



THE CONSORTIUM  
ACADEMY TRUST

**Winifred Holtby**  
Academy

## Key Stage 4 Recommended Reading List

The Key Stage 4 Reading List has been compiled from recommendations made by staff in all of the school faculties, and range across both fiction and non-fiction. All books in this list are challenging, thought-provoking and carefully chosen to whet your thirst for knowledge.

If you read just one of these recommended books every “big” term, you will have read *at least* six truly fantastic books across a broad range of different subjects and themes by the time you start Year 11. (And if you did this during Years 7 and 8, then at least twelve fantastic books!)

Of course, you are most welcome to read the whole lot, and when you finish those, we have added an extension list of books that were also recommended. All of them fantastic and challenging in their own right.

In addition, the Extension List also includes a series of fiction books that explore some of the subjects that you can choose when you are older (either at A Level or at university).

Happy Reading!

## Key Stage 4 (Years 9, 10 and 11) Reading List

Key= Highlighted stocked in the Library

### **Business**

- *Young Entrepreneur World: How 25 teen-trepreneurs Succeeded and left the World Leaders scratching their Heads* – Sabirul Islam
- *Business Stripped Bare: Adventures of a Global Entrepreneur* – Richard Branson

### **Computer Science**

- *Once Upon an Algorithm: How Stories Explain Computing* – Martin Erwig

### **Creative Arts and Design**

- *Daily Rituals* - Mason Currey (Good for all subjects. How creative people fit in being creative!)
- *David* by Mary Hoffman (Fiction based around Michelangelo's statue of David)

### **Economics**

- *Freakonomics: A Rogue Economist Explores the Hidden Side of Everything* – Steven D. Levitt and Stephen J. Dubner
- *The Undercover Economist* – Tim Harford, Robert Ian Machenzie *et al.*

### **English**

- *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* - Maya Angelou
- *Lord of the Flies* - William Golding

### **Ethics and Philosophy**

- *Eva* by Peter Dickinson (transplants - animal vs human)
- *Moonrise* by Sarah Crossan (death penalty);

### **Humanities**

- *The God Delusion* – Richard Dawkins
- *The Drowned world* – J G Ballard
- *No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference* – Greta Thunberg

### **Maths**

- *Flatland* – Edwin Abbott Abbott
- *Fermat's Last Theorem* – Simon Singh

### **Languages**

- *Le Petit Prince* – Antoine de Saint-Exupéry
- *Los Ojos de Carmen* – Veronica Moscoso

### **PE**

- *The Sports Gene, Talent, practice and truth about success* - David Epstein
- *Football against the Enemy* by Simon Kuper

### **Science**

- *Unweaving the Rainbow* – Richard Dawkins
- *Bad Science* – Ben Goldacre

- Nothing: From absolute zero to cosmic oblivion: amazing insights into nothingness – New Scientist

## Key Stage 4 Reading List - Are you looking for more books to devour? We present: The Extension List

### Business

- *Money making ideas for kids and teens: starting your own business - A guide for teen entrepreneurs: Volume 2 (Kids and Money)* – Debbie Madson
- *Steve Jobs: The Man Who Thought Different* – Karen Blumenthal

### Art and Design

- *A Monster Calls* by Patrick Ness. (Fiction – study the illustrations as this book won the Greenaway Prize for Illustration.)
- 'The Art of Thinking Clearly' by Rolf Dobelli
- *Lives of the Artists* - Georgio Vasari (Heavy, historical art classic used at university)
- *Colour* - Victoria Finlay (Where the pigments come from and how we see colour. Partly a travel book!)

