



RECOMMENDED READING FOR 6th FORM STUDENTS

FICTION

Things Fall Apart – Chinua Achebe (1958)

The story of a Nigerian tribal chief who must face the dramatic changes brought by European colonialism.

Half of a Yellow Sun – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (2006)

An account of the Nigerian Civil War told from the perspective of three different characters.

The Handmaid's Tale – Margaret Atwood (1985)

A vision of a dystopian future in which a caste of women are forcibly assigned breeding roles.

Emma – Jane Austen (1815)

A comedy of manners in which the titular character attempts to match-make within her social set.

Regeneration – Pat Barker (1991)

Explores the experiences of British army officers being treated for shell-shock during World War I.

Jane Eyre – Charlotte Brontë (1847)

A first-person account of the growth to adulthood of Jane and her love for the brooding Mr Rochester.

Wuthering Heights – Emily Brontë (1847)

The tragic story of the doomed relationship between Cathy Earnshaw and the fostered foundling Heathcliff.

A Clockwork Orange – Anthony Burgess (1962)

A dystopian future in which violent gangs of youths roam the streets. The leader of one such gang is taken into custody and subjected to extreme experimental rehabilitation techniques.

If On a Winter's Night a Traveller – Italo Calvino (1979)

A postmodern literary mystery in which the reader tries to finish the book, 'If on a winter's night a traveller'.

The Outsider – Albert Camus (1942)

A man commits a murder and faces trial while refusing to look for meaning in his actions.

The Amazing Adventures of Kavalier and Clay – Michael Chabon (2000)

Two Jewish cousins in New York become influential in the golden age of the comics industry.

A Long Way to a Small Angry Planet – Becky Chambers (2014)

Life aboard a spaceship that is building wormhole tunnels, populated by a cast of alien characters.

The Big Sleep – Raymond Chandler (1939)

Marlowe, the original noir detective, takes on a case of apparent blackmail from a reclusive millionaire.

Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell – Susanna Clarke (2004)

Two magicians in Victorian England attempt to revive the spirit of English magic.

The Alchemist – Paulo Coelho (1988)

A young shepherd boy undertakes a spiritual quest to the African desert in search of a mysterious treasure.

Heart of Darkness – Joseph Conrad (1899)

The tale of a riverboat journey up the Congo, in pursuit of the mad, mythical figure of Colonel Kurtz.

Great Expectations – Charles Dickens (1861)

A blacksmith's boy inherits a mysterious fortune and sets off to London to live as a gentleman.

Crime & Punishment – Fyodor Dostoevsky (1866)

A penniless student commits a violent murder and struggles to outrun his own conscience.

The Name of the Rose – Umberto Eco (1980)

A literary mystery and an actual murder mystery, set in an Italian monastery in 1327.

Middlemarch – George Eliot (1872)

An epic of provincial English life in the mid-19th-century.

Invisible Man – Ralph Ellison (1952)

A black man in America reflects on his life and his invisibility in mainstream society.

Birdsong – Sebastian Faulks (1993)

The granddaughter of a British soldier in World War I attempts to understand her grandfather's experiences.

The Eyre Affair – Jasper Fforde (2001)

Literary detective Thursday Next pursues a master criminal through the pages of 'Jane Eyre'.

The Great Gatsby – F. Scott Fitzgerald (1925)

In 1920s New York, Nick Carraway attempts to understand his enigmatic wealthy neighbour Jay Gatsby and his obsession with Daisy Buchanan.

The Girl on the Train – Paula Hawkins (2015)

Tense psychological thriller about the impact of coercive relationships on three women.

Catch-22 – Joseph Heller (1961)

Satire about the madness of war, as bombardier John Yossarian tries everything to avoid fighting.

The Old Man and the Sea – Ernest Hemingway (1952)

A fisherman engages in a long struggle with an enormous marlin he is trying to land.

The Kite Runner – Khaled Hosseini (2003)

An account of turbulent events in the history of Aghanistan, told by a boy growing up who later escapes to America.

