

## Recommended Reads for KS4 Y9-11

### Action, Mysteries, Horror & Thrillers

*Famous Last Words* or *Bad Girls Don't Die* – Alender  
*S.T.A.G.S.* (& sequels) by M.A. Bennett  
*Bodyguard* series; *Bulletcatcher* by Chris Bradford\*  
*The Bunker Diary*; *Martyn Pig*; *iBoy* - Kevin Brooks  
*Dead Time* (& sequels); *The Bone Room*\* -A Cassidy  
*And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie+  
*Say Her Name* by Juno Dawson  
*Mortal Chaos* or *Lie, Kill, Walk Away* -M Dickinson  
*A Gathering Light* by Jennifer Donnelly  
*Zero Day* by Jan Gangsei  
*The Enemy* (& sequels) by Charlie Higson\*  
*House of Silk, Moriarty, Magpie Murders*-Horowitz+  
*A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* by Holly Jackson  
*Sawbones* or *Blade & Bone* by Catherine Johnson  
*The Long Weekend* by Savita Kalhan\*  
*Carrie* or *It* by Stephen King+  
*Bluebeard, Bluebeard* by Attica Locke+  
*We Were Liars* by E Lockhart  
*Girl, Missing; Here We Lie; Blood Ties* by S McKenzie  
*#Murdertrending* by Gretchen McNeil\*  
*One of Us is Lying* (& sequels) by Karen McManus  
*I am Still Alive* or *Rules for Vanishing* by K Marshall  
*Knife Edge; Blame* by Simon Mayo  
*The Recruit (Cherub)* (& sequels) by R Muchamore\*  
*Foul Play* (& sequels) or *Ghost Stadium* - T Palmer\*  
*13 Minutes* by Sarah Pinborough  
Autobiographies/Memoirs/Biographies  
*I Know Why a Caged Bird Sings* by M. Angelou+  
*A Street Cat Named Bob* by James Bowen\*+  
*Playing the Enemy* by John Carlin+  
*In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote+  
*Hope in a Ballet Shoe:* Michaela & Elaine DePrince  
*Wave: Life After the Tsunami* by S. Deraniyagala+  
*One Dog at a Time* (& sequels) by Pen Farthing+  
*Fatal Throne:* Henry VIII (multiple YA writers)  
*Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank  
*Marley & Me* by John Grogan\*+  
*Mud, Sweat and Tears* by Bear Grylls\*+  
*Fever Pitch* by Nick Hornby+  
*This is Going to Hurt* by Adam Kay+  
*The Story of My Life* by Helen Keller+  
*War Dog* (WWII) by Damien Lewis+  
*Today Everything Changes* by Andy McNab\*+  
*Chinese Cinderella* by Adeline Yen Mah+  
*A History of the World in 21 Women*-Jenni Murray+  
*The Greatest: Muhammed Ali* by WD Myers\*  
*Dreams From My Father* by Barack Obama+  
*Becoming* by Michelle Obama+  
*Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi (graphic novel)\*+  
*Touching the Void* by Joe Simpson\*+

*How to Be Extraordinary* - Rashmi Sirdeshpande\*^

*Educated* by Tara Westover+

*Night* by Elie Wiesel+

*Black Boy:A Record of Youth&Childhood*-R Wright+

*Autobiography of Malcolm X* –MalcolmX&A Haley+

*I am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai

### LGBTQ+ Non-Fiction:

*From Prejudice to Pride: A History of the LGBTQ+ Movement*-  
 Amy Lamé

*The ABC's of LGBTQ+: (Gender Identity Book for Teens, Teen &  
 Young Adult LGBT Issues)*- A. Mardell

*Have Pride: An inspirational history of the LGBTQ+ movement*-  
 S. Caldwell

*A Gay History of Britain: Love and Sex Between Men Since the  
 Middle Ages*- M. Cook

*The Little Book of Pride: The History, the People, the Parades*-  
 L. Laney

*We Make It Better: The LGBTQ Community and Their Positive  
 Contributions to Society*- E. Rosswood

