; a perfect method to ease feelings of anxiety and tension!

You may already be someone who is very passionate about reading and finds it easy to sit down with a book for hours, whereas others might find it overwhelming and not as enjoyable. This is a reading list for people at all stages of their confidence in reading and there are tips to help you find it easier and more enjoyable. Start with just **ten minutes of reading a day** and build up - it's amazing how much you'll advance by reading a little every night!

**We highly recommend joining your local library** as it is completely free and an excellent resource. You are able to borrow books (even download audiobooks and ebooks) completely for free and the people who work there will be able to help you find the books on this list.

\*The reading list below is by no means exhaustive and will be updated regularly. If parents or students can think of a title that is not on the list but think it should be, or would like further recommendations, please speak to your English teacher. Any suggestions would be welcome!\*

# Reading Tips

If you have any reading tips of your own, let your teacher know!

-  Try out different reading environments. Maybe you read better in complete silence, or maybe it is nicer to read with some background noise.
-  If you struggle to concentrate, listen to the audiobook whilst you read the book. It will be like someone is reading it to you!
-  Set yourself a timer for how long you want to read. This will help you stay focused. Start with just 10 minutes a day and work up to longer when you start enjoying it more.
-  Don't be afraid to put a book down if you don't enjoy it. Give it a chance first by reading about 15% of the book but if you don't like it by then, put it down and pick up something new.
-  If you don't know where to start, think about things you already enjoy and find books that are about those things.
-  Sign up for free at your local library. You are able to borrow books, download audio and ebooks and use computers completely for free.
-  When you pick up a book, you should be able to read and enjoy it, but find some parts challenging. This element of challenge is how you stretch your abilities.
-  It doesn't matter how big or small the book is, or if it is a graphic novel or an audiobook – you are still reading a book!

“I love the way that each book — any book — is its own journey. You open it, and off you go...” — Sharon Creech

## KS3 budding reader? Try the following books!

**The Secret of Splint Hall – Katie Cotton** – A magical, multi-layered adventure story.

**The Sky Beneath The Stone – Alex Mullarky** – An adventure story that tingles with magic, mystery and spells.

**Stormbreaker– Anthony Horowitz** - A fabulous story that crackles with suspense and daring.

**Julia and the Shark - Kiran Millwood Hargrave** - magical, imaginative and mysterious while also dealing with complex emotions and situations.

**Cameron Battle and the Hidden Kingdoms – Jamar J. Perry** - A gripping and multi-layered fantasy adventure, drawing on West African and Igbo history and mythology.

**The Secret of Haven Point – Lisette Auton** - Magic, mermaids, friendship and found families ripple through this charming adventure.

**Wonder – R. J Palacio** - Powerful, warm and often heart-breaking. August (Auggie) Pullman was born with a severe facial difference that, up until now, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school.

**Onyeka and the Academy of the Sun - Tolá Okogwu** - Action-packed and empowering middle-grade series about a British-Nigerian girl who learns that her Afro hair has psychokinetic powers.

**Matilda – Roald Dahl** - Matilda's parents have called her some terrible things. The truth is, she's a genius and they're the stupid ones. Matilda is determined to get her own back and soon discovers she has a very special power.