The Remains of the Day – Kazuo Ishiguro (1989)

A butler returns to the stately home where he served for many years and reflects on events that led to his departure.

The Trial – Franz Kafka (1925)

Joseph K. is arrested for an unspecified crime, and must negotiate the surreal complexities of an authoritarian legal system.

On the Road – Jack Kerouac (1957)

Two wild young friends take road trips across America to experience life to the fullest.

The Periodic Table – Primo Levi (1975)

Autobiographical stories of a young Jewish chemist studying in Fascist Italy.

Wolf Hall – Hilary Mantel (2009)

A fictionalised biography describing the life of Thomas Cromwell and his rise to power in the court of Henry VIII.

Life of Pi – Yann Martel (2001)

Following a shipwreck, a boy is stuck in the middle of the ocean on a raft with a Bengal tiger.

Rebecca – Daphne du Maurier (1938)

The new, young wife of a wealthy but haunted man must contend with the ghost of her predecessor.

The Road – Cormac McCarthy (2006)

In a post-apocalyptic future a father and son undertake a dangerous journey in search of a better life.

Atonement – Ian McEwan (2001)

In 1930s England a young girl's mistake has powerful consequences for the lives of everyone involved.

Moby-Dick – Herman Melville (1851)

Captain Ahab pilots a whaling ship, but his obsession with hunting one particular whale endangers the whole crew.

Cloud Atlas – David Mitchell (2004)

Several stories that move across time and place explore the universality of human nature.

Beloved – Toni Morrison (1987)

A family must deal with a legacy of slavery and abuse while being haunted by a malevolent spirit.

Pale Fire – Vladimir Nabokov (1962)

Metafictional literary mystery in which the poem 'Pale Fire' is analysed by an academic.

One Day – David Nicholls (2009)

Two students meet at university before the contingencies of their lives take them in different directions.

The Bell Jar – Sylvia Plath (1963)

An account of a young woman's internship in New York and her struggles with mental illness.

The God of Small Things – Arundhati Roy (1997)

Twins in Kerala in the 1960s find their lives fractured by the social laws which forbid mixing between different castes.

Midnight's Children – Salman Rushdie (1981)

Events of the Partition of India and the political and social turbulence that followed, related by a boy who has special powers by being born at the moment of India's independence.

White Teeth – Zadie Smith (2000)

The story of the lives of two wartime friends examines British attitudes to immigration.

The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie – Muriel Spark (1961)

An idiosyncratic schoolteacher leads a group of girls towards intellectual independence.

Anna Karenina – Leo Tolstoy (1878)

The wife of a senior statesman has an affair with a cavalry officer, scandalising Russian society.

Slaughterhouse-5 – Kurt Vonnegut (1969)

A soldier in World War II finds himself abducted by aliens and moving unpredictably around in time.

The Color Purple – Alice Walker (1982)

A black American girl is forced into an abusive relationship with an older man.

The Picture of Dorian Gray – Oscar Wilde (1891)

A young man sells his soul and pursues an amoral life of hedonism without appearing to age.

To the Lighthouse – Virginia Woolf (1927)

The story of a family holidaying on a Scottish island explores the small joys and tragedies of everyday life.

The Day of the Triffids – John Wyndham (1951)

A man wakes up from an eye operation to find everyone else in the world has gone blind, and walking, flesh-eating plants are trying to take over.

