

SIXTH FORM

ICONIC READS

Author	Title	Synopsis
Adams, Douglas	The hitchhikers guide to the galaxy	Ground breaking at the time. The answer is 42.
Albom, Mitch	The five people you meet in heaven	The meaning of life - and life after death.
Amis, Martin	Money	A dark tale of twentieth century consumerism.
Angelou, Maya	I know why the caged bird sings	Autobiographical account of growing up in black America.
Austen, Jane	Pride and prejudice	If you only read one classic, let it be this one.
Banks, Iain	The wasp factory	A macabre, gothic horror story.
Boyd, William	Brazzaville beach	If you are uncertain about chimpanzees, don't read this book.
Bradbury, Ray	Fahrenheit 451	Books are burned by a special task force. Hauntingly prophetic.
Bronte, Charlotte	Jane Eyre	Story of female rebellion and search for identity.
Bronte, Emily	Wuthering Heights	A tragic, slightly morbid love story.
Brookmyre, Christopher	Pandaemonium	An earthly battle between science and the supernatural, philosophy and faith, civilisation and savagery. The bookies are offering evens.
Brooks, Kevin	The bunker diary	Unnerving exploration of your worst nightmare.
Bukowski, Charles	Post office	Hank Chinaski, anti-hero, loser, he couldn't care less about anything.
Burgess, Anthony	A clockwork orange	Alarming vision of high technology, violence and authoritarianism.
Calvino, Italo	If on a winter's night a traveller	10 different novels intertwine at the beginning of each book.
Camus, Albert	The outsider	A beach murder leads to an execution. Meursault dies for truth.
Capote, Truman	In cold blood	AI has to solve a crime, the evidence – 2 footprints and 4 bodies.
Chandler, Raymond	The big sleep	Old man Sternwood, crippled and wheelchair bound is being given the squeeze by a blackmailer and wants Marlowe to make the problem go away.
Clement, Catherine	Theo's Odyssey	How and why do people believe in their god?
Coe, Jonathan	The rotter's club	Adolescence the hard way.
Collins, Wilkie	The woman in white	Nineteenth century gothic thriller.
Conrad, Joseph	Heart of darkness	Marlowe travels down the Amazon and discovers a terrible truth.
Coupland, Douglas	Generation X	Part of the lost generation, Andy, Dag and Claire work no future jobs. Under-employed, over-educated and unpredictable, they tell stories.
David, Keren	When I was Joe	What makes 'you' – YOU? Joe suffers confusing sense of identity whilst in extreme danger
De Beauvoir, Simone	A very easy death	Author's moving account of the death of her mother
Dick, Philip K.	Do androids dream of electric sheep?	Stalking androids in 21st century megalopolis. Questions just who is human and what human is.
Dickens, Charles	David Copperfield	'Of all my books' wrote Dickens, 'I like this the best'.
Doctorow, Cory	Little brother	The ultimate tale of teen rebellion – one 17 year old against the surveillance state.
Dostoyevsky, Fyodor	Crime and punishment	You think your life is bad, read this.
Dumas, Alexandre	The Count of Monte Cristo	Revenge is a dish best served cold.
Eggars, Dave	The circle	A cautionary tale of subversive power in the digital age.
Ellison, Ralph	The invisible man	Black man, invisible to white society.
Fitzgerald, F. Scott	The great Gatsby	A mystery based in 1920s New York.
Fowles, John	The collector	Obsessive Fred collects butterflies and watches them die.
Frazier, Charles	Cold Mountain	Traces the parallel lives of the two main characters through the American Civil War.
Gaardner, Jostein	Sophie's world	An adventure in philosophy.
Gaiman, Neil	Stardust	An adult fairy-tale told with considerable wit.
Garcia Marquez, Gabriel	One hundred years of solitude	Love discovered in old age.
Garland, Alex	The beach	A young man's search for Utopia.
Golding, William	Lord of the flies	Survival of the fittest.
Green, John	Paper towns	A boy goes searching for the runaway, troubled girl who lives next door.

