

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 investigates the murder of a prostitute and her young daughter .

Holly Bourne: Are We All Lemmings and Snowflakes?

Welcome to Camp Reset, a summer camp with a difference. A place offering a shot at 'normality' for Olive, a girl on the edge, and for the new friends she never expected to make - who each have their own reasons for being there. Luckily Olive has a plan to solve all their problems. But how do you fix the world when you can't fix yourself?

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.

Orson Scott Card: Ender's Game

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. But are they creating a hero or a monster?

Brittany Cavallaro: Study in Charlotte

The teen descendants of Sherlock Holmes and John Watson are both students at Sherringford School in Connecticut. When a fellow student turns up dead, they are both seen as prime suspects. They 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. Copperhead is the second book of the series.

Thomas Cullinan: Beguiled

Set at the time of the American Civil War, the pupils of a girls' school find their routine interrupted when one of them comes upon a wounded Union soldier. She helps him back to the school, where he will recover from his injuries. As the story progresses, the women and girls at the school interact with him and his presence sets 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, so he can be closer to Tita...

Sebastian Faulks: Birdsong

The story of Englishman Stephen Wraysford who is in a intense relationship with a married French woman. The horror of World War I is shown realistically in this moving, passionate, shocking and heart-breaking novel.

Karen Fortunati: Weight of Zero

Dealing with mental health issues, this is the story of Catherine Pulaski ,17 years old and diagnosed with bipolar disorder . Zero is Cath's name for the depression that overwhelms her and leads to a suicide attempt. 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. Coincidence or connection ? A thrilling tale of how one woman seeks justice for her family.

Robert Galbraith: The Cuckoo's Calling

Cormoran Strike, a private investigator struggling to pay debts and deal with a relationship breakdown, is called in to solve the suspicious death of a model, alongside his secretary / sidekick, Robin. Written under a pseudonym by J.K Rowling, the Harry Potter creator !

Eva Ibbotson: Song for Summer

When Ellen Carr abandons grey, dreary London to become housekeeper at an experimental school in Austria, she soon knows she's found her calling. Swept into an idyllic world of mountains, music, eccentric teachers and wayward children, Ellen brings order and joy to all around her. But it's the handsome, mysterious gardener, Marek, who intrigues her – a man with a dangerous secret...

Claire Hennessy: Nothing Tastes As Good

When Annabel dies, she discovers there is an after-life from which she can watch over her friend Julia and help her out. An honest, and challenging book about eating disorders, social pressure and relationships.

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.

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 ...

Renee Knight: Disclaimer

When an intriguing novel appears on Catherine's bedside table, she curls up and begins to read. But as she turns the pages she is horrified to realize she is a key character, a main player.

This story will reveal her darkest secret. A secret she thought no one else knew...

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 "savagely Indians" in the prairies. Thought-provoking tale of of injustice and inequality and what it is to be truly free.

Harper Lee: Go Set A Watchman

Twenty-six-year-old Jean Louise Finch - 'Scout' - returns home to visit her ageing father, Atticus. Memories from her childhood came back, throwing her values and assumptions into doubt. Set against a backdrop of political and civil rights tensions, the book features many of the iconic characters from To Kill a Mockingbird.

Ian McEwan

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

Scottish crime novel set in fictional town of Kinloch on the west coast of Scotland.

Jandy Nelson: I'll Give You the Sun

Jude and her twin Noah are incredibly close until a tragedy drives them apart. When Jude meets a cocky, broken, beautiful boy as well as a captivating new mentor, she realises they may need her just as much as she needs them. What the twins don't realise is that each of them has only half the story; if they can find their way back to one another, they have a chance to remake their world.

Patrick Ness: Release

It's Saturday, it's summer and, although he doesn't know it yet, everything in Adam Thorn's life is going to fall apart. But maybe, just maybe, he'll find freedom from the release.

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. When he discovers a book that belonged to his deceased father with some kind of code in it, he tries to solve the mystery. Humorous tale.

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 follows his journey by reading old diaries and learning their secrets .

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. It shows how soldiers were 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: Woman in Cabin 10

Lo Blacklock, a travel journalist, has just been given the assignment of a lifetime: a week on a luxury cruise. Woken in the night by screams, Lo rushes to her window to see a body thrown overboard from the next door cabin. But records show that no-one ever checked into that cabin, and no passengers are missing from the boat... Also read **In A dark, Dark Wood**

Louise Welsh: Lovely Way to Burn

A pandemic called 'The Sweats' is sweeping the globe and London is in crisis. Hospitals fill with the dead and dying, but Stevie Flint is convinced that the sudden death of her boyfriend Dr Simon Sharkey was not from natural causes. As roads out of London become gridlocked with people fleeing infection, Stevie's search for Simon's killers takes her in the opposite direction, into the depths of the dying city and a race with death.

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 Deep 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 disheartening realizations...

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 Liesel and set in Germany in the late 1930s.

OTHER SUGGESTIONS:

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

Graphic novels : Alan Moore – Watchmen ; Art Spiegelman - Maus ; Brian K Vaughan – Pride of Baghdad

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

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

Short Stories: Sarah Hall, Shirley Jackson, 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; 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

