

# Challenge Reading List

## Reading for success at GCSE

### Modern Novels

*The Wasp Factory* by Iain Banks  
*Cloud Atlas* by David Mitchell  
*White Teeth* by Zadie Smith  
*Birdsong* by Sebastian Faulks  
*Asylum* by Patrick McGrath  
*Captain Corelli's Mandolin* by Louis de Bernieres  
*A History of the World in 10½ Chapters* by Julian Barnes  
*The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy

### Twentieth Century Classics

*Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad  
*The Stranger* by Albert Camus  
*The Lord of the Rings* by JRR Tolkein  
*Catch-22* by Joseph Heller  
*One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel García Márquez  
*The Catcher in the Rye* by JD Salinger  
*Jazz* by Toni Morrison  
*Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe  
*The Great Gatsby* by F Scott Fitzgerald  
*The Big Sleep* by Raymond Chandler  
*Brighton Rock* by Graham Greene  
*Slaughterhouse Five* by Kurt Vonnegut  
*The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams  
*The Code of the Woosters* by P G Wodehouse

### Nineteenth Century Classics

*Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky  
*The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson  
*Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley  
*David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens  
*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen  
*Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë  
*Moby-Dick* by Herman Melville  
*Middlemarch* by George Eliot

### Dystopia

*The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood  
*1984* by George Orwell  
*A Clockwork Orange* by Anthony Burgess  
*The War of the Worlds* by HG Wells  
*A Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley  
*The Road* by Cormac McCarthy  
*Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury  
*High Rise* by J G Ballard  
*The Iron Heel* by Jack London

### A NOTE TO PARENTS AND READERS

These texts have been selected to challenge pupils who are already showing a high level of ability in English. Reading as many of these texts as possible will certainly help your son/daughter in their quest for the top grades in the subject. A wider depth and breadth of reading, and exposure to more complex vocabulary, forms and themes will benefit them not just in English but in all of their subjects. As you may expect from more difficult texts, some deal with adult themes. We feel that your son/daughter has the maturity to cope with these concepts but please do get in touch if you would like to query any of the content before they begin reading them.



# Challenge Reading List

## Reading for success at GCSE

### Modern Novels

*The Wasp Factory* by Iain Banks  
*Cloud Atlas* by David Mitchell  
*White Teeth* by Zadie Smith  
*Birdsong* by Sebastian Faulks  
*Asylum* by Patrick McGrath  
*Captain Corelli's Mandolin* by Louis de Bernieres  
*A History of the World in 10½ Chapters* by Julian Barnes  
*The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy

### Nineteenth Century Classics

*Crime and Punishment* by Fyodor Dostoyevsky  
*The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson  
*Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley  
*David Copperfield* by Charles Dickens  
*Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen  
*Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Brontë  
*Moby-Dick* by Herman Melville  
*Middlemarch* by George Eliot

### A NOTE TO PARENTS AND READERS

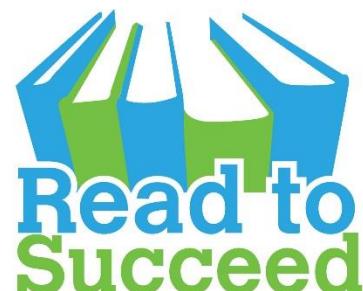
These texts have been selected to challenge pupils who are already showing a high level of ability in English. Reading as many of these texts as possible will certainly help your son/daughter in their quest for the top grades in the subject. A wider depth and breadth of reading, and exposure to more complex vocabulary, forms and themes will benefit them not just in English but in all of their subjects. As you may expect from more difficult texts, some deal with adult themes. We feel that your son/daughter has the maturity to cope with these concepts but please do get in touch if you would like to query any of the content before they begin reading them.

