

We expect you to read widely at St Edward's, but we understand it isn't always easy to know how to find books that you are likely to enjoy. Here are some suggestions from pupils of your own age. Some of these books are more 'literary' than others, but what they all have in common is that the pupils who have read them simply haven't wanted to put them down once they began. Go out and borrow or buy two or three of these and get reading this summer—we'll want to talk to you about your reading this holiday when you return!

**Bravo Two Zero** by Andy MacNab  
*St Edward's recent visitor's most famous novel about life in the SAS*

**Raider's Tide** by Maggie Price  
*Elizabethan romantic drama, involving witchcraft, heresy and family loyalties*

**Sugar Rush** by Julie Burchill  
*A novel about teenage love, with a twist... Not for the easily shocked!*

**Devil May Care** by Sebastian Faulks  
*A new James Bond novel by the author of Birdsong.*

**Junk** by Melvin Burgess  
*A story about the pitfalls and adventures of becoming involved in the world of drugs*

**Soft Target** by Conrad Jones  
*A journey to the inside of a terrorist cell, set in America and the UK*

**The Kite Runner** by Khaled Hosseini  
*Semi-autobiography set in Afghanistan under the Taliban*

**The 4.50 from Paddington** by Agatha Christie  
*A Miss Marple murder mystery by the queen of detective fiction*

**My Sister's Keeper** by Jodi Picoult  
*Difficult moral choices are explored in this novel about a girl born to help keep her sister alive*

**Angels and Demons** by Dan Brown  
*More page-turning action from the author of the da Vinci Code.*

**Franny and Zooey** by J.D. Salinger  
*Two wonderful stories about members of the Glass family by the author of The Catcher in the Rye.*

**The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time** by Mark Haddon  
*Events seen through the eyes of a teenage boy with Asperger's Syndrome*

**A Thousand Splendid Suns** by Khaled Hosseini  
*If you liked The Kite Runner you may also enjoy this book by the same author*

**Naughts and Crosses** (trilogy with **Knife Edge** and **Checkmate**) by Malorie Blackman  
*Really gripping story line and it makes you think in a very different way about racism*

**The Lovely Bones** by Alice Sebold  
*Moving and powerful but not too challenging. You might cry, though.*

**Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows** by J.K. Rowling  
*Very addictive and can be read in one sitting*

**The Smoke Jumper** by Nicholas Evans  
*Something exciting is always happening. Hard decisions.*

**Street Girls: Hope on the Streets of Brazil** by Matt Roper  
*Non-fiction account of project to help child prostitutes in Brazil*

**Suite Francaise** by Irène Némirovsky  
*Powerful stories of France on the eve of Nazi invasion. The author was taken to Auschwitz months after writing.*

**Birdsong** by Sebastian Faulks  
*WWI love story*

**Good Night Mr Tom** by Michelle Magorian  
*Moving book about a boy in WW2.*



**Back Home** by Michelle Magorian  
*Girl returns to England from USA after 5 year evacuation.*

**The Long Walk: The True Story of a Trek to Freedom** by Slavomir Rawicz  
*True story about Siberian labour camps, and escape.*

**Hoot** by Carl Hiaasen  
*Cleverly written story about school bullies and surprising outcomes*

**The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas** by John Boyne  
*Very moving account of life in Eastern Europe in the 1940s*

**How I Live Now** by Meg Rosoff  
*Highly acclaimed story of 15 year olds in 21<sup>st</sup> century war-torn England*

**Holes** by Louis Sachar  
*Set in teenage detention centre. Very intriguing*

**Slave** by Mende Nazer  
*Non-fiction memoir of modern slavery: harrowing*

**Kindertransport** by Olga Levy Drucker  
*Non-fiction account of a child's separation from her parents during war*

**The Things They Carried** by Tim O'Brien  
*A novel set in Vietnam during the war there in the 60s and 70s*



Turn over for more suggestions of classics (if you want to read something venerable) and the Guardian Children's fiction prize 2010 long list (if you want to be right up to date)...



**Prisoner of the Inquisition**, by Theresa Breslin (Doubleday, £12.99).

*Wealthy Zarita has enjoyed a cosseted existence as a magistrate's daughter; Saulo's life has been dogged by persecution, danger and poverty. An unlucky accident causes their paths to cross as the officers of the Inquisition arrive in their small town. Zarita struggles to survive the brutality and trickery of the Inquisitors while observing the courtly intrigue of Queen Isabella and King Ferdinand, while Saulo, sentenced to work as a galley slave, faces shipwreck and pirates before encountering Christopher Columbus.*

**Now**, by Morris Gleitzman (Puffin, £6.99).

*Set long after the second world war is over, Now concludes Gleitzman's exceptional story of Felix and Zelda, two children whose lives were blighted by the Holocaust. Felix is now an old man, and the only Zelda in his life is his granddaughter. Knowing the bravery of her namesake gives Zelda a lot to live up to.*