*Queer: A Graphic History:* by Meg-John Barker

### Classics (off the beaten path) & Modern Literature

*Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe+

*Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Adichie+

*Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line* - Deepa Anapparo+

*The Testaments; The Handmaid's Tale* – Atwood+

*All The Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr+

*Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha* by Roddy Doyle

*Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison+

*Girl, Woman, Other* by Bernadine Evaristo+

*Birdsong* by Sebastian Faulks+

*Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi+

*The Kite Runner* by Khalid Hosseini+

*Not Without Laughter* by Langston Hughes+

*Brave New World* by Alex Huxley+

*Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro+

*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee+

*Cider With Rosie* by Laurie Lee+

*Small Island* by Andrea Levi+

*The Road* by Cormac McCarthy+

*Circe* or *Song of Achilles* by Madeline Miller+

*The Bluest Eye* or *Beloved* by Toni Morrison+

*Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell+

*All Quiet on the Western Front* by EM Remarque+

*The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy+

*Anita and Me* by Meera Syal +

*The Color Purple* by Alice Walker+

*Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead+

*Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* – J Winterson+

### LGBTQ+ Celebrating difference

*Colour Outside the Lines: Stories about Love* -Sangu Mandanna

*Tomboy: A Graphic Memoir* - Liz Prince

*We Were Liars* by E. Lockhart

*Cinderella is Dead*- K.Bayron

*They Both Die at the End*- A. Silvera

*Love in the big City* by Sang Young Park

**Last Night at the Telegraph Club**- M. Lo  
**This is Where It Ends**- M. Nijkamp  
**Zami: A New Spelling of My Name** by Audre Lorde  
**The Prophets** By Robert Jones, JR.  
**Kiss of the Spider Woman** by Manuel Puig  
**Cemetery Boys**- A. Thomas  
**All Boys Aren't Blue** by George M. Johnson  
**Complex/Difficult/Thought-provoking Issues**  
**Change is Gonna Come** – various BAME authors  
**Poet X; Clap When You Land** by Elizabeth Acevedo^  
**7 Days** by Eve Ainsworth  
**The First to Die at the End** by Adam Silvera  
**They Both Die at the End** by Adam Silvera  
**Simon vs the Homo Sapiens Agenda** – B Albertalli\*  
**Booked; Rebound; Crossover**-Kwame Alexander\*^  
**The Hypnotist** by Laurence Anholt  
**Thirteen Reasons Why** by Jay Asher  
**Black Flamingo** by Dean Atta^  
**Noughts & Crosses** or **Boys Don't Cry** -M Blackman\*  
**Tiger Eyes** or anything by Judy Blume\*  
**Am I Normal Yet?** (Spinster Club series)- H. Bourne  
**See Through Me; Dumb Chocolate Eyes** - K Brooks\*  
**Hate List** by Jennifer Brown  
**Junk or The Hit** by Melvin Burgess  
**Heart-Shaped Bruise** by Tanya Byrne  
**Looking for JJ; No Virgin/No Shame**-Anne Cassidy  
**The Perks of Being a Wallflower** by S. Chbosky  
**Stolen** by Lucy Christopher  
**The Chocolate War** by Robert Cormier  
**Toffee; One; Moonrise** by S Crossan\*^  
**Meat Market** by Juno Dawson  
**A Swift Pure Cry; Solace of the Road** -S. Dowd  
**Furious Thing; Before I Die** by Jenny Downam  
**Out of My Mind** by Sharon Draper  
**Heroic; Being Billy; Saving Daisy** by Phil Earle\*  
**Mockingbird; Seeing Red** by Kathryn Erskine  
**The Universe versus Alex Woods** by G. Extence  
**If I Stay; Just One Day** by Gayle Forman  
**Full Disclosure** by Camryn Garrett  
**After the Fire** by Will Hill  
**Looking at the Stars** by Lewis Hine  
**The Outsiders** by SE Hinton\*  
**And the Stars Were Burning Brightly** by D Jawando  
**That Asian Kid; Girl in Broken Mirror** by S Kalhan  
**That's Not What Happened** by Kody Keplinger  
**I am Thunder; Kick the Moon** - Muhammed Khan  
**Rose, Interrupted, Indigo Donut, Orangeboy or Eight Pieces of Silva** by Patrice Lawrence  
**Brock, Pike, Rook & Lark** by Anthony McGowan\*  
**Run, Rebel** by Manjeet Mann^  
**Out of Heart; A Beautiful Lie** by Irfan Master  
**Sister Heart** by Sally Morgan^  
**Slay** by Brittney Morris  
**The Sky is Everywhere** or **I'll Give You...**by J Nelson  
**No Fixed Address; Word Nerd** by Susin Nielson  
**All the Bright Places & Holding Up Universe** - Niven

