

City of Norwich School English Department

Suggested wider reading for older students- year 9 to GCSE and beyond

Non Fiction- Writer's Viewpoints and perspectives (GCSE Language paper 2)

This list mixes autobiography, polemic, travel writing, history, science, social issues, survival stories... some adult language/themes and strong opinions. All great reads.

Opinion articles: students should be in the habit of reading some of these each week. They are free online for The Independent, The Guardian, The Daily Mail, The Huffington Post. Some great op eds from American papers such as The New York Times and The Washington Post can also be accessed for free. Behind a paywall you can find opinion pieces from The Times and The Telegraph.

TED Talks: Not reading (although you can read the transcripts) but great to listen to in order to get an ear in to the debates and ideas of the day.

Survival/ Exploration/ Adventure

Touching The Void- Joe Simpson

Into The Wild- Jon Krakauer

Lost in The Jungle: A Harrowing True Story of Adventure and Survival- Yhossi Ghinsberg

Long Way Round- Ewan McGregor and Charlie Boorman

Endurance- Alfred Lansing

A Walk in The Woods/ Notes From a Small Island, etc- Bill Bryson

Modern Life

We Should all be Feminists- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

So You've Been Publicly Shamed/The Psychopath Test/The Men Who Stare at Goats- Jon Ronson

Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race- Renni Eddo- Lodge

Natives- Akala

This Changes Everything: Capitalism v the Climate/ No Logo- Naomi Klein

The Beauty Myth: How Images of Beauty Are Used Against Women- Naomi Wolf

No One Is Too Small to Make a Difference- Greta Thunberg

Poverty Safari: Understanding the Anger of Britain's Underclass- Darren Mc Garvey

Historical events

Bomb: The Race to Build – and Steal- The World's Most Dangerous Weapon- Steve Sheinkin

Symphony for the City of the Dead: Dmitri Schostakovich and the Siege of Leningrad- Matthew Tobin Anderson

Midnight in Chernobyl- Adam Higginbotham

Autobiographical/ real life experiences

How Not to be a Boy- Robert Webb

Becoming- Michelle Obama

How to be a Woman- Caitlin Moran

The Reason I Jump- Naoki Higashida

Fingers in the Sparkle Jar- Chris Packham

I Am Malala- Malala Yousafzai

The Diary of a Young Girl- Anne Frank

Moab is my Washpot- Stephen Fry

I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings- Maya Angelou

This is Going to Hurt- Adam Kay

Sports

Beyond a Boundary- CLR James

My Favourite Year: A Collection of New Football Writing- various, ed Nick Hornby (n.b. not so 'new' any more)

God is Round: Tackling the Giants. Villains, Triumphs and Scandals of the World's Favourite Game- Juan Villoro

What I Talk About When I Talk About Running- Haruki Murakami

When Saturday Comes /Four Four Two (football magazines with high quality articles)

Fiction- Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing (GCSE Language Paper 1)

Recent fiction novels (*indicates adapted for film or TV)

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time- Mark Haddon

The Hate U Give */ *On the Come Up*/ *Rose from Concrete*- Angie Thomas

*Chaos Walking series**/ *Release*/ *More than This*/*The Rest of Us Just Live Here*- Patrick Ness

*The Book Thief** Marcus Zuzack

*Noughts and Crosses series** - Malorie Blackman

Gone series- Michael Grant

The Graces/The Curses- Laurie Eve

Northern Lights series */ *The Book of Dust series*- Phillip Pullman

No Virgin/ Butterfly Diaries series- Anne Cassidy

One/Toffee/Moonrise/The Weight of Water- Sarah Crossan

The Lie Tree/Skinful of Shadows- Francis Hardinge

Hate/ An Act of Love/The Edge- Alan Gibbons

Long Way Down- Jason Reynolds

Midwinterblood/The Ghosts of Heaven- Marcus Sedgwick

*Junk**/ *Bloodtide/ The Lost Witch*- Melvin Burgess

The Bunker Diaries- Kevin Brooks

Black Flamingo- Dean Atta

Patron Saints of Nothing- Randy Ribay

The Poet X- Elizaveth Acevedo

*Paper Towns**/*The Fault in Our Stars**- John Green

Sweet Sorrow- David Nicholls

*The Kite Runner**/*A Thousand Splendid Suns*- Khaled Hosseini

Run, Rebel- Manjeet Mann

Furious Thing- Jenny Downham

A Good Girl's Guide to Murder- Holly Jackson

Bestselling authors

Ben Elton- *The First Casualty*/*Stark*

Dan Brown- *The Da Vinci Code*

Stephen King- *The Body*/ *The Green Mile*/ *The Dark Tower*/*It*

Cecilia Ahern- *PS I Love You*

Jodi Piccoult- *My Sister's Keeper*

20th Century classics

And Then There Were None- Agatha Christie

Animal Farm/Nineteen-Eight-Four- George Orwell

To Kill a Mockingbird- Harper Lee

The Outsiders/Rumblefish- SE Hinton

Lord of the Flies- William Golding

The Bell Jar- Sylvia Plath

The Midwich Cuckoos/Chocky/The Chrysalids/The Day of the Triffids- John Wyndham

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy- Douglas Adams

*The Hobbit/The Lord of the Ring**s- JRR Tolkien

The Catcher in the Rye- JD Salinger

*Rebecca/The Birds**- Daphne Du Maurier

The Wasp Factory- Ian Banks

The Colour of Magic- Terry Pratchett

*The Empire of the Sun**- JG Ballard

Short story collections

Roald Dahl- *Skin and other stories*

Amnesty International Collections- *Here I Stand and Free?*

Stories: All New Tales edited by Neil Gaiman, Al Sarrantonio

Love Hurts, ed. Malorie Blackman

A Thousand Beginnings and Endings- ed. Ellen Oh

Shirley Jackson- *Collected Short Stories*

Proud- edited by Juno Dawson

Poetry (Literature paper 2)

The Rattlebag- ed Heaney and Hughes

A Poem for Every Night of the Year

Poems to Live Your Life By- ed. Chris Riddell

Time You Let Me In; 25 poets under 25- ed. Naomi Shihab Nye

Poetry Speaks of Who I Am: Poems of Discovery, Inspiration, Independence and Everything Else- Elise Paschen

Spoken Word poetry to watch (*swearing alert*)

<https://blog.ted.com/10-spoken-word-performances-folded-like-lyrical-origami/>

<https://powerpoetry.org/poetry-slams>

<https://buttonpoetry.com/category/videos/>

<https://poets.org/anthology/black-lives-matter>

Modern Plays to try (Literature paper 2)

*Journey's End**- RC Sheriff

Our Day Out/Blood Brothers- Willy Russell

A Taste of Honey- Shelagh Delaney

*The History Boys**- Alan Bennett

*Death of A Salesman/ A View From The Bridge/ The Crucible**- Arthur Miller

DNA- Dennis Kelly

Classic Fiction (Literature Paper 1)

Pride and Prejudice, etc – Jane Austen

Jane Eyre- Charlotte Bronte

North and South- Elizabeth Gaskell

Frankenstein- Mary Shelley

Great Expectations, etc -Charles Dickens

The Picture of Dorian Gray- Oscar Wilde

