



# READ THESE BOOKS!

## Year 11 Suggestions

**The Illuminations** Andrew O'Hagan. Standing one evening at the window of her house, Anne Quirk sees a rabbit disappearing in the snow. Nobody remembers her now, but this elderly woman was once a British documentary photographer. Her grandson, Luke, now a captain with the Royal Western Fusiliers, is on a tour of duty in Afghanistan, part of a convoy taking equipment to the electricity plant at Kajaki. Only when Luke returns home to Scotland does Anne's secret story begin to emerge, along with his.

**Wuthering Heights** Emily Bronte. When forced to seek shelter at Wuthering Heights, Lockwood discovers the story of the passion between Heathcliff and Catherine Earnshaw.

**Birdsong** Sebastian Faulks. A powerful story of life in France during the First War World and in its aftermath.

**The Ghosts of Heaven** Marcus Sedgwick. This novel is written in four cleverly interlinked parts and can be read in 24 different ways. Spanning thousands of years, *The Ghosts of Heaven* can tell us a secret as old as time, about survival, discovery, and the effect of the spiral - a symbol that has no end - on all our lives.

**The Lies We Tell Ourselves** Robin Talley. It's 1959. The battle for civil rights is raging. And it's Sarah's first day at school as one of the first black students at previously all-white Jefferson High. No one wants Sarah there. Not the Governor. Not the teachers. And certainly not the students - especially Linda, daughter of the town's most ardent segregationist.

**Brighton Rock** Graham Greene. The seedy underworld of 1930's Brighton.

**Far from the Madding Crowd** Thomas Hardy. Passion in nineteenth century rural Wessex.

**The Lie** Helen Dunmore. Set during and just after the First World War, this is an enthralling, heart-wrenching novel of love, memory and devastating loss.

**Catch 22** Joseph Heller. An often surreal comic exploration of the Second World War. A classic.

**The Book Thief** Marcus Zusak. Liesel is living with a foster family on Himmel Street. Her parents have been taken away to a concentration camp. This book is a story of: a girl; an accordionist; some fanatical Germans; a Jewish fist fighter; and quite a lot of thievery.

**Atonement** Ian McEwan. A hot summer day, 1935, 13-year-old Briony Tallis sees her sister, Cecilia, strip off her clothes and plunge into the fountain in the garden of their house. Watching her is Robbie, her childhood friend. By the end of that day the lives of all three will have been changed for ever.

**One Day In the Life of Ivan Denisovich** Aleksandr Solzhenitsyn. One of the most significant works ever to emerge from Soviet Russia, this novel is both a graphic picture of World War II work camp life and a testimony to the human spirit.

**The Taxidermist's Daughter** Kate Mosse. Set in a Sussex village where a grisly murder has taken place, *The Taxidermist's Daughter* is part ghost story, part psychological thriller and will send shivers down your spine

**Reader I Married Him** edited by Tracy Chevalier. A collection of short stories from great writers celebrating Charlotte Brontë and stemming from the now immortal words from her great work *Jane Eyre*.



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**The Godfather** Mario Puzo. The first novel to expose the workings of the Mafia.

**The Wide Sargasso Sea** Jean Rhys. If you have read **Jane Eyre** you will enjoy this novel which depicts the story of one of the characters not given a voice by Bronte.

**Frankenstein** Mary Shelley. The original story of the monster created out of body parts snatched from graves!

**The Grapes of Wrath** John Steinbeck. Migrant workers in Depression hit California.

**The God Of Small Things** Arundhati Roy. The story of young twins Rahel and Estha and the rest of their family, but the book feels like a million stories spinning out indefinitely; it is the product of a genius child-mind that takes everything in and transforms it in an alchemy of poetry. It is written in an English that's completely new and invigorated by the Asian Indian influences of culture and language.

**The Plot Against America** Philip Roth. Recounting the menacing years of the Lindbergh Presidency in the US when American Citizens who were Jews had every reason to expect the worst.

**Jamaica Inn** Daphne Du Maurier. On a bitter November evening, young Mary Yellan journeys across the rainswept moors to Jamaica Inn in honour of her mother's dying request. When she arrives, the warning of the coachman begins to echo in her memory, for her aunt Patience cowers before hulking Uncle Joss Merlyn. Terrified of the inn's brooding power, Mary gradually finds herself ensnared in the dark schemes being enacted behind its crumbling walls.

**A Thousand Splendid Suns** Khaled Hosseini. Mariam is only 15 when she is sent to Kabul to marry the troubled Rasheed. Nearly 2 decades later,

in a climate of growing unrest, tragedy strikes 15-year-old Laila, who must leave her home and join Mariam's unhappy household. This book presents the story of an unforgiving time, an unlikely bond and an indestructible love.

**Middlemarch** George Eliot. Middlemarch is a complex tale of idealism, disillusion, profligacy, loyalty and frustrated love. This penetrating analysis of the life of an English provincial town during the time of social unrest prior to the Reform Bill of 1832 is told through the lives of Dorothea Brooke and Dr Tertius Lydgate and includes a host of other paradigm characters who illuminate the condition of English life in the mid-nineteenth century.

**White Teeth** Zadie Smith. The setting moves from Jamaica, Turkey, Bangladesh and India, to North London, the home of unlikely friends, Archie Jones and Samad Iqbal.

**Love in the Time of Cholera** Gabriel Garcia Marquez. Magical realism in South America.

**1984** George Orwell. Orwell's vision of a future where England has become Airstrip One and every aspect of life is controlled by the government.

**The Road** Cormac McCarthy. Set in a post-apocalyptic future this is the extraordinary tale of a man and his son as they fight for survival.

**The Haunting of Hill House** Shirley Jackson. A chilling story of the power of fear. Four seekers have arrived at the rambling old pile known as Hill House: Dr. Montague, an occult scholar looking for solid evidence of psychic phenomena; Theodora, his assistant; Luke, the future inheritor of the estate; and Eleanor, a friendless, fragile young woman with a dark past. As they begin to cope with horrifying occurrences beyond their control or understanding, they cannot possibly know what lies ahead.