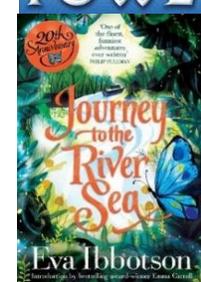
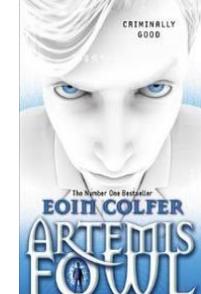
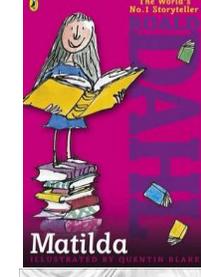
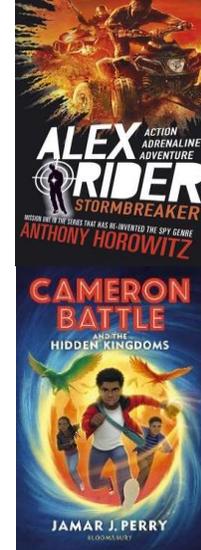
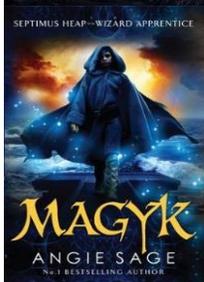
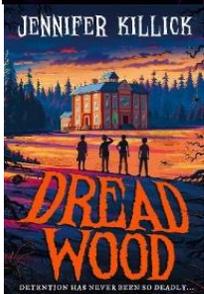
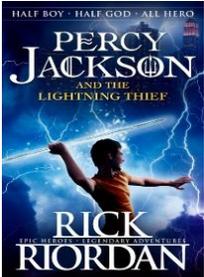
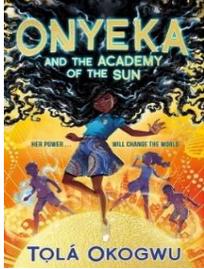
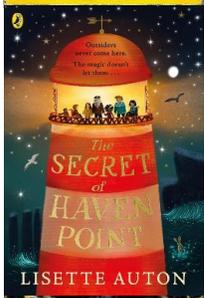
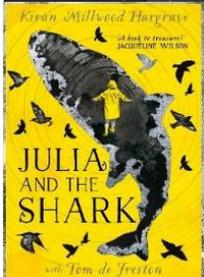
**Percy Jackson and the Lightning Thief – Rick Riordan** - Percy Jackson is a twelve-year-old New Yorker who has dyslexia and ADHD. For reasons unknown, he often finds himself in unique situations that get him kicked out of school.

**Artemis Fowl - Eoin Colfer** - Half hero, half villain and wholly brainy, although still only a boy, Artemis is a criminal mastermind who has a very daring scheme in mind.

**Dread Wood - Jennifer Killick** - Deadly secrets lurk beneath school in this unputdownable horror story

**Journey to the River Sea - Eva Ibbotson** - A charming and magical adventure story that is full of wisdom, warmth and understanding.

**Magyk – Angie Sage** - Featuring quirky characters, this is an imaginative and a darkly humorous adventure.



## KS3 and more of a confident reader? Try some of these!

**Northern Lights – Philip Pullman** - Lyra Belacqua and her animal daemon live half-wild and carefree among scholars of Jordan College, Oxford. The destiny that awaits her will take her to the frozen lands of the Arctic, where witch-clans reign and ice-bears fight.

**Harry Potter – JK Rowling** – Harry Potter is an orphan who is mistreated by his guardian aunt and uncle and their son. On his 11th birthday Harry discovers a secret about himself that changes his life forever.

**The Book Thief – Markus Zusak** - 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier. Liesel, a nine-year-old girl, is living with a foster family on Himmel Street.

**Alone on a Wide Wide Sea** – Michael Morpurgo - A touching and tender story about an unusual childhood. Arthur is shipped off to Australia as a six year old orphan during World War Two.

**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime** - When Christopher finds a dead dog on his neighbour's lawn he applies the principles he has learnt from Sherlock Holmes, his own literary hero, to the situation and so begins the narration of his own remarkable story.

**The Diary of Anne Frank – Anne Frank** – her own remarkable true-story of a young, Jewish girl against the backdrop of the horrors of the Second World War.