### Twentieth Century Classics

*Heart of Darkness* by Joseph Conrad  
*The Stranger* by Albert Camus  
*The Lord of the Rings* by JRR Tolkein  
*Catch-22* by Joseph Heller  
*One Hundred Years of Solitude* by Gabriel García Márquez  
*The Catcher in the Rye* by JD Salinger  
*Jazz* by Toni Morrison  
*Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe  
*The Great Gatsby* by F Scott Fitzgerald  
*The Big Sleep* by Raymond Chandler  
*Brighton Rock* by Graham Greene  
*Slaughterhouse Five* by Kurt Vonnegut  
*The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams  
*The Code of the Woosters* by P G Wodehouse

### Dystopia

*The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood  
*1984* by George Orwell  
*A Clockwork Orange* by Anthony Burgess  
*The War of the Worlds* by HG Wells  
*A Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley  
*The Road* by Cormac McCarthy  
*Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury  
*High Rise* by J G Ballard  
*The Iron Heel* by Jack London



# Year 9 Reading Recommendations

This reading list has been compiled to challenge and entertain you with a variety of fiction and non-fiction books. You can give the books you have read a star rating.

## Classics

- Little Women - Louisa May Alcott
- Treasure Island - Robert Louis Stevenson
- Black Beauty - Anna Sewell

## Rating



## Adventure

- Looking for JJ - Anne Cassidy
- The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn - Mark Twain

## Rating



## Historical

- The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas - John Boyne
- Pompeii - Robert Harris
- Goodnight Mr Tom - Michelle Magorian
- Captain Corelli's Mandolin - Louis de Bernieres
- Buffalo Soldier - Tanya Landman

## Rating



## Fantasy

- His Dark Materials - Northern Lights - Philip Pullman
- Midwinterblood - Marcus Sedgwick
- The Metamorphosis - Franz Kafka
- Eragon - Christopher Paolini

## Rating



## Detective/Crime/Spy

- Pigeon English - Stephen Kelman
- The Ruby in the Smoke - Philip Pullman

## Rating



## Sport

- Bend It Like Beckham - Narinder Dhani

## Rating



## **Magical Realism**

- Life of Pi - Yann Martel
- The Red Necklace - Sally Gardner

## **Rating**



## **Gothic Horror**

- My Swordhand is Singing - Marcus Sedgwick
- The Woman In Black - Susan Hill
- Close Your Pretty Eyes - Sally Nicholls

## **Rating**



## **Humour**

- The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole - Sue Townsend
- Dead Gorgeous - Malorie Blackman

## **Rating**



## **Realism**

- How I live Now - Meg Rosoff
- Ketchup Clouds - Annabel Pitcher
- A Kestrel for a Knave - Barry Hines

## **Rating**



## **Award Winners**

- Ruby Holler - Sharon Creech
- In Darkness - Nick Lake
- All the Truth That's In Me - Julie Berry

## **Rating**



## **The Big Read**

- The Lovely Bones - Anna Sebold
- Tuck Everlasting - Natalie Babbitt
- The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-time Indian - Sherman Alexi
- The Book Thief - Marcus Zusak
- The Fault in our Stars - John Green
- Paper Towns - John Green

## **Rating**



Liked these book? Why don't you try a book by the same author or of the same genre. Complete a review and hand in to Miss Hill for house points.

# Year 8 Reading Recommendations

This reading list has been compiled to challenge and entertain you with a variety of fiction and non-fiction books. You can give the books you have read a star rating.

## Classics

- The Secret Garden - Frances Hodgson-Burnett
- Treasure Island - Robert Louis Stevenson

## Rating



## Historical

- The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas - John Boyne
- War Horse - Michael Morpurgo
- Goodnight Mr Tom - Michelle Magorian
- The Book Thief - Markus Zusak

## Rating



## Fantasy

- His Dark Materials - Northern Lights - Philip Pullman
- The Silver Sword - Ian Serraillier
- Skellig - David Almond

## Rating



## Challenge Yourself

- Metamorphosis - Franz Kafka
- The Fault in our Stars - John Green
- To Kill a Mockingbird - Harper Lee