### English

- *Things Fall Apart* - Chinua Achebe
- *Children of Blood and Bone* - Tomi Adeyemi
- *Purple Hibiscus* - Chimamanda Adichie
- *The Testaments* or *The Handmaid's Tale* - Margaret Atwood
- *Pride and Prejudice; Emma* - Jane Austen
- *The History Boys* - Alan Bennet
- *Jane Eyre* - Charlotte Bronte
- *Wuthering Heights* - Emily Brontë
- *Heart of Darkness* - Joseph Conrad
- *Great Expectations* - Charles Dickens
- *The Universe vs Alex Wood* - Gavin Extence
- *The Great Gatsby* - F Scott Fitzgerald
- *The Ode Less Travelled* - Stephen Fry
- *Far from the Madding Crowd; Tess of the D'ubervilles* - Thomas Hardy
- *Woman in Black* - Susan Hill
- *The Kite Runner* or *A Thousand Splendid Suns* - Khalid Hosseini
- *Never Let Me Go* - Kazuo Ishiguro
- *Pigeon English* - Stephen Kelman
- *Flowers for Algernon* - Daniel Keyes
- *Beloved* or *The Bluest Eye* - Toni Morrison
- *Tales of Mystery and Terror* - Edgar Allen Poe
- *All Quiet on the Western Front* - Erich Remarque
- *Dr. Jekyll and Mr Hyde* - Robert Louis Stevenson
- *Anita and Me* - Meera Syal
- *The Picture of Dorian Gray* - Oscar Wilde
- *Animal Farm; 1984* - George Orwell
- *The Catcher in the Rye* - J.D. Salinger
- *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* - Mark Twain
- *Chinese Cinderella* - Adeline Yen Mah
- *The Color Purple* - Alice Walker

### Ethics and Philosophy

- *The Great Blue Yonder* by Alex Shearer (afterlife);
- *Terror Kid* or *Refugee Boy* by Benjamin Zephaniah (racism, justice).

- *The Universe vs Alex Wood* by Gavin Extence (euthansia)
- *Dew Angel's - Melanie Schwapp*- racism and acceptance.

## Humanities

- *Nineteen Eighty-Four* – George Orwell
- *Sophie's Choice* –William Styron (for ethics, RS)
- *Knowledge of Angels* – Jill Patton Walsh (for ethics, RS)
- *A History of Ancient Britain* -Neil Oliver
- *Forgotten Voices* - Max Arthur
- *Geography: Ideas in Profile* – Danny Dorling and Carl Lee
- *The Dawkins delusion* – Alistair McGrath
- *The Republic* – Plato
- *The pig that wants to be eaten* – Julian Baggini
- *My sister's keeper* – Jody Piccoult
- *The Uninhabitable Earth* -David Wallace-Wells
- *Sapiens* by Yuval Noah Harari (great background for sociology, too)
- *We need to talk about Kevin* - Lionel Shriver (fiction, ethics)
- *Boy A* - Jonathan Trigell (fiction, Ethics).

## Law

- *To Kill a Mockingbird* - Harper Lee (injustice, racism);
- *Theodore Boone* - John Grisham (law, trials, murder);
- *A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* - Holly Jackson (murder, investigation),
- *Small Great Things* - Jodi Picoult (tragedy from point of view of nurse, lawyer, father; racism);
- *Just Mercy* - Bryan Stevenson (criminal law, racism)

## Maths

- *Mathematics: A Very Short Introduction* – Timothy Gowers
- *The Music of the Primes* - Marcus du Sautoy
- *Things to Make and Do in the Fourth Dimension* – Matt Parker
- *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime* – Mark Haddon
- *The Man of Numbers* – Keith Devlin
- *Against the Gods* by Peter Bernstein
- *Euclid in the Rainforest* – Joseph Mazur
- *Magical Mathematics* – Persi Diaconis and Ron Graham

## Languages

- *La Gloire de mon Père* – Marcel Pagnol (advanced skills, but a beautiful book)
- *Mafalda: Mafalda 1* – Quino (political cartoon strip, Argentinian Spanish – some verb endings are different)
- *Como Agua para Chocolate* – Laura Esquivel (preview a KS5 book – get a head start!)
- *La Ciudad de las Bestias* – Isabel Allende
- *...Y no se lo tragó la Tierra* – Tomás Rivera

## PE

- *Extreme: Why some people thrive at the limits* - Emma Barrett and Paul Martin
- *The Chimp Paradox* - Prof Steve Peters
- *Captain Oates: Soldier and Explorer* - Sue Limb and Patrick Cordingley
- *Slaying the Badger: Hinault, LeMond and the Greatest Ever Tour de France* - Richard Moore.