**Girl of Ink and Stars – Kiran Millwood** - This is a magical adventure, beautifully told and full of striking ideas on themes of loyalty, courage and redemption

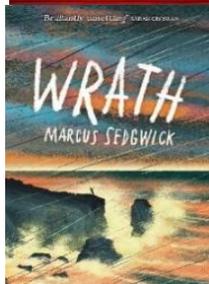
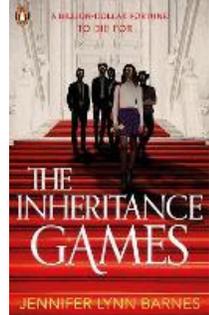
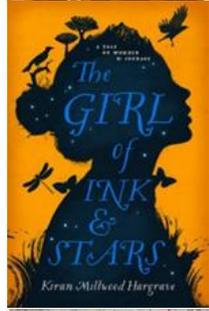
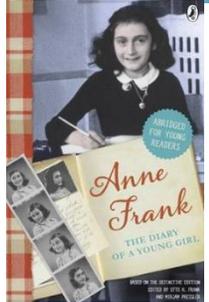
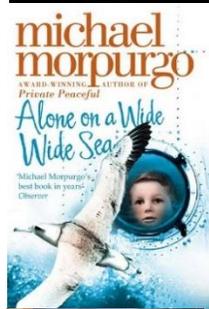
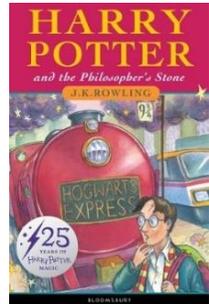
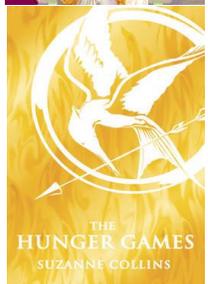
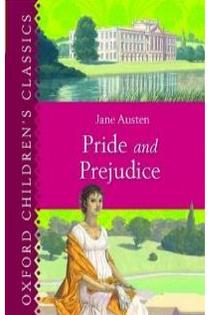
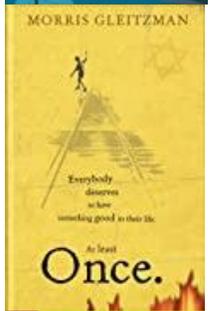
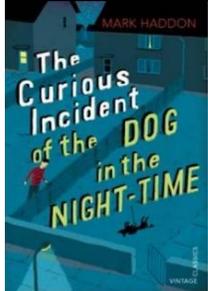
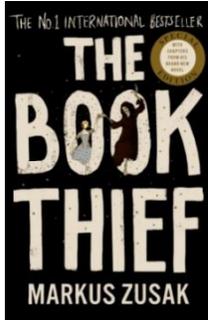
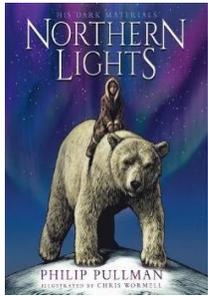
**Once – Morris Gleitzman** - the story of a young Jewish boy who is determined to escape the orphanage he lives in to save his Jewish parents from the Nazis in the occupied Poland of the Second World War.

**Pride and Prejudice – Jane Austen** - Strong willed Elizabeth Bennett is determined not to be impressed by her family's wealthy new neighbour, Mr Darcy.

**The Inheritance Games - Jennifer Lynn Barnes** - Avery has a plan: keep her head down, work hard for a better future. Then an eccentric billionaire dies, leaving her almost his entire fortune. And no one, least of all Avery, knows why.

**The Hunger Games – Suzanne Collins** - The cruel Capitol keeps order in its twelve outlying districts by forcing them each to send one boy and girl to participate in the annual Hunger Games.

**Wrath – Marcus Sedgwick** - The mystery of a missing girl, the magic of music, fractured families, friendship, and planet Earth at a critical turning point.



In KS4 but not as confident yet? Or maybe you are in KS3 but looking to challenge yourself? Give the below books a try:

**Noughts and Crosses – Malorie Blackman** - 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.

**Shadow and Bone – Leigh Bardugo** - The first in an epic trilogy, Shadow and Bone follows Alina, as she attempts to discover who she really is and what her powers are, in the hope of rescuing her country.

**Divergent - Veronica Roth** - A novel of non-stop suspense and twists and turns that you least expect. The story is centered around a heroine who is determined to fulfill her plans even when conflict seems the only course of action.

