

# KS4 Reading List

1. **The Hate You Give by Angie Thomas**
2. **We Hunt the Flame by Hafsah Faizal**
3. **Gone by Michael Grant**
4. **Lord of the Flies by William Golding**
5. **Frankenstein by Mary Shelley**
6. **Nation by Terry Pratchett**
7. **Life of Pi by Yann Mantel**
8. **Rivers of London by Ben Aaronovitch**
9. **Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe**
10. **1984 by George Orwell**
11. **The Fellowship of the Ring (The Lord of the Rings Series) by J.R.R. Tolkien**
12. **Touching the Void by Joe Simpson**
13. **A short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson**
14. **The War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells**
15. **The Book Thief by Markus Zusak**
16. **Such a Fun Age by Kiley Reid**
17. **Half of A Yellow Sun by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**
18. **Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell**
19. **V for Vendetta by Alan Moore**
20. **The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins**
21. **Dune by Frank Herbert**
22. **Born a Crime by Trevor Noah**
23. **The Knife of Never Letting Go by Patrick Ness**
24. **The History Boys by Alan Bennett**
25. **The Perks of being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky**
26. **To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee**
27. **Brave New World by Aldous Huxley**
28. **A Secret History by Donna Tartt**
29. **Orangeboy by Patrice Lawrence**
30. **Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi**

### **1. The Hate You Give by Angie Thomas**

*This debut novel from Angie Thomas was inspired by the Black Lives Movement. It follows 16 year old Starr Carter coping with the aftermath of her friend being shot by a police officer.*

### **2. We Hunt the Flame by Hafsah Faizal**

*Inspired by stories from ancient Arabia, this book followed Zafira, a legendary hunter, who disguises herself as a man in order to defend her people and bring magic back to the land.*

### **3. Gone by Michael Grant**

*This dystopian science fiction book where adults start disappearing leaving the young to fend for themselves and discover the truth behind the disappearances.*

### **4. Lord of the Flies by William Golding**

*Stranded on an abandoned island a group of boys attempt to govern themselves. Includes themes of morality and leadership.*

### **5. Frankenstein by Mary Shelley**

*Following the young, gifted scientist Victor Frankenstein as he attempts to push the boundaries of science by creating a perfect human. A horror story that makes you consider morality, humanity, ambition and loneliness.*

### **6. Nation by Terry Pratchett**

*Set in an alternate version of history, this book follows Mau, a native boy and Daphne, daughter of a colonist as they wash up on a deserted island in the wake of a tsunami. It deals with themes of nationhood and explores the clash of cultures, a coming of age story that makes you think about what is truly important in life.*

### **7. Life of Pi by Yann Mantel**

*A fantasy novel that explores spirituality, religion and the drive to survive. Teenage Indian boy Pi, becomes lost at sea on a small boat with no one for company except a bengal tiger.*

### **8. Rivers of London by Ben Aaronovitch**

*Follows a young policeman Peter Grant (from Camden), who encounters a ghost in Covent Garden and becomes apprenticed to a wizard, solving gruesome supernatural crimes. A fantastic series often set in London.*

### **9. Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe**

*Written by Nigerian author Chinua Achebe, this story follows Igbo and his struggles with family reputation, masculinity and the destructiveness of colonisation.*

### **10. 1984 by George Orwell**

*This classic story explores the dangers of totalitarianism. Society is ruled by an authoritarian government that maintains power through constant surveillance and other insidious means.*

### **11. The Fellowship of the Ring (The Lord of the Rings Series) by J.R.R. Tolkien**

*The One Ring was created to control the people of Middle Earth, for centuries it was lost but now Frodo Baggins must embark on an epic adventure to destroy the One Ring in the fires of Mount Doom where it was first forged.*

### **12. Touching the Void by Joe Simpson**

*This gripping memoir recounts the near-fatal attempt of Simpson and his climbing partner to climb the Peruvian Andes. Survival against all the odds highlights the resilience of the human spirit and explores morality and trust. Very inspirational!*

### **13. A short History of Nearly Everything by Bill Bryson**

*This whistle stop tour of scientific understanding covers everything from the Big Bang to the rise of civilisation. It is written in a very accessible way, full of trivia and laughs too!*

### **14. The War of the Worlds by H.G. Wells**

*Written over 100 years ago this is one of the first books to explore conflict between humans and aliens. A story of survival for humanity as they find themselves woefully unable to defend themselves against the invading Martians. A sci-fi story with many horror elements.*

**15. The Book Thief by Markus Zusak**

*Narrated by Death, this story follows Liesel, a little German girl and her experiences during WWII. Experiencing death and destruction she seeks out the comfort of books. Themes include dealing with death, morality and the power of words.*

**16. Such a Fun Age by Kiley Reid**

*A page turning story about race and privilege, exploring the inequalities in American Society.*

**17. Half of A Yellow Sun by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie**

*Set during the Nigerian Civil War (1967-1970) this book explores post colonisation, war and themes of love.*

**18. Outliers by Malcolm Gladwell**

*This non-fiction book explores the factors that lead to success. Studying some of the most successful people in history, from software billionaires to professional athletes, rock stars to science geniuses.*

**19. V for Vendetta by Alan Moore**

Following a world war, London has become a police state run by a fascist government. V, disguised in a Guy Fawkes mask, works to fight the oppressors. Themes includes freedom, anarchy and politics.

**20. The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins**

Set in a dystopian future North America, children are forced to fight to the death in a twisted televised show. Themes include politics, survival, sacrifice and the concept of free will.

**21. Dune by Frank Herbert**

An epic science fiction story, set 20,000 years into the future. It follows Paul Atreides, a gifted young man with a destiny beyond his understanding, as he defends his people and tries to obtain control over vital resources.

**22. Born a Crime by Trevor Noah**

A heartfelt autobiographical comedy book, focussing on Noah's childhood in South Africa during apartheid. Deals with themes of race, culture, personal values and identity.

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

An enthralling sci-fi novel that grips the reader throughout. It follows Todd, the last boy in town on the brink of manhood as he embarks on an adventure to escape people chasing him. A story of identity, friendship, ethics and prejudice.

**24. The History Boys by Alan Bennett**

A coming of age play that follows a group of history students trying to earn a place at Oxbridge during the 1980's. The play covers many themes of truth, sexuality, hope, class issues, gender and questions the purpose of education.

**25. The Perks of being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky**

Following Charlie, an introverted teen, as he makes his way through school, falls in love and faces his traumatic past. Coming of age story where the main character discovers who he is and how he fits into the world.

**26. To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee**

Following Atticus Finch as he attempts to prove the innocence of a black man accused of a heinous crime in 1930's Alabama. An important read for vividly demonstrating the effects of discrimination in a simple but startling manner. Teaching courage to stand up against your own people.

**27. Brave New World by Aldous Huxley**

A dystopian novel, set in a futuristic society that revolves around science and efficiency. Emotions and individuality are conditioned out of people at a young age. A warning that advanced technology may cause humans to lose their humanity.

**28. The Secret History by Donna Tartt**

Thrilling novel following a group of college students who commit a murder and try to cover it up but are haunted by their crime. Deals with themes of social class, manipulation, guilt and isolation.

**29. Orangeboy by Patrice Lawrence**

A fast paced thriller about gang culture and the consequences of bad decisions. An original and fresh perspective on the struggles facing London's teenagers.

**30. Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi**

An epic fantasy adventure novel which draws inspiration from Harry Potter and Yoruba myths, following a pair of friends trying to return magic to their land.