**Before I Fall; Vanishing Girls** by Lauren Oliver  
**Heartstopper** (graphic novel); **Solitaire**-A Oseman\*  
**Where the Crawdads Sing** by Delia Owens+  
**My Sister's Keeper; Small Great Things** -J Picoult+  
**Patron Saints of Nothing** by Randy Ribay  
**Rani & Sukh; (Un)arranged Marriage; Killing Honour; The Gun\*; Stay a Little Longer\*** - Bali Rai  
**Gloves Off^; Wrecked^; Black Heart Blue** by L Reid\*  
**Long Way Down^; All American Boys** - J Reynolds\*  
**Extraordinary Means** by Robyn Schneider  
**The Lovely Bones** or **Lucky** by Alice Sebold+  
**Voyages in Underworld of Orpheus Black**-Sedgwick\*  
**The Boxer** or **Run, Riot** Nikesh Shukla  
**Counting by 7s** by Holly Sloan  
**The Million Pieces of Neena Gill** by E Smith-Barton  
**Stone Cold** by Robert Swindells\*  
**Lies We Tell Ourselves** by Robin Talley  
**Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry** by Mildred Taylor  
**The Hate U Give** or **On the Come Up** by A Thomas\*  
**The List** by Siobhan Vivian  
**It's Kind of a Funny Story** by Ned Vizzini  
**My Name is Leon** by Kit de Waal  
**What Momma Left Me** by Renee Watson  
**Liccle Bit** (& sequels) or **Uprising** by Alex Wheatle\*  
**Frankly in Love** by David Yoon  
**Teacher's Dead, Face or Terror Kid** by B Zephaniah\*  
**Dystopian, Science Fiction or Magic Realism**  
**Children of Blood and Bone** by Tomi Adeyemi  
**The Power** by Naomi Alderman+  
**A Jigsaw of Fire & Stars** by Yaba Badoe  
**Six of Crows; Crooked Kingdom** by Leigh Bardugo  
**Exodus** by Julie Bertagna  
**Chasing the Stars** by Malorie Blackman  
**Gamer** (& Virtual Combat series) by Chris Bradford\*  
**Ink** (& sequels) by Alice Broadway  
**World War Z** by Max Brooks+  
**The Girl With All the Gifts** by MR Carey+  
**City of Bones** (& sequels) by Cassandra Clare  
**Matched** (& sequels) by Ally Condie  
**The Maze Runner** (& sequels) by J. Dashner  
**Cell 7** (& sequels) by Kerry Drewery  
**The Gender Game** by Bella Forrest  
**Gone; Front Line** (& sequels) by Michael Grant\*  
**Half Bad** (& sequels) by Sally Green  
**The Deathless Girls** by Kiran Millwood Hargrave  
**Department 19** (& sequels) by Will Hill  
**Raybearer** by Jordan Ifueko  
**The Loneliest Girl in the Universe** by Lauren James  
**Maladapted** by Richard Kurti  
**I Am Number Four** (& sequels) by Pittacus Lore  
**Legend** (& sequels) by Marie Lu  
**The Dog Runner; Across the Risen Sea**-B MacDibble  
**A Blade So Black** by L.L. McKinney  
**Station 11** by Emily Mandel+  
**The Passengers; The One** by John Marrs+  
**The 100** by Kass Morgan

**Killer T** by Robert Muchamore  
**The Knife of Never Letting Go** series; **Burn**-P Ness  
**Z For Zachariah** by Robert O'Brien  
**The Loop** by Ben Oliver  
**Replica** or **Delirium** (& sequels) by Lauren Oliver  
**Only Ever Yours** by Louise O'Neill  
**Divergent** (& sequels) by Veronica Roth  
**Way of Kings** (Stormlight Archive) by B Sanderson  
**Plague Land** by Alex Scarrow  
**Oh My Gods** by Alexandra Sheppard  
**Scythe, Unwind** or **Dry** (& sequels) -N Shusterman  
**Concentr8** by William Sutcliffe  
**An Ember in the Ashes** (& sequels) by Sabaa Tahir  
**Contagion** or **Slated** (& sequels) by Teri Terry  
**The Martian** by Andy Weir+  
**Partials** (& sequels) by Dan Wells  
**Uglies** or **Zeroes** (& sequels) by Scott Westerfield  
**The 5th Wave** (& sequels) by Rick Yancey