**These Witches Don't Burn – Isabel Sterling** - a 17-year-old witch called Hannah can control four elements; water, fire, earth and air. Shortly after breaking up with her ex, unusual events occur that threaten both her and her coven.

**The Gilded Ones – Namina Forma** - The book explores themes of feminist possibility whilst being based in a fantasy world taking inspiration from ancient West African culture.

**Blood Red Road – Moira Young** - Saba has spent her whole life in a dried-up wasteland ravaged by constant sandstorms. But when four cloaked horsemen capture her twin brother Lugh, Saba's world is shattered, and she embarks on a quest to get him back.

**This Woven Kingdom - Tahereh Mafi** - Clashing empires, forbidden romance, and a long-forgotten queen destined to save her people.

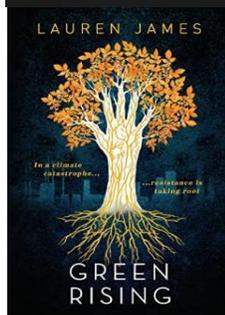
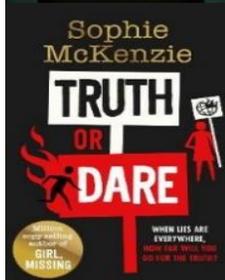
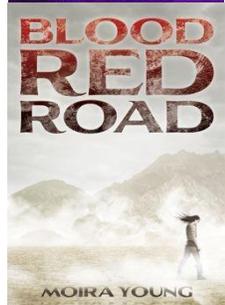
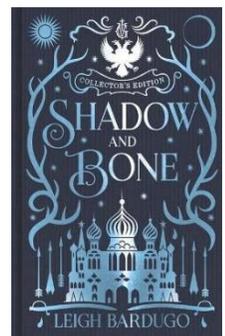
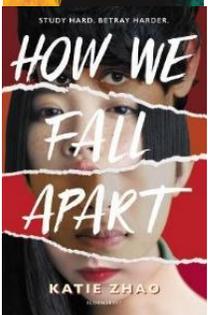
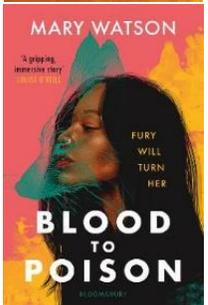
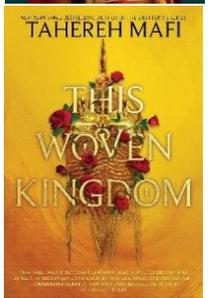
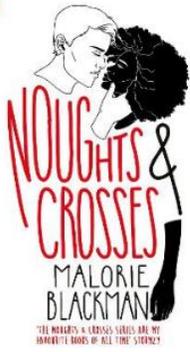
**The Taking of Jake Livingston - Ryan Douglass** - An inventive supernatural horror story that blends ghostly chills and revenge with the real-life horrors of discrimination.

**Blood to Poison - Mary Watson** - Rooted in South African history, this powerful page-turner reels with magic, witches, and female rage as resistance.

**Truth or Dare - Sophie McKenzie** - When lies are everywhere, how far will you go for the truth? A tense eco-drama with an explosive twist.

**How We Fall Apart - Katie Zhao** - Nancy Luo is shocked when her former best is found dead. Nancy is even more shocked when word starts to spread that she and her friends are the prime suspects.

**Green Rising – Lauren James** - Set in a near-future world on the brink of ecological catastrophe, this novel is a gripping, witty and romantic call to arms.



In KS4 and a confident reader looking for something a bit more challenging? Try the books below:

**The Hate U Give – Angie Thomas** - Stunning, vital wake-up call of a novel about racism, social inequality and not giving up told through the eyes of an incredible, unforgettable sixteen-year-old.

**All The Light We Cannot See – Anthony Doerr** - stunningly beautiful story about a blind French girl and a German boy whose paths collide in occupied France as both try to survive the devastation of World War II.

