

Key Stage Three Reading List

The reading lists here are designed to extend and enhance students' enjoyment of reading in general and English lessons in particular. The texts listed below will pose some reasonable challenge and are often geared towards 'classics'. This is both to develop students' literacy, but also to broaden their cultural capital ahead of the demands of GCSE, A Level and even a degree! There is some overlap between the reading lists for each year group and whilst there are sections where texts are listed to explicitly connect to those studied in a particular year group, there is little harm in students picking between them. We will advertise where copies of texts are available in the School Library, though many of the texts are available online too.

Students in Years 7-9 will have the optional task in the Autumn Term of reading a text connected to their unit of study and then producing a short comparative analysis following the Winter Break. For example, a Year 7 student reading *Great Expectations*, might read *Oliver Twist* too and then write the comparison between them. English teachers will explain more about this task at the appropriate time.

All students in Key Stage 3 are encouraged to take part in the Magnificent Seven Reading Competition. Students are challenged to read seven books on the reading list and record them on a bookmark. Prizes are available for the third book (£10 Amazon voucher), fifth book (£15 Amazon voucher) and seventh book read (commemorative hardback special edition of a book of the student's choice).

Recommendations

No reading list is ever final! If you would like to recommend a book for a particular year group for a reading list, please complete this very short [form](#).

Year 7 Reading List and Summer Task

Task

Students who are joining us in Year 7 should read and write a review of any one of the books below. This reading list is divided into books for general consumption by Year 7 students and books that are aligned to the works Year 7 students will be studying next academic year. At Holland Park School, we aspire for students to be ambitious with their reading. Those books marked an * are designated as those that are more challenging.

The review should contain:

- Approximately 350 words
- An outline of the most important events of the story

- Your opinion of the book as a whole – did you enjoy it? In what ways did you enjoy it? Did you not enjoy it? Why not?
- Moments / ideas / characters in the book that influenced your opinion
- Anything else you thought interesting about the book
- Which book you might read next and why? (how has this book influenced your reading)

The review should be handed to your English teacher in Year 7 in the first lesson back. The best entries for each class will win a book voucher, the overall winners (judged by Mr Waterhouse and Mr Arnold) will win a beautiful edition of a new book.

Year 7 general reading list

1. *Grimms' Fairytales* Brothers Grimm
2. *The Saga of Darren Shan* Darren O'Shaughnessy
3. *Cannery Row* John Steinbeck*
4. *Jamaica Inn* Daphne Du Maurier *
5. *Artichoke Hearts* Sita Brahmachari
6. *Life of Pi* Yann Martel
7. *When the Sky Falls*, Phil Earle
8. *A Kind of Spark*, Ellen McNicoll
9. *Murder on the Orient Express* Agatha Christie*
10. *The Marvellers* Dhonielle Clayton
11. *The House Saphir* Marissa Meyer
12. *Thirst* Darren Simpson
13. *The Book of Dust Trilogy* Philip Pullman
14. *Lord of the Flies* William Golding*
15. *Cemetery of Forgotten Books Series* Carlos Ruiz Zafón

Books based on the Year 7 English Curriculum

- **Great Expectations (Autumn Term)**

Also by Charles Dickens:

1. *Oliver Twist**
2. *A Christmas Carol**
3. *Nicholas Nickleby**
4. *David Copperfield**
5. *The Signalman / To Be Read At Dusk* (and any other short ghost stories by Dickens)*

Thematic similarities with Great Expectations / (particularly bildungsroman):

1. The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald*
2. The Catcher in the Rye, J. D. Salinger*
3. The Secret Garden, Francis Hodgson Burnett*
4. The Wolves of Willoughby Chase, Joan Aiken
5. A Little Princess, Francis Hodgson Burnett*
6. To Kill A Mockingbird, Harper Lee*
7. The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Nighttime, Mark Haddon
8. Little Women, Louisa May Alcott*
9. Treasure Island, Robert Louis Stevenson*