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Greene, Graham	Brighton rock	A 17-year-old is embroiled in gang warfare.
Greygoose, David	Brunt Boggart: a tapestry of tales	
Grimm, Jacob & Wilhelm	Grimm's' fairy tales	Timeless classics, fairy tales are not just for six year-old girls.
Haddon, Mark	The curious incident of the dog in the night-time	A novel about difference, about being an outsider, about seeing the world in a surprising and revealing way.
Hardy, Thomas	Tess of the d'Urbervilles	Great 19th Century rural romance.
Heller, Joseph	Catch 22	Set in the closing months of WWII, Yossarian is furious because thousands of people he has never even met keep trying to kill him.
Hemingway, Ernest	Farewell to arms	Spanish Civil War epic.
Hemingway, Ernest	The old man and the sea	This magnificent fable is the story of an old man, a young boy and a giant fish.
Hill, Susan	The woman in black	Powerful ghost story.
Hinton, S. E.	The outsiders	The Socs' idea of having a good time is beating up greasers like Ponyboy.
Hosseni, Khaled	And the mountains echoed	Brothers and sisters and the ways in which they love, wound, betray, honour and sacrifice for each other.
Hosseni, Khaled	The kite runner	Friendship destroyed by jealousy fear and the ruthless evil that transcends mere politics.
Huxley, Aldous	Brave new world	The World Controllers have created the ideal society ...
Kerouac, Jack	On the road	Discovery along the road – sex, friendship, drink and drugs.
Kesey, Ken	One flew over the cuckoo's nest	Who belongs in a mental institution?
Le Fanu, Sheridan	In a glass darkly	Short stories. Demonic monkeys, a judge, a dwarf, being buried alive and a vampire story that pre-dates <i>Dracula</i> .
Machen, Arthur	The great god Pan	A horror tale, which tells of a singular and terrible experiment and its consequences.
Martel, Yann	Life of Pi	Defies categorisation. It is about the oceanic wanderings of a lost boy.
Murakami	1Q84	The year is 1Q84, this is the real world, but in this world, there are two moons in the sky. Inspired by Orwell's 1984.
Nabokov. Vladimir	Lolita	Other formerly shocking novels of previous centuries have lost their power, not this one.
Ness, Patrick	More than this	A boy called Seth drowns, but then he wakes naked, thirsty, starving, but alive.
Nicholls, David	One day	Twenty years, two people, one day.
Orwell, George	Nineteen eighty four	People control, by those who know they are right.
Peake, Mervyn	The Gormenghast trilogy	Gothic fantasy.
Plath, Sylvia	The bell jar	A women's journey through depression and mental illness.
Poe, Edgar Allan	Tales of mystery and terror	Arch exponent of the short story.
Priestley, Chris	Anything that isn't this	Paranoid fairy tale with undertones of 1984.
Rhys, Jean	Wide Sargasso sea	Madwoman in the attic.
Salinger, J.D.	The catcher in the rye	Youthful innocence in conflict with the corruption of the adult world.
Salinger, J.D.	Raise High the Roof Beam, Carpenters	A story of family tragedy.
Sartre, Jean-Paul	The age of reason	Philosophical novel exploring existentialist notions of freedom.
Sherman, Alexie	The absolutely true diary of a part-time Indian	Junior, a budding cartoonist, leaves his school on the Spokane Indian reservation to attend an all-white high school. Not just for younger readers.
Shriver, Lionel	We need to talk about Kevin	Disturbing deconstruction of modern American morality.
Snicket, Lemony	A series of unfortunate events	Absolutely genius.
Solzhenitsyn, Alexandre	One day in the life of Ivan Denisovich	Life in the gulag.
Steinbeck, John	The grapes of wrath	America in the depression.
Sterne, Laurence	The life and opinions of Tristram Shandy	Eighteenth century Monty Python.
Suskind, Patrick	Perfume: the story of a murderer	Jean-Baptiste Grenouille: survivor, genius, perfumer, killer.
Taart, Donna	The secret history	Obsessive clique of students set on a course of destruction.
Tolkien, J.R.R	The lord of the rings	Epic fantasy.
Vonnegut, Kurt	Slaughter house 5	Meet Billy, a time traveller and prisoner of war.
Walker, Alice	The color purple	Powerful American novel of racial struggle.
Waugh, Evelyn	Decline and fall	Short and funny.
Wells, H.G.	The war of the worlds	"The chances of anything man-like on Mars are a million to one"
Wilde, Oscar	The picture of Dorian Gray	A fascinating reflection on society's obsession with youth and good looks.
Woolf, Virginia	To the lighthouse	Unrestrained ego.