**The Girl With All The Gifts – MR Carey** - Every morning, Melanie waits in her cell to be collected for class. When they come for her, she thinks they don't like her. She jokes that she won't bite, but they don't laugh.

**A Good Girl's Guide to Murder – Holly Jackson** - The murder of schoolgirl Andie Bell was the talk of Pippa Fitz-Amobi's town, and she's convinced the police got the wrong guy.

**Little Women – Louisa May Alcott** - Laugh and cry with the March family. Meg, the sweet-tempered one, Jo, the smart one, Beth, the shy one and Amy, the sassy one.

**To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee** - 'Shoot all the Bluejays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember it's a sin to kill a Mockingbird.' A lawyer's advice to his children as he defends the real mockingbird of Harper Lee's classic novel.

**Ready Player One – Ernest Cline** - It's the year 2044, and the real world has become an ugly place. Like most of humanity, Wade Watts escapes this depressing reality by plugging into the OASIS, a virtual utopia where you can be anything you want to be.

**Animal Farm – George Orwell** - Having got rid of their human master, the animals of Manor Farm look forward to a life of freedom and plenty.

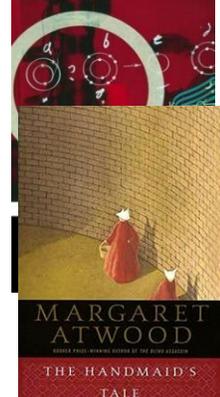
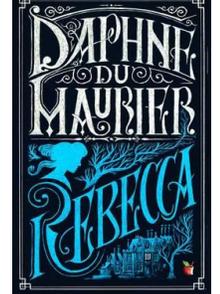
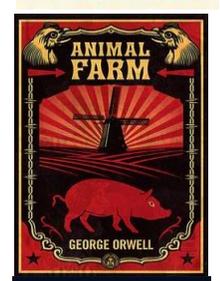
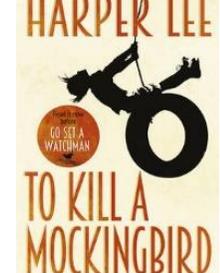
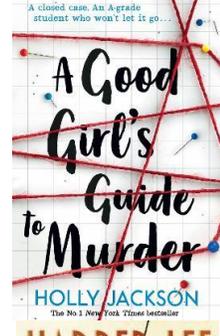
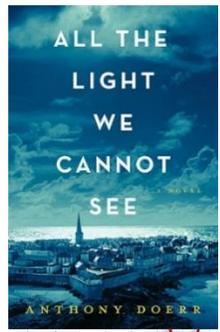
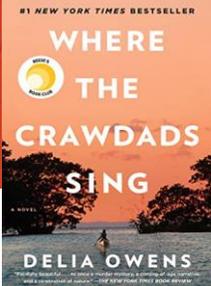
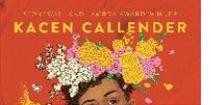
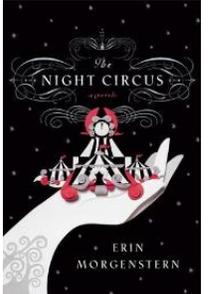
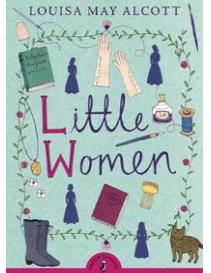
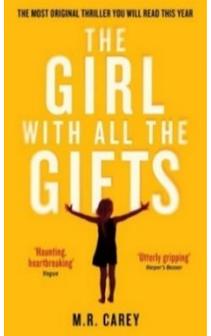
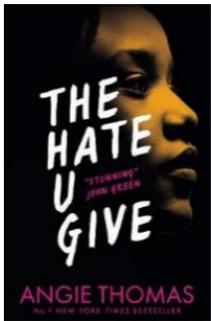
**The Night Circus – Erin Morgenstern** - The circus arrives without warning. No announcements precede it. It is simply there, when yesterday it was not.

**Rebecca – Daphne du Maurier** - On a trip to the South of France, the shy heroine falls in love with a handsome widower. But as they arrive at her husband's home, a change comes over him, and the young bride is filled with dread.

