



Recommended Reads for
Key Stage 4

Action, Mysteries, Horror & Thrillers

Famous Last Words* or *Bad Girls Don't Die– Alender
S.T.A.G.S. (& sequels) by M.A. Bennett
Bodyguard series; ***Bulletcatcher*** by Chris Bradford*
The Bunker Diary; Martyn Pig; iBoy - Kevin Brooks
Dead Time (& sequels); ***The Bone Room**** -A Cassidy
And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie+
Say Her Name by Juno Dawson
Mortal Chaos* or *Lie, Kill, Walk Away -M Dickinson
A Gathering Light by Jennifer Donnelly
Zero Day by Jan Gangsei
The Enemy (& sequels) by Charlie Higson*
House of Silk, Moriarty, Magpie Murders-Horowitz+
A Good Girl's Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson
Sawbones* or *Blade & Bone by Catherine Johnson
The Long Weekend by Savita Kalhan*
Carrie* or *It by Stephen King+
Bluebeard, Bluebeard by Attica Locke+
We Were Liars by E Lockhart
Girl, Missing; Here We Lie; Blood Ties by S McKenzie
#Murdertrending by Gretchen McNeil*
One of Us is Lying (& sequels) by Karen McManus
I am Still Alive* or *Rules for Vanishing by K Marshall
Knife Edge; Blame by Simon Mayo
The Recruit (Cherub) (& sequels) by R Muchamore*
Foul Play (& sequels) or ***Ghost Stadium*** - T Palmer*
13 Minutes by Sarah Pinborough

Autobiographies/Memoirs/Biographies

I Know Why a Caged Bird Sings by M. Angelou+
A Street Cat Named Bob by James Bowen*+
Playing the Enemy by John Carlin+
In Cold Blood by Truman Capote+
Hope in a Ballet Shoe: Michaela & Elaine DePrince
Wave: Life After the Tsunami by S. Deraniyagala+
One Dog at a Time (& sequels) by Pen Farthing+
Fatal Throne: Henry VIII (multiple YA writers)
Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank
Marley & Me by John Grogan*+
Mud, Sweat and Tears by Bear Grylls*+

Fever Pitch by Nick Hornby+
This is Going to Hurt by Adam Kay+
The Story of My Life by Helen Keller+
War Dog (WWII) by Damien Lewis+
Today Everything Changes by Andy McNab*+
Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah+
A History of the World in 21 Women-Jenni Murray+
The Greatest: Muhammed Ali by WD Myers*
Dreams From My Father by Barack Obama+
Becoming by Michelle Obama+
Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi (graphic novel)*+
Touching the Void by Joe Simpson*+
How to Be Extraordinary - Rashmi Sirdeshpande*
Educated by Tara Westover+
Night by Elie Wiesel+
Black Boy:A Record of Youth&Childhood-R Wright+
Autobiography of Malcolm X –MalcolmX&A Haley+
I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai

Classics (off the beaten path) & Modern Literature

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe+
Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Adichie+
Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line - Deepa Anapparo+
The Testaments; The Handmaid's Tale – Atwood+
Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury+
All The Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr+
Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha by Roddy Doyle
Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison+
Girl, Woman, Other by Bernadine Evaristo+
Birdsong by Sebastian Faulks+
Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi+
Woman in Black by Susan Hill+
The Kite Runner by Khalid Hosseini+
Not Without Laughter by Langston Hughes+
Brave New World by Alex Huxley+
Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro+
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee+
Cider With Rosie by Laurie Lee+
Small Island by Andrea Levi+
The Road by Cormac McCarthy+
Circe* or *Song of Achilles by Madeline Miller+
The Bluest Eye* or *Beloved by Toni Morrison+
Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell+
All Quiet on the Western Front by EM Remarque+
The God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy+
Anita and Me by Meera Syal +
The Color Purple by Alice Walker+

Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead+
Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit – J Winterson+
Complex/Difficult/Thought-provoking Issues
Change is Gonna Come – various BAME authors
Poet X; Clap When You Land by Elizabeth Acevedo^
7 Days by Eve Ainsworth
Simon vs the Homo Sapiens Agenda – B Albertalli*
Booked; Rebound; Crossover-Kwame Alexander*^
The Hypnotist by Laurence Anholt
Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher
Black Flamingo by Dean Atta^
Noughts & Crosses or *Boys Don't Cry* -M Blackman*
Tiger Eyes or anything by Judy Blume*
Am I Normal Yet? (Spinster Club series)- H. Bourne
See Through Me; Dumb Chocolate Eyes - K Brooks*
Hate List by Jennifer Brown
Junk or *The Hit* by Melvin Burgess
Heart-Shaped Bruise by Tanya Byrne
Looking for JJ; No Virgin/No Shame-Anne Cassidy
The Perks of Being a Wallflower by S. Chbosky
Stolen by Lucy Christopher
The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier
Toffee; One; Moonrise by S Crossan*^
Meat Market by Juno Dawson
A Swift Pure Cry; Solace of the Road -S. Dowd
Furious Thing; Before I Die by Jenny Downam
Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper
Heroic; Being Billy; Saving Daisy by Phil Earle*
Mockingbird; Seeing Red by Kathryn Erskine
The Universe versus Alex Woods by G. Extence
If I Stay; Just One Day by Gayle Forman
Full Disclosure by Camryn Garrett
After the Fire by Will Hill
Looking at the Stars by Lewis Hine
The Outsiders by SE Hinton*
And the Stars Were Burning Brightly by D Jawando
That Asian Kid; Girl in Broken Mirror by S Kalhan
That's Not What Happened by Kody Keplinger
I am Thunder; Kick the Moon - Muhammed Khan
Rose, Interrupted, Indigo Donut, Orangeboy or Eight Pieces of Silva by Patrice Lawrence
Brock, Pike, Rook & Lark by Anthony McGowan*
Run, Rebel by Manjeet Mann^
Out of Heart; A Beautiful Lie by Irfan Master
Sister Heart by Sally Morgan^
Slay by Brittney Morris
The Sky is Everywhere or *I'll Give You...* by J Nelson

No Fixed Address; Word Nerd by Susin Nielson
All the Bright Places & Holding Up Universe - Niven
Before I Fall; Vanishing Girls by Lauren Oliver
Heartstopper (graphic novel); *Solitaire*-A Oseman*
Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens+
My Sister's Keeper; Small Great Things -J Picoult+
Patron Saints of Nothing by Randy Ribay
Rani & Sukh; (Un)arranged Marriage; Killing Honour; The Gun; Stay a Little Longer** - Bali Rai
Gloves Off^; Wrecked^; Black Heart Blue by L Reid*
Long Way Down^; All American Boys - J Reynolds*
Extraordinary Means by Robyn Schneider
The Lovely Bones or *Lucky* by Alice Sebold+
Voyages in Underworld of Orpheus Black-Sedgwick*
The Boxer or *Run, Riot* Nikesh Shukla
Counting by 7s by Holly Sloan
The Million Pieces of Neena Gill by E Smith-Barton
Stone Cold by Robert Swindells*
Lies We Tell Ourselves by Robin Talley
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor
The Hate U Give or *On the Come Up* by A Thomas*
The List by Siobhan Vivian
It's Kind of a Funny Story by Ned Vizzini
My Name is Leon by Kit de Waal
What Momma Left Me by Renee Watson
Liccle Bit (& sequels) or *Uprising** by Alex Wheatle
Frankly in Love by David Yoon
Teacher's Dead, Face or *Terror Kid* by B Zephaniah*

Dystopian, Science Fiction or Magic Realism

Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi
The Power by Naomi Alderman+
A Jigsaw of Fire & Stars by Yaba Badoe
Six of Crows; Crooked Kingdom by Leigh Bardugo
Exodus by Julie Bertagna
Chasing the Stars by Malorie Blackman
Gamer (& Virtual Combat series) by Chris Bradford*
Ink (& sequels) by Alice Broadway
World War Z by Max Brooks+
The Girl With All the Gifts by MR Carey+
City of Bones (& sequels) by Cassandra Clare
Matched (& sequels) by Ally Condie
The Maze Runner (& sequels) by J. Dashner
Cell 7 (& sequels) by Kerry Drewery
The Gender Game by Bella Forrest
Gone; Front Line (& sequels) by Michael Grant*
Half Bad (& sequels) by Sally Green
The Deathless Girls by Kiran Millwood Hargrave