## Politics

- *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas (institutional racism/protest);
- *Nineteen Eighty-Four* – George Orwell
- *The Chocolate War*- Robert Cormier- Corruption
- *I am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai (misogyny; protest and consequences);
- *The Wave - Morton Rhue - extremism and radicalisation.*
- *The Fixer* by Jennifer Lynne Barnes (US politics thriller for YA);
- *Zero Day* by Jan Gangsei (US politics, terrorism, cyber-security).

## Psychology

- *All the Bright Places* - Jennifer Niven (depression);
- *Stolen* - Lucy Christopher (psychology during captivity);
- *The Handmaid's Tale* – Margaret Atwood (gender, response to repression);
- *Don't Call Me Crazy* - Kelly Jensen ed. (33 people explore experiences with mental health issues);
- *Words on Bathroom Walls* - Julia Walton (paranoid schizophrenia)
- *The Reason I Jump*- David Mitchel- autism
- *Girl Up*- Laura Bates- Sexism
- *Kite Spirit*- Sita Brahmachari- Suicide
- *13 Reasons Why*- Jay Asher- Suicide
- *All the Bright Places*- Jennifer Niven - Depression, anxiety, bereavement
- *Mind your Head*- Juno Dawson – Mental Health
- *When Mr Dog Bites*- Brian Conaghan- Terminal illness.

## Science

- *The Lying Stone of Marrakech: Penultimate Reflections in Natural History* – Stephen Jay Gould
- *Einstein: A Life of Genius* – Alexander Kennedy
- *The Unexpected Truth About Animals: Stoned Sloths, Lovelorn Hippos, and Other Wild Tales* - Lucy Cooke
- *Hello World: How to be Human in the Age of the Machine* - Hannah Fry

## Sociology

- *Poet X* - Elizabeth Acevedo (identity, culture, families);
- *No Fixed Address* - Susin Nielsen (hidden homelessness);
- *Noughts and Crosses* - Malorie Blackman (racism, families, identity, ideology);
- *After the Fire* - Will Hill (cults, belief, family);
- *Notes on a Nervous Planet* - Matt Haig (habits of digital age and how they change us).
- *Am I Normal Yet?* – Holly Bourne – Identity, feminism
- *This Book is Gay*- James Dawson- Identity, sexuality
- *Now is Good*- Jenny Downham- Confronting death
- *I'll Give you the Sun*- Jandy Nelson – Sexuality& relationships

## Key Stage 4 (Years 10 and 11) Reading List

### Guidance Questions to help you Reflect on your Reading

You can use the questions below to help you think about the book that you have just read. The main purpose of these questions is to encourage you to think.

You could also use the questions as a springboard for discussion, either with family members, friends or in a group read.

1. In no more than 100 words, give a quick summary of the book. You can write down your summary, but you can also say it aloud, or think about it. This is quite a hard thing to do.
2. Have you ever read any books by the same author or on the same subject/theme before? If yes, how did this book compare? Consider the style, language, extent, interest, depth, appeal, information.
3. Would you recommend this book? Why? Who might be interested?
4. Write or think about about three things that you learnt from it, and go into detail about **at least one of them**.
5. Write or think about at least one thing that you would like to know more about having read this book. How might you go about finding this out?
6. Give the book a score out of 10 (0 – absolutely dreadful to 10 – amazing). Explain or think ***in detail*** why you have given the book this score. (Answers such as “it was boring” or “it was interesting” do not really stretch you and do not convey any information! Make sure there is a “because” in your answer.)
7. Would you like to read another book on the same theme or by the same author? Why?