**Felix Ever After – Kacen Callender** - Felix Love has never been in love—and, yes, he's painfully aware of the irony. He desperately wants to know what it's like and why it seems so easy for everyone but him to find someone.

**The Time Machine – HG Wells** - Hundreds of thousands of years in the future, the beautiful Eloi people live in a Garden of Eden. But why are the Eloi so fearful of the dark?

**Aged 15+ and an advanced reader? The following books are considered more adult fiction and are fantastic (be aware they might contain some more mature themes):**



**Where the Crawdads Sing – Diana Owens** - Kya Clark is barefoot and wild; unfit for polite society. So in late 1969, when the popular Chase Andrews is found dead, locals immediately suspect her.

**The Handmaid's Tale – Margaret Atwood** - Offred is a Handmaid in the Republic of Gilead. She can remember when she lived with her husband; when she played with her daughter; when she had a job and money of her own. But all of that is gone now.

**Jane Eyre – Charlotte Bronte** - Jane has been hired by the brooding, proud Edward Rochester to care for his ward Adèle. Jane finds herself drawn to his troubled yet forbidding Thornfield Hall.

**The Lovely Bones – Alice Sebold** - "My name was Salmon, like the fish; first name, Susie. I was fourteen when I was murdered on December 6, 1973."

**Restless – William Boyd** - On a warm summer afternoon in 1976 Eva's daughter, Ruth, learns that everything she ever knew about her mother was a carefully constructed lie.

**Never Let Me Go – Kazuo Ishiguro** - Within the grounds of Hailsham, Kathy grows from schoolgirl to young woman, but it's only when she and her friends leave the safe grounds of the school that they realize the full truth of what Hailsham is.

**The Power – Naomi Alderman** - Teenage girls now have immense physical power - they can cause agonising pain and even death. And, with this small twist of nature, the world changes utterly.

**Wuthering Heights – Emily Bronte** – the story of the intense relationship between Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw; and how Catherine is forced to choose between passionate, tortured Heathcliff and gentle, well-bred Edgar Linton.

**Ninth House – Leigh Bardugo** - Alex has been tasked with monitoring the activities of Yale's secret societies. But their occult activities are revealed to be more sinister and than any paranoid imagination might conjure up.

**The Vanishing Half – Brit Bennett** - The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults, it's everything.

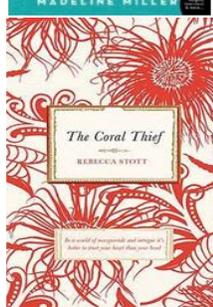
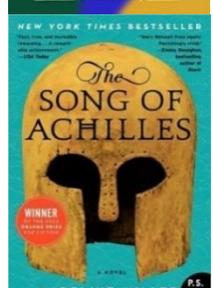
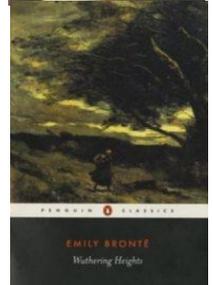
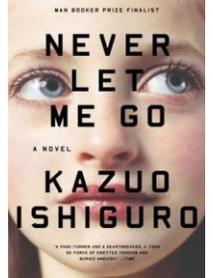
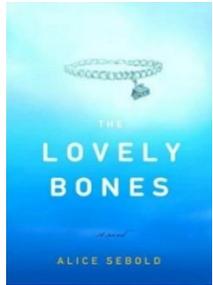
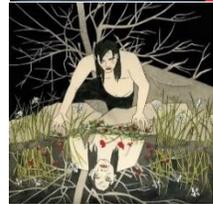
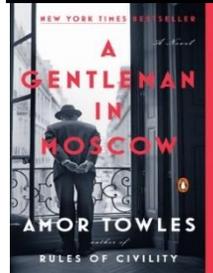
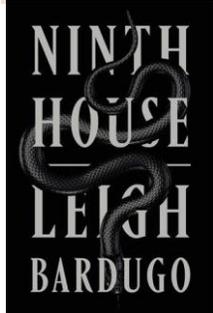
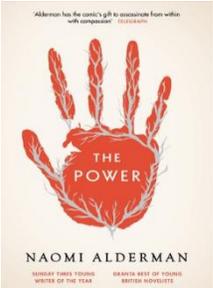
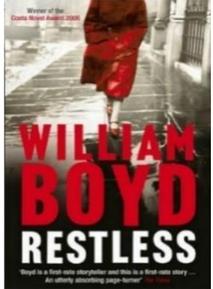
**A Gentleman in Moscow – Amor Towles** - When, in 1922, he is deemed an unrepentant aristocrat by a Bolshevik tribunal, the count is sentenced to house arrest in the Metropol, a grand hotel across the street from the Kremlin.

