

KHS English Faculty

Recommended Reads for Key Stage 4

Action, Mysteries, Horror & Thrillers

Famous Last Words or *Bad Girls Don't Die*— Alender
Bodyguard: Hostage (& sequels) by Chris Bradford*
Dead Time (& sequels), *Getting Away With It* or
The Bone Room by Anne Cassidy*
And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie
Say Her Name by Juno Dawson
Mortal Chaos, Speed Freaks, The Everest Files or
Lie, Kill, Walk Away by Matt Dickinson*
A Gathering Light by Jennifer Donnelly
The Enemy (& sequels) by Charlie Higson*
House of Silk, Moriarty, Magpie Murders- Horowitz
A Good Girl's Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson
Sawbones or *Blade & Bone* by Catherine Johnson
The Long Weekend by Savita Kalhan
Carrie or *It* by Stephen King
We Were Liars by E Lockhart
Here We Lie, Sweetfreak, Blood Ties or *Girl Missing*
(& sequels) by Sophie McKenzie
#Murdertrending by Gretchen McNeil*
One of Us is Lying, One of Us Is Next or *Two Can*
Keep a Secret by Karen McManus
I am Still Alive by Kate Marshall
Blame or Itch (& sequels) by Simon Mayo
The Recruit (Cherub), The Escape (Henderson's
Boys) or *Rock War* (& sequels) by R Muchamore*
Foul Play (& sequels) or *Ghost Stadium* - T Palmer*
Daniel X or *Confessions of Murder* by J. Patterson*
13 Minutes by Sarah Pinborough
Remade or *TimeRiders* (& sequels) -Alex Scarrow*

Autobiographies/Memoirs/Biographies

Tuesdays With Morrie by Mitch Album
I Know Why a Caged Bird Sings by M. Angelou (!)
*A Street Cat Named Bob** by James Bowen
Playing the Enemy by John Carlin
In Cold Blood by Truman Capote
Nothing to Envy (North Korea) by B Demick
Hope in a Ballet Shoe: Michaela & Elaine DePrince
Wave: Life After the Tsunami by S. Deraniyagala
One Dog at a Time (& sequels) by Pen Farthing
Fatal Throne: The Wives of Henry VIII - multiple YA
writers (fictionalised biography)
Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

Marley & Me by John Grogan*
Mud, Sweat and Tears by Bear Grylls*
Fever Pitch by Nick Hornby
The Story of My Life by Helen Keller
Finding Gobi by Dion Leonard*
Today Everything Changes by Andy McNab*
Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah
Long Walk to Freedom by Nelson Mandela
A History of the World in 21 Women - Jenni Murray
The Greatest: Muhammed Ali by WD Myers*
Dreams From My Father by Barack Obama (!)
Becoming by Michelle Obama (!)
Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi (graphic novel)* (!)
Touching the Void by Joe Simpson*
Educated by Tara Westover
Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson* (!)
Black Boy: A Record of Youth & Childhood-R Wright
I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai (!)

Classics & Modern Literature

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe (!)
Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Adichie (!)
Pride and Prejudice or *Emma* by Jane Austen
Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte
Wuthering Heights by Emily Bronte
Great Expectations or *Oliver Twist* by C Dickens
Sherlock Holmes by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle
Frankenstein by Mary Shelly
Lord of the Flies by William Golding
Tess of the D'ubervilles by Thomas Hardy
Not Without Laughter by Langston Hughes
Brave New World by Alex Huxley
Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro (!)
Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
Cider With Rosie by Laurie Lee
The Road by Cormac McCarthy
Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier
The Bluest Eye or *Beloved* by Toni Morrison (!)
1984 or *Animal Farm* by George Orwell
The Catcher in the Rye by JD Salinger
Dr Jekyll and Mr Hide by RL Stevenson
Dracula by Bram Stoker
The Adventures of Huck Finn by Mark Twain
The Color Purple by Alice Walker (!)

