

### Year 9 Recommended Reading List

\*To Kill a Mockingbird (Harper Lee) – Scout Finch lives with her brother, Jem, and their widowed father, Atticus, in the sleepy Alabama town of Maycomb. A terrible event happens and Atticus finds himself defending a black man during a racially motivated era of US history. This is told from the perspective of Scout.

\*The Picture of Dorian Grey (Oscar Wilde) - Well-known artist Basil Hallward meets **Dorian Gray**: a cultured, wealthy, and handsome young man who immediately captures Basil's artistic imagination. He creates a painting of Dorian, however the painting has its own terrible secrets.

The Giver (Lois Lowry) – Jonas receives the memories of the past, good and bad, from the current Receiver, a wise old man who tells Jonas to call him the Giver. The Giver transmits memories by placing his hands on Jonas's bare back. But how can someone cope with all the memories of the world?

Of Mice and Men (John Steinbeck) – During The Great Depression, two men trek across the dustbowl to make their living in these desperate times. However their companionship proves deadly in the end.

\*We Have Always Lived in the Castle (Shirley Jackson) – Dark, twisted gothic tale that you won't want to believe. Great building of character description and revealing/ hiding information.

\*Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children (Ransom Riggs) – Steampunk/ Gothic/ Magic: In the folds of time a very peculiar set of children live in an orphanage. Unique characters and a story that spans America to Wales and across time.

Lord of the Rings/ The Hobbit (JRR Tolkien) - A classic tale of fantasy filled with memorable characters from elves to dragons and a quest that spans a whole world.

1984 (George Orwell) – A dystopian world where the government is able to spy on citizens and encourage others to spy on one another. Trust no one.

Brave New World (Aldous Huxley) – A picture of a utopian society where drugs can solve all your problems. Or can it?

Ready Player One (Ernest Cline) – A boy from the 'stacks' finds himself as a champion to the OASIS, a virtual game which is up for grabs for whoever can crack its secrets.

\*Mortal Engines (Philip Reeve) – London is on the run, literally. Can you survive a post-apocalyptic future where machinery is the way forward?

\*Ender's Game (Orson Scott Card) - Ender's Game is a military science fiction novel set in Earth's future. The novel presents mankind in peril after two conflicts with the "buggers", an insectoid alien species. In preparation for a third invasion, children like Ender Wiggin, are trained as soldiers.

Cinder (Stephanie Meyer) - Sixteen-year-old Cinder is considered a technological mistake by most of society and a burden by her stepmother. Being cyborg does have its benefits, though: Cinder's brain interference has given her the ability to fix things (robots, hovers, her own malfunctioning parts), making her the best mechanic in New Beijing.

Flowers for Algernon (Daniel Keyes) - The story of a mentally disabled man whose quest for intelligence mirrors that of Algernon, an extraordinary lab mouse. In diary entries, Charlie tells how a brain operation

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increases his IQ and changes his life. As the procedure takes effect, Charlie's intelligence expands until it surpassed even that of the doctors.

Chocky (John Wyndham) - Matthew's parents are worried. At eleven, he's much too old to have an imaginary friend, yet they find him talking to and arguing with a presence that even he admits is not physically there. This presence causes Matthew to ask difficult questions and say startling things: he speaks of complex mathematics and mocks human progress.

The Maze Runner (James Dashner) - A teenager arrives in a glade at the centre of a giant labyrinth. Like the other youths dumped there before him, he has no memory of his previous life. Thomas quickly becomes part of the group and patrols the always-changing maze to find an escape route.

The Hate U Give (Angie Thomas) – Award-winning novel about sixteen-year-old Starr Carter who moves between two worlds: the poor neighbourhood where she lives and the fancy suburban prep school she attends. The uneasy balance between these worlds is shattered when Starr witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood best friend Khalil at the hands of a police officer. Khalil was unarmed.

We Were Liars (E Lockhart) - A beautiful and distinguished family. A private island. A brilliant, damaged girl; a passionate, political boy. A group of four friends—the Liars—whose friendship turns destructive. A revolution. An accident. A secret. Lies upon lies. True love. The truth.

A Jigsaw of Fire and Stars (Yaba Badoe) - **Circus girl searches for roots amidst real-world cruelties** A dazzlingly powerful kaleidoscope of magic realism, folklore and the brutalities of people-trafficking in which a fourteen-year-old circus girl seeks...

I Stop Somewhere (T E Carter) - An unflinching novel about brutally toxic masculinity, male collusion and how justice systems and society at large are still appallingly rigged against women.

Rebound (Kwame Alexander) - A dynamic slam-dunk of a book in which a boy lost in grief begins to find his feet on the basketball court. Slickly blending stirring verse-form storytelling with ingenious jump-off-the-page comic strip illustrations, this is a poignant, powerful page-turner.

Spooks: The Dark Assassin (Joseph Delaney) - Tom Ward is now a fully-fledged Spook and, as such, his life is dedicated to protecting the County from all manner of terrors, among them beastly boggarts, scuttling skelts and wild witches. He now also has charge of his own apprentice, Jenny, who claims to be the seventh daughter of a seventh daughter, as he was the seventh son of a seventh son. With the County-dwellers living under the shadow of a war that threatens to tear humankind apart, the stakes are higher than ever and, alongside the gripping descriptions of battles and beasts, Tom's alliances and friendships are depicted with tremendous warmth and humanity, further adding to the atmosphere of high-octane urgency.

\*The Cellist of Sarajevo (Steven Galloway) - This is the story of three people trying to survive in a war torn city, and of the sorrowing cellist who plays undaunted in their midst. One day a shell lands in a bread line and kills twenty-two people as the cellist watches from a window in his flat. He vows to sit in the hollow where the mortar fell and play Albinoni's Adagio once a day for each of the twenty-two victims.

Chinese Cinderella (Adeline Yen Mah) - A riveting memoir of a girl's painful coming-of-age in a wealthy Chinese family during the 1940s. Adeline recounts how her life changed after her father remarries. Her new step-mother and her family make her life unbearable, but she manages to carry on and become the best person she can.

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Concentr8 (William Sutcliffe) - Set in a near-future version of London, where a drug called Concentr8 has been extensively prescribed to young people diagnosed with ADHD.