**Song of Achilles – Madeline Miller** – Achilles is strong, swift, and beautiful, irresistible to all who meet him. Patroclus is an awkward young prince, exiled from his homeland. Brought together by chance, they forge an inseparable bond, despite risking the gods' wrath.

**Frankenstein – Mary Shelley** - Victor Frankenstein is a scientist obsessed with generating life from lifeless matter. He subsequently manages to create a horrifying, sentient creature assembled from pieces of stolen body parts.

**The Coral Thief – Rebecca Stott** - Paris, 1815. Daniel Connor, a young medical student from Edinburgh, has just arrived in Paris to study anatomy at the Jardin des Plantes—only to realize that his letters of introduction and a gift of precious coral specimens have been stolen.

## **Graphic Novels**



Graphic novels are a great way to experience a book in a different, more visual way. Try the ones below or see if you can find graphic novel versions of other books, such as classics!

**Budding readers KS3**

**Frankie’s World - Aoife Dooley** - Frankie is different from everyone in her class, and she can't figure out why. To try to make sense of the world, Frankie doodles her daily adventures in a journal.

**Stuntboy, In The Meantime - Jason Reynolds** - Portico Reeves’s superpower is making sure all the other superheroes—like his parents and two best friends—stay super. And safe. Super safe. And he does this all in secret.

**All Summer Long – Hope Larson** - Thirteen-year-old Bina and her best friend, Austin, usually do everything together, but he's off to soccer camp for a month, and he's been acting kind of weird lately anyway. So, it's up to Bina to see how much fun she can have on her own.

**Confident readers KS3/Budding readers KS4**

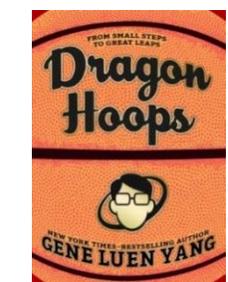
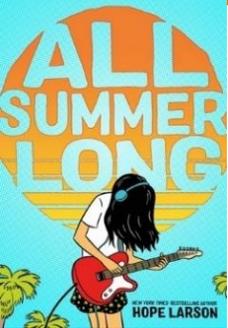
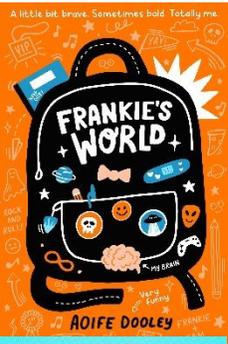
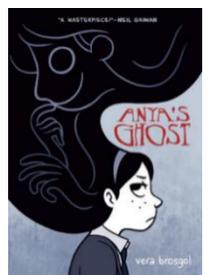
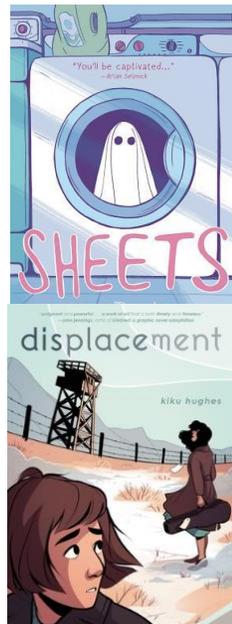
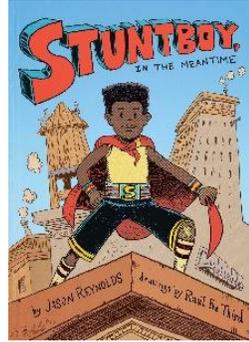
**The Hideaway - Pam Smy** - Told in two alternating narratives, *The Hideaway* tells the story of Billy McKenna, who runs away from home and takes refuge in an overgrown graveyard.