SOME SELECTED NON-FICTION WORKS

Zen and the Art of Motorcycle Maintenance – Robert M. Pirsig (1974)	100
<i>A work of modern philosophy based around a motorcycle trip.</i>	
Thinking, Fast and Slow – Daniel Kahneman (2011)	153.4
<i>A psychologist explores the different modes of thought that the brain uses.</i>	
Tao Te Ching – Lao Tzu (c.400BCE)	299.5
<i>Foundational text of Taoism, a religious philosophy which emphasises simplicity and compassion in accordance with an underlying universal rhythm.</i>	
The Female Eunuch – Germaine Greer (1970)	305.42
<i>Feminist scholar analyses the restrictions on female freedom caused by the nuclear family concept.</i>	
The Republic – Plato (c.375BCE)	321.07
<i>Ancient Greek philosopher attempts to construct a just society based on intellect.</i>	
The Diving Bell and the Butterfly – Jean-Dominique Bauby (1997)	362.19
<i>A journalist describes what it is like to live with locked-in syndrome – a book dictated using only eye movements.</i>	
In Cold Blood – Truman Capote (1966)	364.15
<i>A novelistic account of a true-life murder examines possible motives and repercussions.</i>	
A Short History of Nearly Everything – Bill Bryson (2003)	500
<i>Highly readable trip through the history of science seeking to explain how the material universe produced human existence.</i>	
A Brief History of Time – Stephen Hawking (1988)	523.1
<i>Non-technical explanation of the structure, origin and development of the universe.</i>	
The Order of Time – Carlo Rovelli (2017)	530
<i>Italian physicist writes about quantum gravity, relativity and time.</i>	
The Double Helix – James D. Watson (1968)	572.86
<i>Autobiographical account of the discovery of the structure of DNA.</i>	

The Selfish Gene – Richard Dawkins (1976)	591.5
<i>Ethologist develops the gene-centred theory of evolution.</i>	
H is for Hawk – Helen Macdonald (2014)	598.9
<i>The author adopts and trains a goshawk in dealing with grief following her father's death.</i>	
The Man Who Mistook His Wife for a Hat – Oliver Sacks (1985)	616.89
<i>Unusual case histories from a clinical neurologist explore the hidden functions of the brain.</i>	
No Logo – Naomi Klein (1999)	658.82
<i>Journalist criticises brand-oriented corporate activity and the system of global capitalism.</i>	
Ways of Seeing – John Berger (1972)	759.94
<i>Art critic explores the hidden ideologies in traditional Western cultural aesthetics.</i>	
Touching the Void – Joe Simpson (1988)	796.52
<i>Dramatic account of a mountain-climbing accident and the author's subsequent fight for survival.</i>	
On Writing – Stephen King (2000)	808.02
<i>Memoir by a bestselling author that discusses writing techniques and advice for aspiring writers.</i>	
Elements of Style – William Strunk Jr. (1920)	808.04
<i>Style guide to English usage based around 'elementary rules' and 'principles of composition'.</i>	
The Art of Fiction – David Lodge (1992)	809.3
<i>Short essays about different technical aspects of fiction writing.</i>	
Sapiens – Yuval Noah Harari (2011)	909
<i>A survey of the history of humankind, from the Stone Age to the 21st century.</i>	
Down and Out in Paris and London – George Orwell (1933)	914.43
<i>A memoir about living in poverty in two different prosperous capital cities.</i>	

Endurance – Alfred Lansing (1959)	919.89
<i>The dramatic story of Shackleton's 1914 expedition to Antarctica.</i>	
I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings – Maya Angelou (1969)	920 ANG
<i>Autobiographical account of a black girl's coming-of-age in the American south, in which strength of character and a love of literature overcome racism and trauma.</i>	
Diary of a Young Girl – Anne Frank (1947)	920 FRA
<i>Diary written by a Jewish teenager in hiding from the Nazis in occupied Netherlands during World War II.</i>	
I am Malala – Malala Yousafzai (2013)	920 MAL
<i>Autobiographical account of a Pakistani girl who is targeted by the Taliban over her activism for female education.</i>	
Night – Elie Wiesel (1956)	940.53
<i>Memoir by a Jew who was interned in Auschwitz as a boy during World War II.</i>	
Hiroshima – John Hersey (1946)	940.54
<i>Stories of six survivors of the atomic bomb attack on Hiroshima in 1945.</i>	
Orientalism – Edward W. Said (1978)	950
<i>Literary critic examines imperialist Western attitudes to Eastern cultures.</i>	