**Unhooking the Moon**, by Gregory Hughes (Quercus, £6.99).

*Propelled at great pace and embracing any number of dangers and disasters, this is a brave, zany and warm-hearted road story following two children's rollercoaster journey from Winnipeg to New York. When their father dies, "the Rat" refuses to contemplate being taken in as an orphan and sets off to find her uncle in New York. Wiser and older, Bob knows he must follow his sister, whose feisty, determined and fearless*

*behaviour leads to potential disasters from which she has an unusual, if not always honest, knack of extracting herself.*

**The Ogre of Oglefort**, by Eva Ibbotson (Macmillan, £9.99).

*When a hag, a troll, a wizard and a boy who lacks magic altogether are given the Summer Task at the annual Summer Meeting of Unusual Creatures, it is no great surprise that they shake and tremble and even think of running away. Facing up to the terrifying flesh-eating Ogre is quite an ordeal; trying to rescue the princess as well seems impossible. But nothing, in this deliciously entertaining and frothy novel, goes quite according to plan.*

**Sparks**, by Ally Kennen (Marion Lloyd Books, £6.99).

*When three children find a note their grandfather has left giving clear instructions about the kind of funeral he wants, they decide they have to do all they can to fulfil his wishes. Subverting the plans the adults are making, breaking all the rules they've always obeyed before and possibly the law too, Carla leads her siblings on a thrilling and original adventure with a very unusual purpose.*

**Lob**, by Linda Newbery, illustrated by Pam Smy (David Fickling, £10.99).

*Lucy loves visiting her grandparents in the country and especially loves spending time with her grandfather as he potters around his garden. It is Grandpa Will who introduces her to Lob, his mysterious helper. Grannie Annie scoffs at the idea of the hidden green man, but Lucy believes absolutely long before she finally catches her first glimpse of him.*

**Ghost Hunter**, by Michelle Paver (Orion, £10.99).

*Those who are new to the Chronicles of Ancient Darkness and those who are already fans will be equally delighted by this final instalment of Torak's adventures in a richly imagined prehistorical world of snowy mountains, ice-bound rivers and seemingly impenetrable forests. Torak sets out on his quest to set his world to rights with the support of his friend Renn and his loyal companion and pack-brother Wolf. In the end, though, he has to make the final journey alone. And when it is over, what then? What choice will Torak make? The warm-hearted, dramatically tense, many-layered sequence of novels is brought to a most satisfying conclusion.*

**White Crow**, by Marcus Sedgwick (Orion, £9.99).

*Newly arrived from the city, Rebecca hopes that the small village her father has found to be their home will be a place of safety. Adjusting is hard but, when Rebecca meets Ferelith, it looks possible. Ferelith is strange, unpredictable and ever changing, but Rebecca is drawn into the dangerous plan she has which leads to a shocking discovery from the past. The chill of horror is never far below the surface in this gripping, blood-soaked gothic novel which questions life, death and friendship.*



**The Classics (old and new)**—you can find easily find summaries of these novels online

**Pride and Prejudice**, Jane Austen

**Empire of the Sun**, J.G. Ballard

**Fahrenheit 451**, Ray Bradbury

**Wuthering Heights**, Emily Bronte

**The Moonstone**, Wilkie Collins

**A Christmas Carol**, Charles Dickens

**A Room with a View**, E. M. Forster

**Brighton Rock**, Graham Greene

**The Withered Arm and other tales**,

Thomas Hardy

**Pompeii**, Robert Harris

**Catch 22**, Joseph Heller

**The Sun Also Rises**, Ernest Hemingway

**Strange Meeting**, Susan Hill

**Atonement**, Ian McEwan

**Stupid White Men**, Michael Moore

**Master and Commander**, R.C.O'Brien

**Animal Farm**, George Orwell

**1984**, George Orwell

**The Bell Jar**, Sylvia Plath

**The Murders of the Rue Montague**,

Edgar Allen Poe

**The Catcher in the Rye**, J.D. Salinger

**Touching the Void**, Joe Simpson

**The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie**, Muriel

Spark

**Grapes of Wrath**, John Steinbeck

**The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll & Mr**

**Hyde**, Robert Louis Stevenson

**Treasure Island**, Robert Louis Stevenson

**The Secret History**, Donna Tartt

**A Handful of Dust**, Evelyn Waugh

**Brideshead Revisited**, Evelyn Waugh

**War of the Worlds**, H.G. Wells

**The Chrysalids**, John Wyndham

... and there are *many* more!

why  
bother?

*"I read because one life isn't enough, and in the page of a book I can be anybody;  
I read because the words that build the story become mine, to build my life;  
I read not for happy endings but for new beginnings; I'm just beginning myself, and I wouldn't mind a map;  
I read because I have friends who don't, and young though they are, they're beginning to run out of material;  
I read because every journey begins at the library, and it's time for me to start packing;  
I read because one of these days I'm going to get out of this town, and I'm going to go everywhere and meet  
everybody, and I want to be ready."*

Richard Peck

Or try these websites...

[www.booktrustchildrensbooks.org.uk](http://www.booktrustchildrensbooks.org.uk) [www.readingmatters.co.uk](http://www.readingmatters.co.uk) [www.lovereadng4kids.co.uk](http://www.lovereadng4kids.co.uk)