## Rating



## Detective/Crime/Spy

- Stormbreaker - Anthony Horowitz
- Nevermore - James Paterson

## Rating



## Humour

- The Demon Dentist - David Walliams
- The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole - Sue Townsend
- Diary of a Wimpy Kid - Jeff Kinney

## Rating



## **Gothic/Horror**

- My Swordhand is Singing - Marcus Sedgwick
- The Woman in Black - Susan Hill

## **Rating**



## **Mythical/Legends**

- The Owl Service - Alan Garner
- Percy Jackson & The Lightning Thief - Rick Riordan

## **Rating**



## **Realism**

- Wonder - RJ Palacio
- The Curious Incident of the Dog In the Night Time - Mark Haddon

## **Rating**



## **Dystopian**

- Noughts & Crosses - Malorie Blackman
- Divergent - Veronica Roth

## **Rating**



## **Sport**

- Divided We Fall - Alan Gibbons
- Keeper - Mal Peet

## **Rating**



## **Magical Realism**

- Tom's Midnight Garden - Phillipa Pearce
- Across the Nightingale Floor - Lian Hearn

## **Rating**



## **Non Fiction**

- I am Malala - Malala Yousafzai

## **Rating**



## **Award Winners**

- Maggot Moon - Sally Gardner
- Bog Child - Siobhan Dowd
- The Bunker Diary - Kevin Brooks

## **Rating**



Liked these book? Why don't you try a book by the same author or of the same genre. Complete a review and hand in to Miss Hill for house points.

# Year 7 Reading Recommendations

This reading list has been compiled to challenge and entertain you with a variety of fiction and non-fiction books. You can give the books you have read a star rating.

## Classics

- Watership Down - Richard Adams
- The Lion, the Witch & the Wardrobe - CS Lewis
- The Secret Garden - Frances Hodgson-Burnett
- Treasure Island - Robert Louis Stevenson
- Black Beauty – Anna Sewell

## Rating



## Adventure

- Kensuke's Kingdom - Michael Morpurgo
- Lord of the Flies - William Golding
- How to Train your Dragon – Cressida Cowell

## Rating



## Award Winners

- Millions - Frank Cottrell Boyce
- Flour Babies - Anne Fine
- The Graveyard Book - Neil Gaiman

## Rating



## Non Fiction

- The Diary of Anne Frank - Anne Frank
- Swimming the Dream - Ellie Simmonds

## Rating



## Fantasy /Sci-fi

- Matilda - Roald Dahl
- Northern Lights - Philip Pullman
- Harry Potter & the Philosopher's Stone - JK Rowling
- A Boy and a Bear in a Boat - Dave Shelton

## Rating



## **Detective/Crime/Spy**

- The Hound of the Baskervilles - Arthur Conan Doyle
- Murder on the Orient Express - Agatha Christie
- Thief Lord - Cornelia Funke

## **Rating**



## **Sport**

- Keeper - Mal Peet
- The Kick Off - Dan Freedman

## **Rating**



## **Gothic/Horror/Ghost**

- The Woman in Black - Susan Hill
- Twilight - Stephanie Meyer

## **Rating**



## **Mythical/Legends**

- The Owl Service - Alan Garner
- King of the Middle March- Kevin Crossley

## **Rating**



## **Realism**

- Wonder - RJ Palacio
- Holes - Louis Sachar (pronounced 'sacker')
- The Curious Incident of the Dog In the Night Time - Mark Haddon

## **Rating**



## **Historical**

- The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas - John Boyne
- War Horse - Michael Morpurgo
- Goodnight Mr Tom - Michelle Magorian

## **Rating**



## **Challenge Yourself**

- Jane Eyre - Charlotte Brontë
- The Knife of Never Letting Go - Patrick Ness
- Skellig - David Almond
- Looking for JJ - Anne Cassidy

## **Rating**



Liked these book? Why don't you try a book by the same author or of the same genre. Complete a review and hand in to Miss Hill for house points.