# St Thomas of Aquin’s RC HS Library May 2021

# S4-S6 GENERAL READING LIST

**Naomi Alderman: The Power**

This is a dystopian novel which raises questions about power and gender. In it, young women discover they have electrical power, but instead of using it to do good, they frequently harness evil. As women assume positions of leadership, men become subjugated. How will it end?

**Margaret Atwood: The Testaments**

Sequel to The Handmaid’sTale and set fifteen years after its closing scene, this is told from the viewpoints of three different women. Teenagers Agnes -the daughter of a Commander in Gilead- and Daisy-a young woman living in Canada - witness the terrors of Gilead from afar. The third point of view is that of Aunt Lydia, one of the most influential women in Gilead.

**Holly Bourne: Are We All Lemmings and Snowflakes?**

Camp Reset is a summer camp with a difference & offers a shot at 'normality' for Olive, a girl on the edge, and her new friends. But how do you fix the world when you can't fix yourself?

**Graeme Macrae Burnet: His Bloody Project**

In 1869 a brutal murder in the Scottish Highlands leads to the arrest of Roderick Macrae. The young man's memoir makes it clear that he is guilty, but why did he commit such a violent crime: was he mad? Legal experts and psychiatrists try to uncover the truth in this original and absorbing thriller.

**Octavia Butler : Kindred**

Kindred is about race relations, gender, and class told through the story of Dana, a 1970s woman who gets called back in time to save the life of Rufus, her white, slave- owning ancestor. For further reading about slavery, read Solomon Northup: 12 years A Slave and James Robertson: Joseph Knight

**Orson Scott Card: Ender’s Game**

Humanity needs to be defended against an alien threat and the government pin their hopes on brilliant young Ender Wiggin. But can he survive the brutal training programme and will he emerge as a hero or monster?

**Brittany Cavallaro: Study in Charlotte**

The teen descendants of Sherlock Holmes and John Watson attend 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.

**FuriousThing: Jenny Downham**

Fifteen year old Lexi is struggling to have a positive relationship with her stepfather John. He is a tyrant in their household, her school is unsupportive and she doesn't know who to turn to for help. As John becomes more manipulative, Lexi worries about her anger and emotions in this tough and complex read.

**Simon Cheshire: Flesh and Blood**

A chilling new story in the Red Eye series. Sam tells his story through writing a journal and by breaking from the story to talk directly to the reader. When he moves to a new town, he learns some secrets about his neighbours and notices something strange going on in the area -. something that one family in particular would like to keep hidden.

**Jeffrey Eugenides: Virgin Suicides**

The story Is about the Lisbon family, living in Michigan during the 1970s. There are 5 teenage daughters, all living under strict rules laid down by their mother. Within the space of two years all five daughters are dead by suicide. The story is told from the perspective of four teenage boys who become infatuated with the girls and try to find the reasons for their deaths.

**Bernardine Evaristo: Girl. Woman. Other**

The book is about twelve women but it is also refers to the history of black British people in the UK. Each chapter follows the life of one woman, but the lives of several characters intertwine in numerous ways – as friends and relatives or as chance acquaintances. Beautifully written, this is a deserving winner of the 2019 Man Booker prize.

**Stephen Fry: Mythos**

This is the first of Stephen Fry’s re-tellings of Greek Mythology, with this initial instalment focusing on the origins of the world, the gods, of mankind, and the early tales of these creations. It varies from the epic scale of Zeus and his siblings launching global warfare against the Titans to individual tales of clever interactions between mortal and immortal beings.

**Jane Gillespie : Sugar Money**

In 1765 two brothers are sent to Grenada to smuggle back slaves . Whilst Lucien views the trip as a huge adventure, his older brother is more sensitive to the plight of the slaves, but hopes he may find his fist love among them …

**Tom Hanks : Uncommon Type**

Actor Tom Hanks turns to writing in this collection of short stories. Dealing with different relationships and settings, the stories have one object in common – a typewriter.

**Gail Honeyman : Elinor Oliphant Is Completely Fine**

Elinor likes routine and for things to be the same; she does not like change or new things. A touching, funny and often sad book about a young woman coping with mental health issues, autism and other people's attitudes.

**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.

**Paula Hawkins: Girl On the Train**

Rachel struggles to cope with her husband’s re-marriage and her own alcoholism and childlessness. On her daily train commute, which passes by her old house, she sinks more into self-destruction and fantasises about the neighbours at no.15, who seem like a perfect couple One day something happens and things will never be the same again … Psychological thriller, written from three viewpoints.

**Shirley Jackson: We Have Always Lived in the Castle**

Eighteen year old Merry Katharine Blackwood lives with her elder sister and their ailing uncle in an isolated large house. Persecuted by the locals, who are convinced one of them is responsible for previously poisoning the rest of the family with arsenic, they are surprised by the sudden appearance of their cousin Charles. What is the motive behind his unexpected visit?

**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 come 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.

**Kiran Millwood Hargrave: Deathless Girls**

A beautiful historical fantasy with themes of sisterhood and power, this tells of the three vampire brides in **Dracula**. When twins Lil and Kizzy are taken from their traveller community to work as slaves for the cruel Boyar Valcar, Lil meets Mina and is instantly drawn to her in a way she doesn't understand. But then the sisters learn of the terrifying, mythical Dragon, a creature who accepts girls as gifts, who could tear their world apart...

**Lou Morgan: Sleepless**

Worrying about upcoming exams, Izzy and her friends try a new kind of focus pill to help them study, It seems to work – until after the exams, when things go horribly wrong and the group begins experiencing unusual and scary side effects. Recommended for those who like tense reads with a dark and creepy atmosphere.

**Christina Reed: Black Kids**

Set in Los Angeles in1992 during the riots following the Rodney King trial, this is a story about a young black girl navigating the end of high school. Ashley Bennet deals with college applications, friendship drama, familial tension and finding her own place in the world against a background of references to 90’s culture and music. The book reads as part diary, part biography, and part history lesson and is both timely and timeless, as we fight for the value of Black Lives.

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**OTHER SUGGESTIONS:**

**Classics/History:** Chinua Achebe; Charles Dickens; Hermann Melville – Moby Dick; Stephen King – Misery; Erich Maria Remarque – All Quiet on the Western Front; Sebastian Faulks – Birdsong; Tanya Landman - Buffalo Soldier; Bernard Cornwell – Rebel; Carlos Ruis Zafon -Shadow of the Wind; Pat Barker -Toby’s Room; Markus Zusak - The Book Thief

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

**General interest:** Jay Asher, Margaret Atwood, Jane Austen, William Boyd, Emily Bronte, Kevin Brooks, Cat Clarke, Sebastian Faulks, John Fowles, Daniel Handler, Robert Harris, Khaled Hosseini, Kazuo Ishiguro, Stieg Larsson, Andrea Levy, Cormac McCarthy, Ian McEwan; Shirley-Anne McMillan, James Meek, James Patterson, Aron Ralston, 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