

## YEAR 9 SUGGESTED READING LIST 2024/25

**Fahrenheit 451** by Ray Bradbury

The hauntingly prophetic classic novel set in a not-too-distant future where books are burned by a special task force of firemen. Guy Montag is a fireman. His job is to burn books, which are forbidden, being the source of all discord and unhappiness. Even so, Montag is unhappy; there is discord in his marriage. Are books hidden in his house? The Mechanical Hound of the Fire Department, armed with a lethal hypodermic, escorted by helicopters, is ready to track down those dissidents who defy society to preserve and read books.

**The Bunker diary** 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?

**Red Rising** by Pierce Brown

Darrow is a Helldiver. A pioneer of Mars. Born to slave beneath the earth so that one day, future generations might live above it. He is a Red - humankind's lowest caste. But he has something the Reds - the ruthless ruling class - will never understand. He has a wife he worships, a family who give him strength. He has love. And when they take that from him, all that remains is revenge.

**Stand Up Ferran Burke** by Steven Camden

Comic collector, Vinyl connoisseur, Air Jordan enthusiast. In his mind, Ferran Burke is many things. But to everyone else he is just one, Emile Burke's little brother and Emile is all about himself. Now Ferran is stepping into the new world of high school alone and needs to learn quickly how to survive. New allies. New enemies. New feelings. New passions. A time capsule coming-of-age story spanning five years of one boy's life as he navigates the chaos trying to find himself.

**Ender's Game** by Orson Scott Card

The human race faces annihilation as an alien threat is on the horizon, ready to strike. If humanity is to be defended, the government must create the greatest military commander in history. The brilliant young Ender Wiggin is their last hope. But first he must survive the rigours of a brutal military training program - to prove that he can be the leader of all leaders. A saviour for mankind must be produced, through whatever means possible. But are they creating a hero or a monster?

**Chinglish** by Sue Cheung

"It is difficult trying to talk in our family cos: a) Grandparents don't speak English at all. b) Mum hardly speaks any English. c) Me, Bonny and Simon hardly speak Chinese. d) Dad speaks Chinese and good English - but doesn't like talking. In other words, we all have to cobble together tiny bits of English and Chinese into a rubbish new language I call 'Chinglish'. It is very awkward." Brilliantly funny observations told in diary entries and doodles make for a searingly honest portrayal of life.

**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.

**After the Fire** by Will Hill

Father John controls everything inside The Fence. And Father John likes rules. Especially about never talking to Outsiders. Because Father John knows the truth. He knows what is right, and what is wrong. He knows what is coming. Moonbeam is starting to doubt, though. She's starting to see the lies behind Father John's words. She wants him to be found out. What if the only way out of the darkness is to light a fire?

**Five Survive** by Holly Jackson

Eighteen year old Red and her friends are on a road trip in an RV, heading to the beach for Spring Break. It's a long drive but spirits are high. Until the RV breaks down in the middle of nowhere. And as the wheels are shot out, one by one, the friends realise that this is no accident. There's a sniper out there. He's watching them and he knows exactly who they are. One of the group has a secret that the sniper is willing to kill for. As a game of cat-and-mouse plays out, the group desperately tries to get help. Buried secrets are forced to light and tensions within the group reach deadly levels. Only one thing is for sure. Not everyone will survive the night.

**The Knife of Never Letting Go** by Patrick Ness

Prentissstown isn't like other towns. Everyone can hear everyone else's thoughts in a constant, overwhelming Noise. There is no privacy. There are no secrets. Then Todd Hewitt unexpectedly stumbles on a spot of complete silence. Which is impossible. And now he's going to have to run

**The blue book of Nebo** by Manon Steffan Ros

In 2018 when Dylan was six 'The End' came. The electricity went off, and the 'normal' 21st century world he knew disappeared. Now he's 14 and he and his mum have survived in their isolated hilltop house above the village of Nebo in north-west Wales, learning new skills, and returning to old ways of living. The relationship between mother and son changes subtly as Dylan takes on adult responsibilities. But they both have secrets, which emerge as they jot down their thoughts and memories in a notebook - the Blue Book of Nebo.

**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?

**Saint Death** by Marcus Sedgwick

Anapra is one of the poorest neighbourhoods in the Mexican city of Juarez - 20 metres outside town lies a fence, and beyond it, America - the dangerous goal of many migrants. Faustino is trying to escape from the gang he's been working for. He's dipped into a pile of dollars he was supposed to be hiding and now he's on the run. He and his friend, Arturo, have only 36 hours to replace the missing money, or they're as good as dead. Watching over them is Saint Death - she of pure bone and charcoal-black eye, she of absolute loyalty and neutral morality, holy patron to rich and poor, to prostitute and narco-lord, criminal and police-chief. A folk saint, a rebel angel, a sinister guardian.

**The Hate U Give** by Angie Thomas

Sixteen-year-old Starr lives in two worlds: the poor neighbourhood where she was born and raised and her posh high school in the suburbs. The uneasy balance between them is shattered when Starr is the only witness to the fatal shooting of her unarmed best friend, Khalil, by a police officer. Now, what Starr says could destroy her community, but it could also get her killed.

**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.