Complex/Difficult/Thought-provoking Issues

Change is Gonna Come – various BAME authors (!)
Poet X by Elizabeth Acevedo* (!)
Simon vs the Homo Sapiens Agenda – B Albertalli*
Booked, Rebound or ***Crossover***- Kwame Alexander*
The Hypnotist by Laurence Anholt
Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher
Black Flamingo by Dean Atta*
Noughts & Crosses or ***Boys Don't Cry*** -M Blackman*
Tiger Eyes or anything by Judy Blume*
Am I Normal Yet? (Spinster Club series)- H. Bourne
The Heart's Invisible Furies by John Boyne
The Bunker Diary or ***See Through Me*** by K Brooks*
Hate List by Jennifer Brown
Junk or ***The Hit*** by Melvin Burgess
Looking for JJ or ***No Virgin/No Shame***-Anne Cassidy
The Perks of Being a Wallflower by S. Chbosky
Stolen by Lucy Christopher
The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier
Toffee, One or ***The Weight of Water*** by S Crossan*
A Swift Pure Cry or ***Solace of the Road*** -S. Dowd
Furious Thing or ***Before I Die*** by Jenny Downam
Out of My Mind by Sharon Draper
Heroic, Being Billy or ***Saving Daisy*** by Phil Earle*
Mockingbird or ***Seeing Red*** by Kathryn Erskine
The Universe versus Alex Woods by G. Extence
If I Stay & Where She Went by Gayle Forman
Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi *(!)
The Curious Incident of the Dog... by Mark Haddon
After the Fire by Will Hill
The Outsiders by SE Hinton*
That Asian Kid by Savita Kalhan (1)
Pigeon English by Stephen Kelman
That's Not What Happened by Kody Keplinger
I am Thunder or ***Kick the Moon*** - Muhammed Khan
The Secret Life of Bees or ***Invention of Wings*** - Kidd
Rose, Interrupted or ***Orangeboy*** - Patrice Lawrence
Brock, Pike, Rook & Lark by Anthony McGowan*
The Sky is Everywhere or ***I'll Give You..*** by J Nelson
Things a Bright Girl Can Do, An Island of our Own
or ***Ways to Live Forever***- Sally Nicholls
We Are All Made of Molecules, Word Nerd or ***No Fixed Address*** by Susin Nielson
All the Bright Places & Holding Up Universe - Niven
Before I Fall or ***Vanishing Girls*** by Lauren Oliver
My Sister's Keeper or ***Small Great Things*** - J Picoult

My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece or ***Ketchup Clouds*** by Annabel Pitcher
The Harder They Fall or ***Stay a Little Longer;***
(Un)arranged Marriage or ***Killing Honour*** -Bali Rai*
Gloves Off or ***Black Heart Blue*** by Louisa Reid*
Long Way Down* by Jason Reynolds
Extraordinary Means or ***Severed Heads, Broken Hearts*** by Robin Schneider
The Lovely Bones or ***Lucky*** by Alice Sebold
The Boxer or ***Run, Riot*** Nikesh Shukla (!)
Counting by 7s by Holly Sloan
The Help by Kathryn Stockett
Stone Cold by Robert Swindells*
Anita and Me by Meera Syal (!)
Lies We Tell Ourselves by Robin Talley
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor
Somebody Give This Heart a Pen by Sophia Thakur
The Hate U Give or ***On the Come Up*** by A Thomas*
The List by Siobhan Vivian
It's Kind of a Funny Story by Ned Vizzini
My Name is Leon by Kit de Waal
Can You See Me? by L Scott & R Westcott
Liclle Bit (& sequels) by Alex Wheatle (!)
The Art of Being Normal by Lara Williamson
Teacher's Dead, Face or ***Terror Kid*** by B. Zephaniah

Conflict, War, Genocide & the Refugee Experience

A Country to Call Home: Anthology of Young Refugees & Asylum Seekers ed. by Lucy Popescu
Illegal by Eoin Colfer (graphic novel)*
All The Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr
Birdsong by Sebastian Faulks
The Bone Sparrow by Zana Fraillion
Act of Love or ***The Trap*** by Alan Gibbons*
Bone Talk by Candy Gourlay
The Nightingale by Kristin Hannah
The Kite Runner by Khalid Hosseini (!)
Orphan, Monster, Spy by Matt Killeen
The Librarian of Auschwitz by Antonio Iturbe
The Beekeeper of Aleppo by Christy Lefteri
Dog Tags: Semper Fido or ***Strays*** by CA London*
The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris
Fallen Angels or ***Sunrise over Fallujah***-WD Myers*
A Long Walk to Water by Linda Sue Park*
All Quiet on the Western Front by EM Remarque
Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys (!)