• **Gothic (Autumn Term, creative writing):**

1. The Dark is Rising, Susan Cooper
2. Dracula, Bram Stoker*
3. The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, Robert Louis Stevenson*
4. The Willows, Algernon Blackwood*
5. The Lifted Veil, George Elliot*
6. The Hound of the Baskervilles, Arthur Conan Doyle*
7. The Woman in Black, Susan Hill*
8. Collected Ghost Stories, M. R. James*
9. The Portrait of Dorian Gray, Oscar Wilde*
10. Wuthering Heights, Emily Bronte*
11. Jane Eyre, Charlotte Bronte*
12. The Yellow Wallpaper, Charlotte Perkins Gilman*
13. The Haunting of Hill House, Shirley Jackson*

• **War poetry / non-fiction (Spring Term):**

1. Poems of Wilfred Owen
2. War Horse, Michael Morpurgo
3. The Iliad, Homer*
4. The Odyssey, Homer*
5. Journey's End, R. C Sherriff*
6. In Spite of All Terror, Hester Burton

• **A Midsummer Night's Dream (Summer Term):**

1. Shakespeare Stories, Leon Garfield
2. Twelfth Night, William Shakespeare*
3. Much Ado About Nothing, William Shakespeare*

4. Foolish Hearts, Emma Mills
5. The Shakespeare Stealer, Gary Blackwood
6. Fools and Mortals, Bernard Cornwell

Year 8

Year 8 general reading list

1. *Rime of the Ancient Mariner* Samuel Taylor Coleridge
2. *One Thousand One Nights*, various
3. *The Remains of the Day*, Kazuo Ishiguro
4. *Fahrenheit 451* Ray Bradbury
5. *The Big Sleep* Raymond Chandler
6. *East of Eden* John Steinbeck
7. *The Great Gatsby* F. Scott Fitzgerald
8. *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* Mark Twain
9. *Wuthering Heights* Emily Bronte
10. *Toast*, Nigel Slater
11. *Robinson Crusoe*, Daniel Defoe
12. *The Count of Monte Cristo* Alexandre Dumas
13. *The Odyssey* Homer
14. *The Right Stuff* Tom Wolfe
15. *To Kill A Mockingbird*, Harper Lee

Books based on the Year 8 English Curriculum

- **Rebecca, Daphne du Maurier (Autumn Term)**

1. *My Cousin Rachel*, Daphne du Maurier
2. *Jamaica Inn*, Daphne du Maurier
3. *The Birds and other stories*, Daphne du Maurier
4. *Wide Sargasso Sea*, Jean Rhys
5. *The Talented Mr Ripley*, Patricia Highsmith
6. *Mrs de Winter*, Susan Hill
7. *Rebecca's Tale*, Sally Beauman
8. *Jane Eyre*, Charlotte Bronte
9. *The Woman in White*, Wilkie Collins
10. *The Haunting of Hill House*, Shirley Jackson

- **Dystopias (creative writing, Autumn Term)**

1. *Fahrenheit 451*, Ray Bradbury

2. *The Hunger Games*, Suzanne Collins
3. *Divergent*, Veronica Roth
4. *The Giver*, Lois Lowry
5. *Never Let Me Go*, Kazuo Ishiguro
6. *Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* Philip K Dick
7. *1984*, George Orwell
8. *Brave New World*, Aldous Huxley

• **Social Justice (non-fiction / poetry, Spring Term)**

1. *No Logo*, Naomi Klein
2. *The Road to Wigan Pier*, George Orwell
3. *London Labour and the London Poor*, Henry Mayhew
4. *I am Malala*, Malala Yousafzai
5. *My Own Story*, Emmeline Pankhurst
6. *A Room of One's Own*, Virginia Woolf
7. *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*, Mary Woolstonecraft
8. *Orientalism*, Edward Said
9. *Unbowed*, Wangari Maathai
10. *Songs of Innocence and Experience*, William Blake
11. *And Still I Rise*, Maya Angelou
12. *The Help*, Kathryn Stockett
13. *Selected Poems*, Tony Harrison
14. *A Doll's House*, Henrik Ibsen

