# St Thomas of Aquin’s RC HS Library May 2018

# S4-S6 GENERAL READING LIST

  **Pat Barker:Toby’s Room**

 Elinor is very close to her older brother Toby who goes missing during WW1. She becomes obsessed with finding out what happened to him and seeks the help of various old friends.These include Kit Neville, a specialist in facial reconstruction.This book combines dark, family secrets with the horrors of the war and the intimacy of love. Also read **Regeneration.**

**Harry Bingham: Talking to the Dead**

DC Fiona Griffiths, an intelligent and efficient detective with good intuition and analytical skills, investigates the murder of a prostitute and her young daughter .

**Felice Benuzzi: No Picnic on Mount Kenya**

Three Italian prisoners of war are tired of their confinement and decide to escape and climb Mount Kenya, which is close to their camp. They just want to spend some time in freedom and to accomplish something. A wonderful adventure story about the power of the human spirit.

**Emily Bronte: Wuthering Heights**

Classic love story of Catherine Earnshaw and Heathcliff, a man seeking revenge for the miseries heaped upon him in childhood.This unique novel is a masterpiece of English literature.

**Ally Carter: I’d Tell You I Love You, But Then I’d Have To Kill You**

Written as a diary , this tells of Cameron Morgan, a pupil at The Gallagher Academy. Lots of suspense, mystery and romance.

**Brittany Cavallaro: Study in Charlotte**

The first book in a new trilogy about the teen descendants of Sherlock Holmes and John Watson. They are both students at Sherringford School in Connecticut. When a fellow student turns up dead at the school, they are both seen as prime suspects and need to work together to clear their names, and to save themselves when the real killer turns on them.

**Cat Clarke:** **Girlhood**

A story about love, death and grief. Harper and Kirsty bond over the losses in their life and the guilt attached to such a devastating experience.

**Bernard** **Cornwell: Rebel**

The Starbuck Chronicles are a series of novels set during the American Civil War. They follow the exploits of a young Boston-born Confederate officer, Nathaniel Starbuck. This is book one and it is based on real facts, wrapped in a wonderful story with compelling characters. Copperheard is the second book of the series.

**Thomas Cullinan:** **Beguiled**

The novel is set in the time of the American Civil War. The residents of the Miss Martha Farnworth Seminary for Young Ladies find their routine interrupted when thirteen year-old Amelia Dabney is out picking mushrooms one day and comes upon a wounded Union soldier. She helps him and takes him to the school. Corporal John McBurney tells her he will be there long enough to get his injuries tended to, and then he will leave immediately’ As the story progresses, each of the women and the girls at the house interact with him. His presence interrupts the regular, familiar routine of the house, setting off a bizarre chain of events that no one could have predicted…

**Laura Esquivel: Like Water for Chocolate**

Tita, the youngest daughter of Mama Elena, has to give up the hope of ever marrying. It will be her duty to take care of her mother in old age. This becomes a big problem when she meets Pedro. When Pedro learns of Tita's duty to her mother and impossibility of future marriage, he agrees to marry Tita's sister, he can be closer to Tita…

**Sebastian Faulks: Birdsong**

Sebastian Faulks writes beautiful prose and creates memorable characters showing the horror of World War I. It is a story of Englishman Stephen Wraysford who is in intense relationship with a married French woman. The horror of World War I is shown in a realistic manner involving all the senses. It is moving, passionate, shocking and heartbreaking novel.

**Karen Fortunati**: **Weight of Zero**

This is a beautiful story of love and loss. The protagonist, Catherine Pulaski, is a 17-year-old girl who was diagnosed with bipolar disorder shortly after the devastating death of her beloved grandmother. Her first suicide attempt has left her mother traumatised. Zero is Cath's name for the depression that overwhelmed her. She has a plan to collect enough pills to defeat Zero if it comes for her again…

**Allan Glynn: Winterland**

Two men with the same first name, Noel die on the same night. Is this just a coincidence or is there some connection to these two men’s deaths? Both men died in different ways. The first was Noel Rafferty, who was part of a Dublin gang. The other Noel was also from the Rafferty family. He was the older Mr. Rafferty. His death was being ruled as a tragic accident. No one believes the two deaths are connected. The only person who does is Gina Rafferty. She will stop at nothing to get justice for her family.

