

RECOMMENDED READING FOR YEAR 9

This list provides some suggestions for Year 9 and above.

DYSTOPIAN WORLDS

Matched and Crossed by Ally Condie – A series in which teenagers are forced to marry their ‘perfect match’ in a society where their lives are controlled by ‘The Elders’

The DECLARATION Trilogy by Gemma Malley – Drugs allow people to live for hundreds of years and having children is banned. A dark sci-fi fable.

The GONE Series by Michael Grant – Everyone over the age of 15 disappears suddenly and the children who are left behind have to fight to survive in an increasingly dangerous landscape.

The CHAOS WALKING Trilogy by Patrick Ness – A superb, award-winning series of books which begins in a town populated only by men who can read each other’s thoughts. But where are the women?

The Uglies Series by Scott Westerfeld – Takes plastic surgery to its extreme, those who reject the process are known as “Uglies”

Delirium by Lauren Oliver - In an alternate United States, love has been declared a dangerous disease, and the government forces everyone who reaches eighteen to have a procedure called the Cure.

MATTERS OF LIFE AND DEATH

(For those who wish to read about the edgier side of teenage life)

Boys Don’t Cry by Malorie Blackman – Dante discovers that he is a father – on the very day that he gets his A-Level results – and the mother leaves him (literally) holding the baby.

Looking for JJ by Anne Cassidy – JJ is trying to start a new life after the violent tragedy that happened six years ago. Will her past catch up with her?

Before I Die by Jenny Downham – An engrossing look at teenage terminal illness. This is an ultimately uplifting book that is a celebration of life, not death.

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas - Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, this is a powerful and gripping YA novel about one girl's struggle for justice.

Love, Aubrey by Suzanne LaFleur – Heartbreaking story of a girl who survives a car accident which kills her father and sister, but is then abandoned by her mother.

The Sky is Everywhere by Jandy Nelson – Lennie desperately tries to recover from the death of her sister.

Before I Fall by Lauren Oliver – Sam is killed in a car crash on Friday. The next day she wakes up, only to relive the same day over and over again

CONTEMPORARY AND CLASSIC ROMANCES

Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier – atmospheric novel which tells the story of a nameless heroine who marries a wealthy handsome man, only to find that she can't escape the memory of his dead wife.

A Room with a View by E M Forster – Lucy Honeychurch goes to Italy accompanied by her older cousin. While there she finds romance in a field of cornflowers

The Secret Countess by Eva Ibbotson - Anna, a young countess, has lived in the glittering city of St Petersburg all her life in an ice-blue palace overlooking the River Neva. But when revolution tears Russia apart, her now-penniless family is forced to flee to England.

A Bad Boy Can be Good for a Girl by Tanya L Stone – This is a funny story about three girls who all fall for the same 'bad' boy. Very enjoyable and told in verse.

You Should See Me in a Crown by Leah Johnson - Liz can't wait to head to college, but when her funding falls through, she turns to the annual prom king and queen competition, which comes with a scholarship. Only it turns out that she's running for prom queen against her new crush!

Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen – In a time when a good marriage decides a girl's future, Mrs. Bennet is doing all she can to find her five daughters the perfect match.

Pride by Ibi Zoboi - A Pride and Prejudice remix, a teenage girl lives in Bushwick, New York with her four sisters and parents. She knows and loves her neighborhood, until the Darcy family moves into the house across the street.

The Fault in Our Stars by John Green - Hugely popular and poignant love story concerning two teens who are both living with Cancer.

To All the Boys I've Loved Before by Jenny Han - Han was inspired to write the book based on her own habit of writing long letters to boys she had crushes on as a teenager

Simon Vs the Homosapiens Agenda by Becky Albertalli - coming-of-age story focuses on its titular protagonist Simon Spier, a gay high-school aged boy who is forced to come out after a blackmailer discovers Simon's e-mails written to another classmate with whom he has fallen in love.

Heartstopper (Graphic Novel Series) by Alice Oseman - Boy meets boy. Boys become friends. Boys fall in love. An LGBTQ+ graphic novel about life, love, and everything that happens in between.

THRILLERS, MYSTERIES AND DETECTIVE FICTION

Roxy's Baby by Catherine MacPhail – When Roxy finds herself pregnant, she runs away from home and finds sanctuary in a hostel. But things are not what they seem.....

We Were Liars by E.Lockhart - We Were Liars is a modern, sophisticated suspense novel from New York Times bestselling author E. Lockhart. It's a mystery set on an island, revealing too much more would spoil the story!