• **Richard III, William Shakespeare (Summer Term)**

1. *Othello*, William Shakespeare
2. *Titus Andronicus*, William Shakespeare
3. *The Talented Mr Ripley*, Patricia Highsmith
4. *Doctor Faustus*, Christopher Marlowe
5. *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd*, Agatha Christie
6. *Paradise Lost (Books I & II in particular)*, John Milton

Year 9 general reading list

1. *No Logo* Naomi Klein
2. *A Brief History of Time* Stephen Hawking
3. *Half of a Yellow Sun*, Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie,

4. *Awakenings* Oliver Sachs
5. *White Teeth*, Zadie Smith
6. *A Room of One's Own* Virginia Woolf
7. *Vanity Fair* William Thackeray
8. *Pride and Prejudice* Jane Austen
9. *Emma* Jane Austen
10. *Anna Karenina*, Leo Tolstoy
11. *The Three Musketeers*, Alexandre Dumas
12. *Orlando* Virginia Woolf
13. *The Metamorphosis* Franz Kafka
14. *The Wife of Bath's Tale* Geoffrey Chaucer
15. *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley

Books based on the Year 9 English Curriculum

- **Short Stories (Autumn Term, creative writing / narrative structures)**

1. *Where I'm Calling From*, Raymond Carver
2. *Collected Short Stories*, Anton Chekhov
3. *Dubliners*, James Joyce
4. *Partners in Crime*, Agatha Christie
5. *Dear Life*, Alice Munro
6. *The Garden Party and other stories*, Katherine Mansfield
7. *The Fall of the House of Usher and other stories*, Edgar Allan Poe
8. *Fairy Tales*, Angela Carter
9. *The Birds and Other Stories*, Daphne du Maurier
10. *Tales of the Unexpected* Roald Dahl

- **An Inspector Calls – J.B. Priestley (Autumn Term)**

1. *A View from the Bridge*, Arthur Miller
2. *The Crucible*, Arthur Miller
3. *The Importance of Being Earnest*, Oscar Wilde
4. *Arabian Nights* (RSC stage version)
5. *Girls Like That*, Evan Placey
6. *DNA*, Dennis Kelly
7. *Jerusalem*, Jez Butterworth
8. *A Streetcar Named Desire*, Tennessee Williams

- ***King Lear*, William Shakespeare (Spring Term)**

1. *Heart of Darkness* Joseph Conrad

2. *Julius Caesar* William Shakespeare
3. *Hamlet*, William Shakespeare
4. *Henry 4th Part I*, William Shakespeare
5. *The Iliad*, Homer
6. *Waiting for Godot*, Samuel Beckett
7. *The Oresteia*, Aeschylus
8. *The Bacchae*, Euripides
9. *Hecuba*, Euripides
10. *Medea*, Euripides
11. *Oedipus Rex*, Sophocles
12. *Oedipus at Colonnus*, Sophocles
13. *A Thousand Acres*, Jane Smiley
14. *Plays One*, Edward Bond
15. *Moby Dick*, Herman Melville

Poetry – relationships and identity (Spring Term)

1. *The Sonnets*, William Shakespeare
2. *Collected Poems*, Sir Thomas Wyatt
3. *The Whitsun Weddings*, Philip Larkin
4. *The World's Wife*, Carol Ann Duffy
5. *Collected Poems*, John Clare

Further Reading Resources

A reading list of more contemporary (and sometimes more accessible) titles for Years 7 and 8 can be found here:

[Further Reading List 2026.docx](#)

These resources are useful for parents looking to support their children's reading:

[Teacher Book Recommendations | The Reading List Project](#)

[What to read after your favourites | BookTrust](#)