

# KEY STAGE 4 READING LIST



## WHY DO I NEED TO READ?

The only way to improve your vocabulary and comprehension is to practise reading regularly. It may be difficult at first, but the more you practise and the more effort you put in, the better you will get and the easier, and the more fun reading will become. Repeating any activity strengthens the parts of the brain associated with that activity and helps us to improve our performance. Reading well is important for understanding the questions in examination papers as well as any source texts which need to be analysed and commented upon, and better reading is also the key to better writing.

## WHAT SHOULD I READ?

In order to keep making progress, it is important to choose books that will continue to stretch and challenge you. Try to move on from the books you enjoyed at Primary School so that you continue to develop your vocabulary and comprehension skills. Try to read at least ten of the books on the Core List over the next two years, as well as plenty of others. Twenty books a year is a good target to aim for: anything much less than ten may damage your chances of a good pass at GCSE English. The website [www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk](http://www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk) is a good place to look for recommendations and reviews of books for children, and if you enjoy reading, you can even sign up to be sent free copies of books to review for the site.

## CORE READING LIST, YEARS 9 & 10

THE HUNGER GAMES Suzanne Collins

DIVERGENT Veronica Roth

ANIMAL FARM George Orwell

DEMON ROAD Derek Landy

YOUNG BOND SERIES Charlie Higson

NEVERWHERE Neil Gaiman

THE WEE FREE MEN Terry Pratchett

HITCH-HIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY Douglas Adams

LORD OF THE RINGS JRR Tolkien

NOUGHTS AND CROSSES Malorie Blackman

PHOENIX SF Said

LORD OF THE FLIES William Golding

GEEK GIRL Holly Smale

KNIFE OF NEVER LETTING GO Patrick Ness

MISS PEREGRINE'S SCHOOL FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN  
Ransom Riggs

NATION Terry Pratchett

THE ARTHUR TRILOGY Kevin Crossley-Holland

THE CATALOGUE OF THE UNIVERSE Margaret Mahy

TANGLEWRECK Jeanette Winterson

THE MAZE RUNNER TRILOGY James Dashner

A MONSTER CALLS Patrick Ness

EVA Peter Dickinson

THE DARK IS RISING SERIES Susan Cooper

THE STERKARM HANDSHAKE Susan Price

HOW I LIVE NOW Meg Rosoff

MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS Agatha Christie

YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES SERIES Andrew Lane

UN LUN DUN China Mieville

THE AMBER FURY Natalie Haynes

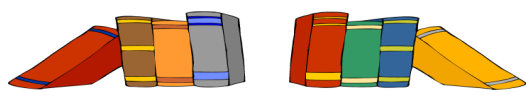
V FOR VENDETTA Alan Moore



# FURTHER SUGGESTIONS

## Targetting grades 4, 5 & 6:

THE LONDON EYE MYSTERY Siobhan O'Dowd  
BEHIND THE ICE HOUSE Anne Fine  
CASINO ROYALE etc. Ian Fleming  
THE DAY OF THE JACKAL Frederick Forsyth  
OF MICE AND MEN John Steinbeck  
THE WOMAN IN BLACK Susan Hill  
THE LOVELY BONES Alice Sebold  
SLAUGHTERHOUSE FIVE Kurt Vonnegut  
AGAINST A DARK BACKGROUND Iain M. Banks  
GONE GIRL Gillian Flynn  
THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN Paula Hawkins  
THE CATCHER IN THE RYE JD Salinger  
WHITE MERC WITH FINS James Hawes  
THE BEACH Alex Garland  
CAPTAIN CORELLI'S MANDOLIN Louis de Bernieres  
CARRIE Stephen King  
A CHRISTMAS CAROL Charles Dickens  
THE BOOK THIEF, Marcus Zusak



## Targetting grades 7, 8 & 9:

THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK, Anne Frank  
SOPHIE'S WORLD Jostein Gaarder  
TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD Harper Lee  
WHITE TEETH Zadie Smith  
NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR George Orwell  
BRAVE NEW WORLD Aldous Huxley  
WUTHERING HEIGHTS Emily Bronte  
JANE EYRE Charlotte Bronte  
PRIDE AND PREJUDICE Jane Austen  
TESS OF THE D'URBERVILLES Thomas Hardy  
A PICTURE OF DORIAN GREY Oscar Wilde  
THE WASP FACTORY Iain Banks  
THE ROAD Cormac Mc Carthy  
THE HANDMAID'S TALE Margaret Atwood  
HEART OF DARKNESS Joseph Conrad  
GREAT EXPECTATIONS Charles Dickens  
ORANGES ARE NOT THE ONLY FRUIT Jeanette Winterson  
MONEY Martin Amis  
MIDNIGHT'S CHILDREN Salman Rushdie

### WHEN SHOULD I READ?

You will get opportunities to read a book of your choice in form time at least once a week, and in some English lessons too. You should also aim to read at home four or five times a week. In bed last thing at night before you go to sleep is often a good time to read. You could also sit quietly and read at lunchtime in the school library.

### WHERE CAN I GET HOLD OF THESE BOOKS?

Many of these books can be borrowed from the school library, which is open to students at lunchtime and after school. There are also good public libraries locally in Hall Green, Sparkhill, and Acocks Green. The Central Library in Centenary Square is also well worth a visit. Many older books which are out of copyright are now available for free online. If you prefer to buy your own books, Waterstones has branches in Solihull and Birmingham, and there is a branch of Foyles in Grand Central. Take your time to browse, or ask for a recommendation: booksellers are usually keen readers and will jump at the chance to talk about their favourite books. Books can also easily be ordered online through Amazon.co.uk, which can sometimes be cheaper than high street book stores.

# FURTHER SUGGESTIONS

## Primarily KS4 (but might be enjoyed by KS3)

- Ben Aaronovitch *Rivers of London series*
- David Almond *A Song for Ella Grey*
- Kevin Brooks. *The Bunker Diary*
- Michael Byrne *Lottery Boy*
- Ted Chiang *Stories of Your Life and Others*
- Sarah Cohen-Scali
- Sarah Crossan *One*
- Max Brian Conaghan *The Bombs That Brought Us Together*
- Tracy Darnton *The Truth About Lies*
- Juno / James Dawson *Margot and me / Under my skin*
- Neil Gaiman *Neverwhere; Norse Mythology*
- Paula Garner *Phantom Limbs*
- Will Hill *After the Fire*
- Shappi Khorsandi *Nina is not OK*
- Patrice Lawrence *Orangeboy*
- China Mieville *Unlondon; The City and the City*
- Glenda Millard *The Stars at Oktober Bend*
- Erin Morgenstern *The Night Circus*
- Patrick Ness *Release; The Rest of Us Just Live Here*
- Mal Peet *Life: An Exploded Diagram*
- Marcus Sedgwick *Saint Death; The Ghosts of Heaven; The Monsters We Deserve*
- Ruta Sepetys *Salt to the Sea*
- Pam Smy *Thornhill*
- Robin Talley *Lies we tell ourselves*
- Angie Thomas *The Hate U Give/ On The Come Up*
- Teresa Toten *The Unlikely Hero of Room 13b*
- Alex Wheatle *Straight Outta Crongton; Home Girl*