



LAWRENCE SHERIFF SCHOOL LIBRARY

READING LIST YEARS 9, 10 & 11

WHY DO I NEED TO READ?

The only way to improve your vocabulary and comprehension is to practise reading regularly. It may be difficult at first, but the more you practise and the more effort you put in, the better you will get and the easier, and the more fun reading will become. Repeating any activity strengthens the parts of the brain associated with that activity and helps us to improve our performance. Reading well is important for understanding the questions in examination papers as well as any source texts which need to be analysed and commented upon, and better reading is also the key to better writing.

WHAT SHOULD I READ?

In order to keep making progress, it is important to choose books that will continue to stretch and challenge you. Try to move on from the books you enjoyed at Primary School so that you continue to develop your vocabulary and comprehension skills. Try to read at least ten of the books on the list over the next two years, as well as plenty of others. Twenty books a year is a good target to aim for: anything much less than ten may damage your chances of a good pass at GCSE English. The web-site www.lovereadings4kids.co.uk is a good place to look for recommendations and reviews of books for children, and if you enjoy reading, you can even sign up to be sent free copies of books to review for the site.

WHEN SHOULD I READ?

You should get opportunities to read a book of your choice in form time at least once a week, and in some English lessons too. You should also aim to read at home four or five times a week. In bed last thing at night before you go to sleep is often a good time to read instead of playing games! You can also sit and read at break and lunchtime in the school library. However, bear in mind these are the busiest periods of the library school day, so after school is usually the best time to find a quiet period in which to lose yourself in a book.

HOW SHOULD I READ?

You might find it helpful to read with someone who could help you with the pronunciation or meaning of new, difficult or unfamiliar words. This could be an adult, an elder sibling, a friend or neighbour. As well as participating in established school reading groups (e.g., Y7 Reading Group, Carnegie Reading Group), it might be fun to form a reading group with some of your friends, so that you are all reading the same book at the same time. Then you could talk about what you are reading, to help make sense of it or to share the way you feel about it.

WHERE CAN I GET HOLD OF THESE BOOKS?

Many of the books on the list can be borrowed from the school library, which is open to students from 8.30am until 4.30pm, including break and lunchtime. There are also good public libraries locally: Rugby Library in the centre of town is well worth a visit. If you prefer to buy your own books, Waterstones has branches in Coventry and Birmingham, with many other independent stores located throughout the county. Take your time to browse, or ask for a recommendation: booksellers are usually keen readers and will jump at the chance to talk about their favourite books. Books can also easily be ordered online through Amazon.co.uk, which can sometimes be cheaper than high street book stores.

CORE READING LIST

THE HUNGER GAMES Suzanne Collins

THE AMBER FURY Natalie Haynes

DIVERGENT Veronica Roth

V FOR VENDETTA Alan Moore

ANIMAL FARM George Orwell

DEMON ROAD Derek Landy

YOUNG BOND SERIES Charlie Higson

NEVERWHERE Neil Gaiman

THE WEE FREE MEN Terry Pratchett

HITCH-HIKER'S GUIDE TO THE GALAXY Douglas Adams

LORD OF THE RINGS JRR Tolkien

NOUGHTS AND CROSSES Malorie Blackman

PHOENIX SF Said

LORD OF THE FLIES William Golding

GEEK GIRL Holly Smale

KNIFE OF NEVER LETTING GO Patrick Ness

MISS PEREGRINE'S SCHOOL FOR PECULIAR CHILDREN
Ransom Riggs

NATION Terry Pratchett

THE ARTHUR TRILOGY Kevin Crossley-Holland

THE CATALOGUE OF THE UNIVERSE Margaret Mahy

TANGLEWRECK Jeanette Winterson

THE MAZE RUNNER TRILOGY James Dashner

A MONSTER CALLS Patrick Ness

EVA Peter Dickinson

THE DARK IS RISING SERIES Susan Cooper

THE STERKARM HANDSHAKE Susan Price

HOW I LIVE NOW Meg Rosoff

MURDER ON THE ORIENT EXPRESS Agatha Christie

YOUNG SHERLOCK HOLMES SERIES Andrew Lane

UN LUN DUN China Mieville

Targeting grades 4, 5 & 6:

THE LONDON EYE MYSTERY Siobhan O'Dowd

BEHIND THE ICE HOUSE Anne Fine

CASINO ROYALE etc. Ian Fleming

THE DAY OF THE JACKAL Frederick Forsyth

OF MICE AND MEN John Steinbeck

THE WOMAN IN BLACK Susan Hill

THE LOVELY BONES Alice Sebold

SLAUGHTERHOUSE FIVE Kurt Vonnegut

AGAINST A DARK BACKGROUND Iain M. Banks

GONE GIRL Gillian Flynn

THE GIRL ON THE TRAIN Paula Hawkins

THE CATCHER IN THE RYE JD Salinger

WHITE MERC WITH FINS James Hawes

THE BEACH Alex Garland

CAPTAIN CORELLI'S MANDOLIN Louis de Bernieres

CARRIE Stephen King

A CHRISTMAS CAROL Charles Dickens

THE BOOK THIEF, Marcus Zusak

Targeting grades 7, 8 & 9:

THE DIARY OF ANNE FRANK, Anne Frank

SOPHIE'S WORLD Jostein Gaarder

TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD Harper Lee

WHITE TEETH Zadie Smith

NINETEEN EIGHTY-FOUR George Orwell

BRAVE NEW WORLD Aldous Huxley

WUTHERING HEIGHTS Emily Bronte

JANE EYRE Charlotte Bronte

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE Jane Austen

TESS OF THE D'URBERVILLES Thomas Hardy

A PICTURE OF DORIAN GREY Oscar Wilde

THE WASP FACTORY Iain Banks

THE ROAD Cormac Mc Carthy

THE HANDMAID'S TALE Margaret Atwood

HEART OF DARKNESS Joseph Conrad

GREAT EXPECTATIONS Charles Dickens

ORANGES ARE NOT THE ONLY FRUIT Jeanette Winterson

MONEY Martin Amis

MIDNIGHT'S CHILDREN Salman Rushdie

BRIGHTON ROCK Graham Greene

THE LIFE OF PI Yann Martel

HAPPY READING!

Miss Torrens (Librarian)