Department 19 (& sequels) by Will Hill
Raybearer by Jordan Ifueko
The Loneliest Girl in the Universe by Lauren James
Maladapted by Richard Kurti
I Am Number Four (& sequels) by Pittacus Lore
Legend (& sequels) by Marie Lu
The Dog Runner; Across the Risen Sea-B MacDibble
A Blade So Black by L.L. McKinney
Station 11 by Emily Mandel+
The Passengers; The One by John Marrs+
The 100 by Kass Morgan
Killer T by Robert Muchamore
The Knife of Never Letting Go series; **Burn**-P Ness
Z For Zachariah by Robert O'Brien
The Loop by Ben Oliver
Replica or **Delirium** (& sequels) by Lauren Oliver
Only Ever Yours by Louise O'Neill
Divergent (& sequels) by Veronica Roth
Way of Kings (Stormlight Archive) by B Sanderson
Plague Land by Alex Scarrow
Oh My Gods by Alexandra Sheppard
Scythe, Unwind or **Dry** (& sequels) -N Shusterman
Concentr8 by William Sutcliffe
An Ember in the Ashes (& sequels) by Sabaa Tahir
Contagion or **Slated** (& sequels) by Teri Terry
The Martian by Andy Weir+
Partials (& sequels) by Dan Wells
Uglies or **Zeroes** (& sequels) by Scott Westerfield
The 5th Wave (& sequels) by Rick Yancey

Humorous books

The Princess Diaries by Meg Cabot*
A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman+
The Private Blog of Joe Cowley by Ben Davis*
An Abundance of Katherines by John Green
Noah Can't Even; Alex in Wonderland - SJ Green
The Reformed Vampire Support Group by Jinks*
Hellbent or **Henry Tumour** by Anthony McGowan*
Don't Even Think About It – Sarah Mylnowski
Discworld series by T Pratchett (try **The Last Hero**)+
Good Omens by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman+
Geekhood series by Andy Robb
The Rosie Project (& sequel) by Graeme Simsion+
The Gifted, The Talented and Me by W Sutcliffe
Dark Lord: The Teenage Years by Jamie Thomson
The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole – Sue Townsend

Relationships

Beautiful Broken Things by Sara Barnard
Tender Earth by Sita Brahmachari
Floored: When Seven Lives Collide (various authors)
Fault in Our Stars or **Looking for Alaska** by J Green
Why We Broke Up by Daniel Handler
To All the Boys I've Loved Before by Jenny Han
Slammed or **Regretting You** by Colleen Hoover
Hold Back the Stars by Katie Khan
Falling Fast (& sequels) by Sophie McKenzie
One Day or **Sweet Sorrow** by David Nicholls+
Unboxed; Second Best Friend by Nan Pratt*
Eleanor and Park & Fangirl by Rainbow Rowell
Written in the Stars by Aisha Saeed
The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein+
Shiver or **The Raven Boys**(&sequels) - M. Stiefvater
Our Chemical Hearts by Krystal Sutherland
Paper Avalanche; The Art/Normal by L Williamson
If You Come Softly by Jacqueline Woodson
Everything, Everything & Sun is Also a Star-Yoon

War, History, Conflict, Genocide & Refugees

The Short Knife by Elen Caldecot
Illegal by Eoin Colfer (graphic novel)*
Copper Sun by Sharon M Draper
The Bone Sparrow by Zana Fraillion
An Act of Love or **The Trap** by Alan Gibbons
Bone Talk by Candy Gourlay
The Mercies by Kiran Millwood Hargrave+
Orphan, Monster, Spy by Matt Killeen
The Librarian of Auschwitz by Antonio Iturbe+
The Beekeeper of Aleppo by Christy Lefteri+
Dog Tags: Semper Fido or **Strays** by CA London*
Fallen Angels or **Sunrise over Fallujah**-WD Myers*
Things a Bright Girl Can Do; Silent Stars - S Nicholls
Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys
Maus by Art Spiegelman (graphic novel)*+
Milkweed by Jerry Spinelli
Deogratius (graphic novel) by JP Stassen*+
Code Named Verity & Enigma Game – E Wein
Kent State (verse novel) by Deborah Wiles^
My Dear I Wanted to Tell You by Louisa Young
Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah
The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak

* = top picks for reluctant readers or readers who prefer visual/less dense texts. Includes some dyslexia-friendly titles; quick-paced reads of longer books

+ = Books written for adults; content may reflect this.

^ = verse novel