**Sheets - Brenna Thummler** - Marjorie Glatt feels like a ghost. A thirteen year old in charge of the family laundry business, her daily routine features unforgiving customers, unbearable P.E. classes, and Mr. Saubertuck, who is committed to destroying everything she’s worked for.

**Pumpkin Heads – Rainbow Rowell** - Every autumn, they’ve worked together at the best pumpkin patch in the whole wide world. But this Halloween is different—Josiah and Deja are finally seniors, and this is their last season at the pumpkin patch. Their last shift together. Their last good-bye.

**Displacement - Kiku Hughes** - Kiku is on vacation in San Francisco when suddenly she finds herself displaced to the 1940s Japanese-American internment camp that her late grandmother, Ernestina, was forcibly relocated to during World War II.

**Dragon Hoops - Gene Luen Yang** - In his latest graphic novel, *New York Times* bestselling author Gene Luen Yang turns the spotlight on his life, his family, and the high school where he teaches.



**Anya's Ghost by Vera Brosgol** - Of all the things Anya expected to find at the bottom of an old well, a new friend was not one of them. Especially not a new friend who's been dead for a century.

**The Sad Ghost Club - Lize Meddings** - Ever felt anxious or alone? Like you don't belong anywhere? Like you're almost... invisible? Find your kindred spirits at The Sad Ghost Club.

**Heartstopper – Alice Oseman** - Charlie, a highly-strung, openly gay over-thinker, and Nick, a cheerful, soft-hearted rugby player, meet at a British all-boys grammar school. Friendship blooms quickly, but could there be something more...?

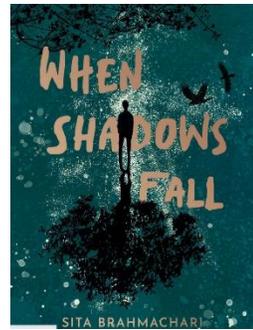
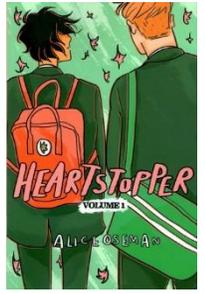
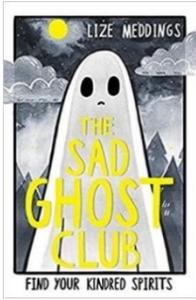
### **Confident readers KS4**

**Blankets by Craig Thompson** - Wrapped in the landscape of a blustery winter, *Blankets* explores the sibling rivalry of two brothers growing up in the isolated country, and the budding romance of two coming-of-age lovers.

**When Shadows Fall - Sita Brahmachari** - Kai, Orla and Zak grew up together, their days spent on the patch of wilderness in between their homes, a small green space in a sprawling grey city. Music, laughter and friendship bind them together and they have big plans for their future - until Kai's family suffers a huge loss.

*"I love books. I adore everything about them. I love the feel of the pages on my fingertips. They are light enough to carry, yet so heavy with worlds and ideas. I love the sound of the pages flicking against my fingers. Print against fingerprints. Books make people quiet, yet they are so loud."* - Nnedi Okorafor

**You could keep a journal which tracks all the books you have read! Use the below template as a starting point:**



<i>Title</i>	<i>Author</i>	<i>Rating /5</i>	<i>Things I liked/didn't like about the book</i>	<i>Favourite quote/moment/character</i>

*"Books are good company, in sad times and happy times, for books are people – people who have managed to stay alive by hiding between the covers of a book." – E.B White*