#### Humorous books

**The Princess Diaries** by Meg Cabot\*  
**A Man Called Ove** by Fredrik Backman+  
**The Private Blog of Joe Cowley** by Ben Davis\*  
**An Abundance of Katherines** by John Green  
**Noah Can't Even; Alex in Wonderland** - SJ Green  
**The Reformed Vampire Support Group** by Jinks\*  
**Hellbent** or **Henry Tumour** by Anthony McGowan\*  
**Don't Even Think About It** – Sarah Mylnowski  
**Discworld** series by T Pratchett (try **The Last Hero**)+  
**Good Omens** by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman+  
**Geekhood** series by Andy Robb  
**The Rosie Project** (& sequel) by Graeme Simsion+  
**The Gifted, The Talented and Me** by W Sutcliffe  
**Dark Lord: The Teenage Years** by Jamie Thomson  
**The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole** – Sue Townsend

#### Relationships

**Beautiful Broken Things** by Sara Barnard  
**Tender Earth** by Sita Brahmachari  
**Floored: When Seven Lives Collide** (various authors)  
**Fault in Our Stars** or **Looking for Alaska** by J Green  
**Why We Broke Up** by Daniel Handler  
**To All the Boys I've Loved Before** by Jenny Han  
**Slammed** or **Regretting You** by Colleen Hoover  
**Hold Back the Stars** by Katie Khan  
**Falling Fast** (& sequels) by Sophie McKenzie  
**One Day** or **Sweet Sorrow** by David Nicholls+  
**Unboxed; Second Best Friend** by Nan Pratt\*  
**Eleanor and Park & Fangirl** by Rainbow Rowell  
**Written in the Stars** by Aisha Saeed  
**The Art of Racing in the Rain** by Garth Stein+  
**Shiver** or **The Raven Boys**(&sequels) - M. Stiefvater  
**Our Chemical Hearts** by Krystal Sutherland  
**Paper Avalanche; The Art/Normal** by L Williamson  
**If You Come Softly** by Jacqueline Woodson  
**Everything, Everything & Sun is Also a Star**-Yoon  
**War, History, Conflict, Genocide & Refugees**

**The Short Knife** by Elen Caldecot

**Illegal** by Eoin Colfer (graphic novel)\*  
**Copper Sun** by Sharon M Draper  
**The Bone Sparrow** by Zana Fraillion  
**An Act of Love** or **The Trap** by Alan Gibbons  
**Bone Talk** by Candy Gourlay  
**The Mercies** by Kiran Millwood Hargrave+  
**Orphan, Monster, Spy** by Matt Killeen  
**The Librarian of Auschwitz** by Antonio Iturbe+  
**The Beekeeper of Aleppo** by Christy Lefteri+  
**Dog Tags: Semper Fido** or **Strays** by CA London\*  
**Fallen Angels** or **Sunrise over Fallujah**-WD Myers\*  
**Things a Bright Girl Can Do; Silent Stars** - S Nicholls  
**Salt to the Sea** by Ruta Sepetys  
**Maus** by Art Spiegelman (graphic novel)\*+  
**Milkweed** by Jerry Spinelli  
**Deogratius** (graphic novel) by JP Stassen\*+  
**Code Named Verity & Enigma Game** – E Wein  
**Kent State** (verse novel) by Deborah Wiles^  
**My Dear I Wanted to Tell You** by Louisa Young  
**Refugee Boy** by Benjamin Zephaniah  
**The Book Thief** by Marcus Zusak

\* = top picks for reluctant readers or readers who prefer visual/less dense texts. Includes some dyslexia-friendly titles; quick-paced reads of longer books

+ = Books written for adults; content may reflect this.

^ = verse novel