

# YEAR 9 READING LIST

SEPTEMBER 2022

**Speak** by Laurie Halse Anderson

From her first moment at Merryweather High, Melinda Sordino knows she's an outcast. She retreats into her own world to escape the lies and hypocrisies of high school. But there is a terrible incident from her past which just won't go away.

**Fahrenheit 451** by Ray Bradbury

This hauntingly prophetic novel centres around a not-too-distant future where happiness is allocated on a TV screen, individuals and scholars are outcasts and books are burned by a special task force of firemen.

**The bunker diaries** by Kevin Brooks

Linus wakes up in a cold, dark, underground bunker with no recollection of how he got there. The only way in and out of the bunker is a lift, controlled by whoever has captured him. His captor delivers five more prisoners, from completely different walks of life, with absolutely nothing in common. Pushed to the limits of human endurance with constant physical and mental torture, how long will the six survive being the playthings of their captor?

**The boy who steals houses** by C. G. Drews

Sam is only fifteen but he and his autistic older brother, Avery, have been abandoned by every relative he's ever known. Now Sam's trying to build a new life for them. He survives by breaking into empty houses when their owners are away, until one day he's caught out when a family returns home. To his amazement this large, chaotic family takes him under their wing - each teenager assuming Sam is a friend of another sibling. Sam finds himself caught up in their life, and falling for the beautiful Moxie. But Sam has a secret, and his past is about to catch up with him.

**The curious incident of the dog in the night-time** by Mark Haddon

A murder mystery like no other, this novel features Christopher Boone, a 15-year-old who suffers from Asperger's syndrome. When he finds a neighbour's dog murdered, he sets out on a journey which will turn his whole world upside down.

**The boy who drew the future** by Rhian Ivory

15-year-old Blaze and Noah live in the same village, but over 100 years apart. The both have the same gift/curse - they draw pictures that later come true. Blaze is bullied and accused of being a witch, Noah is used to everyone, even his parents, being afraid of him and is desperate to keep his drawing a secret. But as he gets closer to Beth, will he tell her the truth? Can Blaze's history help Noah and Beth work out their own story? Can the future be change?

**Eight pieces of Silva** by Patrice Lawrence

Becks is into girls but didn't come out because she was never in. She lives with her mum, stepdad and 18-year-old Silva, her stepdad's daughter. Becks and Silva are opposites, but bond over their mutual obsession with K-pop. When Becks' mum and stepdad go on honeymoon to Japan, Becks and Silva are left alone. When Silva disappears, Becks ventures into the forbidden territory of Silva's room and finds the first of eight clues that help her discover her sister's secret life.

**The crossing** by Manjeet Mann

Natalie's world has turned upside down. She's lost her mum and her brother is descending further and further into anger and violence with a far-right gang who march the streets of Dover. Sammy has fled his home and family in Eritrea for the chance of a new life in Europe. Every step he takes is a step into the unknown - into a strange country and a hidden future. A twist of fate brings these two teens from opposite sides of the channel together, but will their journey end in hope or despair?

**Monster** by Walter Dean Myers (also available as a graphic novel)

While on trial as an accomplice to a murder, sixteen-year-old Steve Harmon records his experiences in prison and in the courtroom in the form of a film script as he tries to come to terms with the course his life has taken.

**Burn** by Patrick Ness

On a cold Sunday evening in early 1957, Sarah Dewhurst waited with her father in the parking lot of the Chevron Gas Station for the dragon he'd hired to help on the farm. This dragon, Kazimir, has more to him than meets the eye. Sarah can't help but be curious about him, an animal who supposedly doesn't have a soul but is seemingly intent on keeping her safe from the brutal attentions of Deputy Sheriff Emmett Kelby. Kazimir knows something she doesn't. He has arrived at the farm because of a prophecy. A prophecy that involves a deadly assassin, a cult of dragon worshippers, two FBI agents - and somehow, Sarah Dewhurst herself.

**Z for Zachariah** by Robert C. O'Brien

Ann Burden has been living alone in a valley for over a year - until Loomis, a scientist in a radiation-proof suit, arrives. She hopes they will be companions but his behaviour towards her becomes increasingly threatening as he attacks her and then cuts off her food supply and tries to bring her under his control. Although there may be no one else alive, Ann steals his suit and leaves the valley in search of humanity.

**The call** by Peadar O'Guilin

Every teenager in Ireland is training to survive 'the call' - the three minutes and four seconds when each of them is transported to the desolate Grey Land of the long banished fae folk, the Sidhe. Nine out of ten do not return. Nessa and her friends attend Boyle College to train for the most dangerous time of their lives. Without warning, each one of them will wake in a terrifying land, alone and hunted, with a one-in-ten chance of returning alive. No one believes Nessa can make it, but she's determined to prove them all wrong. And she will need every ounce of spirit and courage in order to survive ...

**Long way down** by Jason Reynolds (also available as a graphic novel)

After Will's brother is shot in a gang crime, he knows the next steps. Don't cry. Don't snitch. Get revenge. So, he gets in the lift with Shawn's gun, determined to follow The Rules. Only when the lift door opens, Buck walks in, Will's friend who died years ago. And Dani, who was shot years before that. As more people from his past arrive, Will has to ask himself if he really knows what he's doing.

**The Soterion Mission** by Stewart Ross

Think you would like to live in a world without adults? Think again. In a post-apocalyptic world where no-one lives beyond their teenage years, the mysterious Roxanne arrives in Cyrus's village, fleeing the barbaric Zeds. She claims to be on a mission that can save them all, but can she be trusted?

**Dark Blue Rising** by Teri Terry

Tabby lives a transient life with her mum Cate, never sticking in one place long enough to make friends. Until one day, an accident changes everything. Cate is arrested and Tabby realises her life has been a lie: Cate is not her mother. As she adjusts to her new life, Tabby finds herself drawn to the ocean - the only place she feels happy - and enrolls at a swimming summer school to help her heal. But all is not as it seems. She and her new friends are cut off from the outside world when she uncovers the terrible lies she's been told about her past, a final twist awaits her - a secret hidden in her DNA...

**The war of the worlds** by H. G. Wells

When a strange, meteor-like object lands in the heart of England, the inhabitants of Earth find themselves victims of a terrible attack. A ruthless race of Martians, armed with heat rays and poisonous smoke, is intent on destroying everything that stands in its way. As the unnamed hero struggles to find his way across decimated wastelands, the fate of the planet hangs in the balance.

**The book thief** by Markus Zusak

Narrated in the all-knowing matter-of-fact voice of Death, witnessing the story of the citizens of Molching. By 1943, the Allied bombs are falling, and the sirens begin to wail. Liesel shares her books in the air-raid shelters. But one day the wail of the sirens comes too late.