One of Us is Lying by Karen McManus - On Monday afternoon, five students at Bayview High walk into detention, one of them doesn't make it out of the classroom alive. Suspenseful and a little like 'The Breakfast Club'

Shelter by Harlan Coban - The first of the 'Mickey Bolitar' Novels, this is a mystery for teens written by a well-known author of thrillers for adults.

I'd Tell You I Love You But The I'd Have to Kill You by Ally Carter (Gallagher Girls series) - The Gallagher Academy for Exceptional Young Women is a school for the training of exceptional girls on how to be spies.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time -by Mark Haddon - A Classic. It tells the story of Christopher Boone, a 15-year-old boy who, after the vicious killing of his neighbour's dog, embarks on an investigation à la his hero Sherlock Holmes.

She is Not Invisible by Marcus Sedgwick - written from the point of view of a blind sixteen-year-old girl called Laureth who flies with her seven-year-old brother, Benjamin, to New York City to search for their missing dad.

A Good Girl's Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson - A compelling murder mystery featuring a likeable teenage sleuth out to crack a cold case as part of her homework assignment.

HISTORY AND CONFLICT

Chocolate Cake with Hitler by Emma Craigie – Very moving account of the short life of Helga Goebbels (Joseph Goebbels daughter), and her last days spent in Hitler's bunker

Prisoner of the Inquisition by Teresa Breslin – Absolutely fantastic story set during the Spanish Inquisition, about two people from different backgrounds who fate throws together

Revolution by Jennifer Donnelly – A gripping and gritty read about an American girl trapped in the midst of the French Revolution

The Red Necklace and **Silver Blade** by Sally Gardner – Spectacular, romantic novels set during the French Revolution

The Bride's Farewell by Meg Rosoff – Wonderful tale of a teenage girl who runs away from her home and future on the day she is due to be married.

Buffalo Soldier by Tanya Landman - a powerful and unflinching look at a dark and turbulent time in U.S. history (American Civil war).

Lies We Tell Ourselves by Robin Talley - In 1959 Virginia, the lives of two girls on opposite sides of the battle for civil rights will be changed forever.

FANTASY

The Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi - An exceptional fantastical read that weaves dark magic, powerful female protagonists and West African folklore into a richly rewarding novel.

Northern Lights by Philip Pullman - First installment of the trilogy 'His Dark Materials'. Lyra Belacqua and her animal daemon live half-wild and carefree among scholars of Jordan College, Oxford. The destiny that awaits her will take her to the frozen lands of the Arctic, where witch-clans reign and ice-bears fight.

The Rest of Us Just Live Here by Patrick Ness - The Rest of Us Just Live Here centres around a group of teenage friends who are just trying to survive high school, while on the periphery, supernatural forces battle with the Chosen Ones, aka the indie kids.

The Gilded Ones by Namina Forna - In this West African-inspired world, girls are outcasts by blood and warriors by choice. Perfect for fans of Children of Blood and Bone and Black Panther.

Carry On by Rainbow Rowell - a fantasy novel which transports young adult readers to the world of magic. told through several narrative voices, including that of Simon, his roommate/enemy Baz, his best friend Penelope, and his ex-girlfriend Agatha. The novel is a spinoff from Rowell's novel Fangirl.

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams - a laugh-out-loud classic. Arthur Dent is trying to prevent his house from being bulldozed when his friend Ford Prefect whisks him into outer space.

The Earthsea Quartet by Ursula Le Guin - a wise and stunning saga of a world where wizards and dragons mutually coexist (and a very big influence on JK Rowling's Harry Potter books).

Cinderella Is Dead by Kalynn Bayron - Girls team up to overthrow the kingdom in this unique and powerful retelling of Cinderella

UNDER THE RADAR! (A selection of great books you may never have heard of)

Radio Silence by Alice Oseman - a fast-paced story about the pressures and standards we put on ourselves facing academic pressure, and figuring out your own path.

Brown Girl Dreaming by Jacqueline Woodson - Based on the author's own life, Brown Girl Dreaming is a heartfelt poetry collection detailing what it was like to grow up as an African American in the 1960s and '70s: post-Jim Crow, and during the burgeoning Civil Rights movement.

The Westing Game by Ellen Raskin - A bizarre chain of events begins at the reading of Samuel W. Westing's will, who has gathered 16 potential heirs to his \$200 million estate to compete in a mysterious game to discover who among them murdered him.

Unwind by Neal Shusterman – Set in a future similar to our own, this dark tale is set in a world where teens can be 'unwound', in order to provide body parts for other people.

The Fountains of Silence by Ruta Sepetys - Spain under Francisco Franco is as dystopian a setting as Margaret Atwood's Gilead in Ruta Sepetys's suspenseful, romantic and timely work of historical fiction. — *The New York Times Book Review*