Maus by Art Spiegelman (graphic novel)*
Milkweed by Jerry Spinelli
Night by Elie Wiesel
Code Name Verity, Rose Under Fire by E. Wein
My Dear I Wanted to Tell You by Louisa Young
Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah (!)
The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak

Dystopian, Science Fiction or Magic Realism

Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi
Internment by Samira Ahmed
The Testaments or *The Handmaid's Tale* - Atwood
iBoy by Kevin Brooks*
World War Z by Max Brooks
The Girl With All the Gifts by MR Carey
City of Bones (& sequels) by Cassandra Clare
Matched (& sequels) by Ally Condie
The Maze Runner (& sequels) by J. Dashner
Stepsister by Jennifer Donnelly
Cell 7 (& sequels) by Kerry Drewery*
The Gender Game by Bella Forrest
Gone or *BZRK* (& sequels) by Michael Grant*
The Deathless Girls by Kiran Millwood Hargrave
Department 19 (& sequels) by Will Hill
The Loneliest Girl in the Universe by Lauren James
Maladapted by Richard Kurti*
I Am Number Four (& sequels) by Pittacus Lore*
Legend (& sequels) by Marie Lu* (!)
The Passengers by John Marrs*
Circe or *Song of Achilles* by Madeline Miller
The Knife of Never Letting Go (& sequels)- P Ness
MetaWars: Fight for Future (&sequels) - J. Norton*
Z For Zachariah by Robert O'Brien
Replica or *Delirium* (& sequels) by Lauren Oliver
Only Ever Yours by Louise O'Neill
Hatchet by Gary Paulsen*
Divergent (& sequels) by Veronica Roth
*Lord Loss** or *Zom-B** (& sequels) by D Shan
Scythe, Unwind or *Dry* (& sequels) -N Shusterman*
Concentr8 by William Sutcliffe
An Ember in the Ashes (& sequels) by Sabaa Tahir
Contagion or *Slated* (& sequels) by Teri Terry
Uglies or *Zeroes* (& sequels) by Scott Westerfield
The 5th Wave (& sequels) by Rick Yancey*

Humorous books

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by D Adams

The Life and Times of The Thunderbolt Kid - Bryson
Swim the Fly or *Call the Shots* by Don Calame
The Private Blog of Joe Cowley by Ben Davis*
An Abundance of Katherines by John Green*
Noah Can't Even or *Alex in Wonderland* - SJ Green*
The Reformed Vampire Support Group by Jinks*
Hellbent or *Henry Tumour* by Anthony McGowan*
Don't Even Think About It – Sarah Mylnowski
Discworld series by T Pratchett (try *The Last Hero*)
Good Omens by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman
A Midsummer Tights Dream or *Georgia Nicholson*
series by Louise Rennison
The Rosie Project (& sequel) by Graeme Simsion
The Gifted, The Talented and Me by W Sutcliffe
The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole Aged 13 ¾ (&
sequels) by Sue Townsend

Relationships

Beautiful Broken Things by Sara Barnard
Three Daughters by Consuelo Saah Baehr
Tender Earth by Sita Brahmachari (!)
Fault in Our Stars or *Looking for Alaska* by J Green*
Why We Broke Up by Daniel Handler*
To All the Boys I've Loved Before (& sequels) –J Han
Slammed or *Regretting You* by Colleen Hoover
Hold Back the Stars by Katie Khan (!)
Falling Fast (& sequels) by Sophie McKenzie
One Day by David Nicholls
Eleanor and Park & Fangirl by Rainbow Rowell
The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein*
Shiver or *The Raven Boys*(&sequels) - M. Stiefvater
Our Chemical Hearts by Krystal Sutherland
Paper Avalanche by Lisa Williamson
If You Come Softly by Jacqueline Woodson
Everything, Everything & Sun is Also a Star-Yoon*
Girl Online (& sequels) by Zoe Sugg*

* = top picks for reluctant readers or readers who prefer visual/less dense texts. Includes some dyslexia friendly titles; quick-paced reads of longer books; verse novels; and graphic novels.

(!) = Writers of Colour

Note to parents: Many of these books are written for young adult readers (13+) or adults; this means there may be 'gritty' content. Generally by Key Stage 4 young people are ready for this, but parents know their children best; if you have queries about suitability, please check online reviews or ask your child's teacher.