**Anna Godbersen: Luxe**

Manhattan, 1899, the novel follows the lives of five individuals. Elizabeth is the eldest of the Holland daughters and is now of marriageable age. Since her father died, the Holland family has been suffering financial difficulty. Her mother arranges for her to be married off to Henry Schoonmaker – the most eligible and wealthiest bachelor in all of New York. Beautiful sisters Elizabeth and Diana Holland rule Manhattan's social scene. Meanwhile her sister Diana is falling for the boy destined to be Elizabeth’s husband (Henry), whilst the girl currently involved with him, Elizabeth’s best friend Penelope, will stop at nothing to get him.
Elizabeth has been having a secret affair with someone else – someone that, if her mother ever found out, she would be forbidden from seeing ever again… Lina knows Elizabeth’s secret, however, she is a servant in the Holland household, and Elizabeth’s own personal maid. Lina sees Lizzie sneaking out of Will’s room one night and her heart shatters into a thousand tiny pieces. Lina always wanted Will to herself and is horrified to learn that Lizzie – the perfect girl who has everything – has the one thing in the world she wants more than anything. Who will Elizabeth marry?

 **Robert Galbraith: The Cuckoo’s Calling**

Cormoran Strike is a private investigator, solving crimes with the help of his sidekick, Robin. His adventures continue in The Silkworm and Career of Evil. For a female detective, read Lynda La Plante’s Prime Suspect**,** which features

DCI Jane Tennison , a woman working in a male - dominated police force

 **Eowyn Ivey : The Snow Child**

Atmospheric novel set in 1920’s Alaska, telling how Jack and Mabel’s simple life in the wilderness is affected by the sudden appearance of a young girl

**Harper Lee**: **Go Set A Watchman**

Maycomb, Alabama. Twenty-six-year-old Jean Louise Finch - 'Scout' - returns home from New York City to visit her ageing father, Atticus. Memories from her childhood came back, and her values and assumptions are thrown into doubt. Written in the mid-1950s, this is an unforgettable novel of wisdom, humanity, passion and humour. It is set against the backdrop of political and civil rights tensions. The book features many of the iconic characters from To Kill a Mockingbird, a beautiful book by the same author.

**Claire Hennessy: Nothing Tastes As Good**

A powerful and heart-breaking story set in Ireland, about two girls: Annabel and Julia. Julia is in high school, she is the editor of the school newspaper, and she dreams of becoming a journalist. Annabel died three weeks ago, despite receiving treatment for long term anorexia. Annabel discovered there is an afterlife. Her job is to watch over Julia and help her out. It is an honest, realistic, and confronting book looking at eating disorders, social pressure and friendship.

**Takashi Hiraide: The Guest Cat**

Typically Japanese with lovely lyrical descriptions, this tells how a little cat brought meaning to the lives of a young couple in Tokyo.

**Eva Ibbotson: Song for Summer**

Such a lovely story. The story begins just before WWII in Austria and continues through the war in Europe. A young Englishwoman Ellen Carr goes to Austria to take a position as matron to an unconventional boarding school and becomes caught up in the life of the school, as well as with the school's mysterious handyman and his quiet struggle against Hitler's Germany, intriguing, enigmatic, and very handsome Marek, part-time gardener and fencing teacher. Ellen is instantly attracted to the mysterious gardener. Ellen discovers Marek's true identity and his dangerous mission, Will she realize the depth of her feelings for him and the danger their newfound love will face in the shadow of war?

**A. M. Holmes: May We Be Forgiven**

A satirical look at life in C21st America, told through the relationship of brothers, George and Harold.

**P.D. James: Death Comes to Pemberley**

A sequel to Pride and Prejudice set in 1803 when Darcy and Elizabeth have been married for six years and murder invades the family …

**Liz Kessler**: **Read Me Like A Book**

For the first time in her life, Ashleigh Walker is in love. It is taking her mind off all of her other problems, to the point where her heart races every time she looks at the person she has fallen for. But it is not her boyfriend that makes her feel this way,it is the young female English teacher who has just started teaching her class at college…

**Renee Knight:** **Disclaimer**

Catherine Ravenscroft has a seemingly happy life. Married to Robert, with a young adult son and a successful film-maker, she is content with how things are going. But when Catherine discovers an unfamiliar book at her bedside entitled, The Perfect Stranger she is shocked by what is written. The book will force her to relive an unspeakable moment in her life from 20 years ago that she hoped would be forgotten forever. Catherine is desperate to find out not only how the book came into being in her house but also who wrote about something that supposedly only she and one other person who is now dead knew about.

