

Recommended Reads for Key Stage 4

Reserve and Read - all books available from the Charter Library Website

Action, Mysteries, Horror & Thrillers

Bodyguard series; *Bulletcatcher* by Chris Bradford*

The Bunker Diary - Kevin Brooks

And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie+

Say Her Name by Juno Dawson

Mortal Chaos or *Lie, Kill, Walk Away* -M Dickinson

The Enemy (& sequels) by Charlie Higson*

House of Silk, Moriarty by Anthony Horowitz+

A Good Girl's Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson

Carrie /The Shining Stephen King+

We Were Liars by E Lockhart

Girl, Missing; Here We Lie; Blood Ties by S McKenzie

The Recruit (Cherub) (& sequels) by R Muchamore*

One of us is Lying, Two Can Keep a Secret by Karen McManus

Looking for JJ – Anne Cassidy

Web of Darkness – by Bali Rai

Patron Saints of Nothing – by Randy Ribay

Hate List – by Jennifer Brown

On Midnight Beach – Marie-Louise Fitzpatrick

Last One to Die – Cynthia Murphy

They Wish They Were Us – Jessica Goodman

Hold Back The Tide – Melinda Salisbury

Autobiographies/Memoirs/Biographies

I Know Why a Caged Bird Sings by M. Angelou+

A Street Cat Named Bob by James Bowen*+

Hope in a Ballet Shoe: Michaela & Elaine DePrince

Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

Mud, Sweat and Tears by Bear Grylls*+

Fever Pitch by Nick Hornby+

War Dog (WWII) by Damien Lewis+

Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah+

Dreams From My Father by Barack Obama+

Becoming by Michelle Obama+

Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi (graphic novel)*+

Touching the Void by Joe Simpson*+

Educated by Tara Westover+

I am Malala by Malala Yousafza

Audacity of Hope – by Barack Obama

Lean In, Women, Work and the Will to Lead – by Sheryl Sandberg

Classics (off the beaten path) & Modern Literature

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe+

Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Adichie+

The Testaments; The Handmaid's Tale – Atwood+

Penelopiad – by Margaret Atwood

Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury+

All The Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr+

Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison+

Birdsong by Sebastian Faulks+

Woman in Black by Susan Hill+

The Kite Runner by Khalid Hosseini+

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+

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+

Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit – J Winterson+

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

Simon vs the Homo Sapiens Agenda – B Albertalli*

Booked; Rebound; Crossover-Kwame Alexander*^

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

Junk by Melvin Burgess

Looking for JJ and others by Anne Cassidy

The Perks of Being a Wallflower by S. Chbosky

Toffee; One; Moonrise by S Crossan*^

The Burning by Laura Bates

Solace of the Road by Siobhan Dowd
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
After the Fire by Will Hill
Looking at the Stars by Lewis Hine
The Outsiders by SE Hinton*
That Asian Kid by S Kalhan
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*
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 – by Jennifer Niven
Requiem by Lauren Oliver
Heartstopper (graphic novel); ***Solitaire*** by Alice Oseman*
My Sister's Keeper; Small Great Things -J Picoult+
Patron Saints of Nothing by Randy Ribay
Rani & Sukh; (Un)arranged Marriage; Killing Stay a Little Longer* - Bali Rai
Gloves Off by L Reid*
Long Way Down by J Reynolds*
The Boxer or ***Run, Riot*** Nikesh Shukla
The Million Pieces of Neena Gill by E Smith-Barton
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*
Liclle Bit (& sequels) or ***Uprising*** by Alex Wheatle*
Everything Everything by Nicola Yoon
Terror Kid by B Zephaniah*
A Very Large Expanse of Sea – Tahereh Mafi
And the Stars Were Burning Brightly – Daniell Jawando
The Only Black Girls in Town – Brandy Colbert
Run Rebel ^– Manjeet Mann
All American Boys – Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely

Dystopian, Science Fiction or Magic Realism

Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi
I Am Not A Number by Lisa Heathfield
The Power by Naomi Alderman+
Grisha: Shadow and Bone 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
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
Gone; Front Line (& sequels) by Michael Grant*
Department 19 (& sequels) by Will Hill
I Am Number Four (& sequels) by Pittacus Lore
The Dog Runner -B MacDibble
Killer T by Robert Muchamore
The Knife of Never Letting Go series; ***Burn***-P Ness
Z For Zachariah by Robert O'Brien
Replica or ***Delirium*** (& sequels) by Lauren Oliver
Only Ever Yours by Louise O'Neill
Divergent (& sequels) by Veronica Roth
Plague Land by Alex Scarrow
Oh My Gods by Alexandra Sheppard
Uglies – by Scott Westerfield (graphic novel)
Scythe, Unwind or ***Dry*** (& sequels) -N Shusterman
Concentr8 by William Sutcliffe
Contagion or ***Slated*** (& sequels) by Teri Terry
The Martian by Andy Weir+
The 5th Wave (& sequels) by Rick Yancey
The Dark Forest (& sequels) by Cixin Lui
The Extinction Trials (and sequels) by S.M. Wilson
A Blade So Black – L L McKinney
They Both Die at The End – Adam Silvera

Humorous books

The Princess Diaries by Meg Cabot*
A Man Called Ove by Fredrik Backman+
The Private Blog of Joe Cowley by Ben Davis*
Good Omens by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman+
The Rosie Project (& sequel) by Graeme Simsion+
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
Falling Fast (& sequels) by Sophie McKenzie

Unboxed by Nan Pratt*

Eleanor and Park & Fangirl by Rainbow Rowell

Shiver or The Raven Boys(&sequels) - M. Stiefvater

Paper Avalanche; The Art of Being Normal by L
Williamson

Everything, Everything/Sun is Also a Star-Nicola
Yoon

Heartstopper Vol.1,2,3 by Alice Oseman

Excuse Me While I Ugly Cry – Joya Goffney

Pretty Funny – Rebecca Elliott

Rat*– Patrice Lawrence

The Beauty of the Moment – Tanaz Bhathena

War, History, Conflict, Genocide & Refugees

Illegal by Eoin Colfer (graphic novel)*

The Bone Sparrow by Zana Fraillion

Bone Talk by Candy Gourlay

Orphan, Monster, Spy/ Devil Darling Spy by Matt
Killeen

The Librarian of Auschwitz by Antonio Iturbe+

The Beekeeper of Aleppo by Christy Lefteri+

Things a Bright Girl Can Do; Silent Stars by S
Nicholls

Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys

Maus by Art Spiegelman (graphic novel)*+

Code Named Verity & Enigma Game – E Wein

Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah

The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak

The Fountain of Silence – Ruth Sepetys

* = *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*