**Tanya Landman : Buffalo Soldier**

Set at the end of the American Civil War, this tells of Charley (a young African-American slave from the Deep South) who disguises herself as a man and joins the army,fighting "savage Indians" in the prairies. Thought-provoking tale of of injustice and inequality and what it is to be truly free.

**Peter Lovesey: Down Among the Dead Men**

Peter Diamond, a detective in Sussex has been recruited to work with his boss on a sensitive case out of town. The case involves someone with whom Peter had worked in the past. In the same town to which they are travelling, the art teacher at a private girl’s school leaves her position without notice. While the students are pleased by the very attractive man who replaces her, one student becomes concerned and decides to follow up on her own.

**Ian McEwan: Sweet Tooth**

Serena Frome is in her final year at Cambridge and is sent on a secret mission, Operation Sweet Tooth. It is 1972; the Cold War is far from over…

Solar tells the story of Michael Beard, a once-renowned physicist now down on his luck both professionally and in his personal life; The Child In Time deals with the devastation felt by Stephen and Julie Lewis whose daughter, Kate, disappears suddenly and without trace during a routine shopping trip; in Amsterdam the relationship of two lifelong friends will change forever after momentous decisions which both have to make; Atonement, a beautifully-written and haunting novel nominated for the 2001 Booker prize , tells how a brother’s return changes the lives of two girls forever; Enduring Love is a tale of obsession and madness; Saturday, reports a day in the life of a doctor as protests against the war in Iraq take place outside his London home; McEwan’s books are all hard to put down. His attention to detail is remarkable and his novels are very powerful. Highly recommended.

**Shirley-Anne McMillan: Good Hiding**

This is a thoughtful and beautifully written story of teenage pregnancy, bullying and prejudice set in Belfast. The story switches between the viewpoints of the 3 main characters...

**Denzil Meyrick: Dark Suits and Sad Songs**

This is the third installment in the bestselling DCI Daley series. DCI Daley goes to the small town of Kinloch on the west coast of Scotland. Why there? Who is behind it? A senior Edinburgh civil servant takes his own life in Kinloch harbour… The best of Scottish crime!

**Louise O’Neill** : **Only Ever Yours**

Dystopian novel about girls who are valued for their looks and bodies alone; could be likened to Scott Westerfield’s Uglies and Margaret Atwood’s Handmaid’s Tale

**Frank Portman:** **Kink Dork**

Tom Henderson, or King Dork, is an unpopular high school student. He discovers a book that belonged to his deceased father with some kind of code in it. He tries to solve the mystery. A book with a lot of humour in it.

**Christopher Priest: Prestige**

A suspenseful and gripping story of British stage magicians. A young man unexpectedly finds out that he is a descendant of one of the magicians, and the reader follows his journey of reading their old diaries, learning of their lives, secrets and how it directly affects him.

 **Aron Ralston** : **127 Hours : Between A Rock and a Hard Place**

In 2003, Aron Ralston had a climbing accident whilst hiking alone in Utah. To save his life he had to amputate his own arm and wrist. This is the true story of his accident and rehabilitation. Also read **Joe Simpson : Touching the Void**

**Michael Shaara: Killer Angels**

Fictional story of the Civil War Battle of Gettysburg in 1863. Soldiers torn by the emotions of decision -making in the pandemonium of battle and fear…

**Rainbow Rowell: Fangirl**

The story of identical twin, Cath, who has to find her own way in the world when she starts at University

**Tom Rob Smith: Farm**

Thriller in which a man is torn between different stories told to him by his parents. Daniel's father claims his mother is mentally ill, while she insists she has uncovered a terrible conspiracy surrounding their new home, an isolated farm in Sweden. Daniel take matters into his own hands, travelling to Sweden in the hope of establishing the truth.

**Deirdre Sullivan:** **Needlework**

A powerful and heartbreaking story of a young woman trying to make sense of life and her place in it after she and her mother leave their abusive family home.

**Ruth Ware: In a Dark, Dark Wood**

This book is a crime novel: an absorbing thriller in which, halfway through, a big twist upends everything. Nora and Clare have known each other since they were five years old. Nora had a boyfriend James whom she broke up with and left her home town and never came back. After that, Nora lost contact with everyone she knew from that town and decided to leave her past behind her. Why? A decade later Clare invites Nora to her wedding and guess who is the groom… It is James!

**Louise Welsh:** **Lovely Way to Burn**

This is the first book of Plague Times Trilogy. Stephanie (Stevie) Flint lives in London, where she works for a TV shopping channel and has recently started dating Dr Simon Sharkey. When he stands her up she is not particularly upset, but, after a few days, decides to visit his flat and remove the few things she has left there. What she finds is his dead body and, although it seems that he died naturally, she is not convinced. However, then Stevie suddenly becomes ill. After she recovers, she finds a pandemic is sweeping the globe and panic is everywhere. In London, the illness is known as “the Sweats” and it seems that Stevie has caught it and recovered from it. She is then visited by Simon’s cousin, and finds that he has left something for her which may have got him killed and put her in danger.

Also read Tamburlaine Must Die - the story begins in May 1593 when playwright and poet Christopher Marlowe is summoned to appear before the Privy Council, accused of being an atheist and recruiting others to his cause.

##### **Colson Whitehead: Underground Railroad**

Cora is a slave at a Georgia plantation in the antebellum South. When a fellow slave tells her about the Underground Railroad, she finds the courage to run for her freedom. Thus begins her odyssey as a runaway slave, where her adventures introduce her to unprecedented horrors and lead her to disheartening realizations…

 **Lisa Williamson : The Art of Being Normal**

A tale of the friendship between two boys, David and Leo, as they tackle issues concerning their gender identity, bullying etc

##### **Carlos Ruis Zafon: Shadow of the Wind**

When a young lad, Daniel, selects ‘Shadow of the Wind’ from the Cemetery of Forgotten Books, he becomes obsessed by its author, Julian Carax. Someone seems to be burning Carax’s books and as Daniel tries to find out why, he puts himself in danger. Set in Barcelona after the Spanish Civil War, this is a memorable and complex book.

**Markus Zusak: The Book Thief**

A book about death, told from the viewpoint of Leisel and set in Germany in the late 1930s.

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**OTHER SUGGESTIONS:**

**Classics :** Chinua Achebe**;** Charles Dickens; Hermann Melville – **Moby Dick; Stephen King – Misery;** Erich Maria Remarque **– All Quiet on the Western Front**

**Scottish interest** (author / setting): Kate Atkinson, Iain Banks, Allan Bisset, Anne Donovan, Peter May, Maggie O’Farrell, Ian Rankin, James Robertson

**General interest**: Jay Asher, Margaret Atwood, Jane Austen, William Boyd, Kevin Brooks, Sebastian Faulks, John Fowles, Daniel Handler, Robert Harris, Khaled Hosseini, Kazuo Ishiguro, Claire Kendal, Stieg Larsson, Andrea Levy, Cormac McCarthy, James Meek, James Patterson, Marcus Sedgwick, Bernard Schlink, Sarah Waters

**Short Stories**: Sarah Hall, Shirley Jackson, Kelly Link, Alice Munro, Edgar Allan Poe, E. Annie Proulx

**TV/Film tie-in:** Yann Martel - **Life of Pi;** Lionel Shriver - **We Need To Talk About Kevin;** James Dashner - **The Maze Runne**r**;** Veronica Roth – **Insurgent** ; **Divergent** and **Allegiant;** John Green – **Paper Towns;** Mary Shelley – **Frankenstein;** Emma Donoghue – **Room**; M.L. Stedman - **The Light Between Oceans;** M.R. Carey- **The Girl With All the Gifts; F.** Scott Fitzgerald – **The Great Gatsby**

Alexander Solzhenitsyn - **One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovitch ;**

Charles Dickens – **Great Expectations**