

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. 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 at least three of these and get reading this summer—we'll want to talk to you about your reading this holiday when you return!

**Don Quixote** Miguel De Cervantes

*The story of the gentle knight and his servant Sancho Panza.*

**Pilgrim's Progress** John Bunyan

*The one with the Slough of Despond and Vanity Fair.*

**Robinson Crusoe** Daniel Defoe

*The first English novel.*

**Gulliver's Travels** Jonathan Swift

*A wonderful satire that still works for all ages, despite the savagery of Swift's vision.*

**Tom Jones** Henry Fielding

*The adventures of a high-spirited orphan.*

**Clarissa** Samuel Richardson

*One of the longest novels in the English language, but unputdownable.*

**Tristram Shandy** Laurence Sterne

*One of the first bestsellers.*

**Dangerous Liaisons** Pierre

Choderlos De Laclou

*Foppish, French, and ferocious.*

**Emma** Jane Austen

*Emma never fails to fascinate and annoy.*

**Frankenstein** Mary Shelley

*Inspired by spending too much time with Shelley and Byron.*

**Nightmare Abbey** Love

Peacock

*A brilliant satire on the Romantic novel.*

**The Count of Monte Cristo**

Alexandre Dumas

*A revenge thriller also set in France after Bonaparte.*

**David Copperfield** Charles

Dickens

*This highly autobiographical novel is the one its author liked best.*

**Wuthering Heights** Emily

Bronte

*Catherine Earnshaw and Heathcliff have passed into the language.*

**Jane Eyre** Charlotte Bronte

*Obsessive and haunting emotional grip.*

**Vanity Fair** W.M. Thackeray

*The improving tale of Becky Sharp.*

**The Scarlet Letter** N. Hawthorne

*A classic investigation of America.*



**Madame Bovary** Gustave Flaubert

*More than just a story of adultery in provincial France.*

**The Woman in White** Wilk. Collins

*Gripping mystery novel of concealed identity, abduction, fraud and cruelty.*

**The Way We Live Now** Ant. Trollope

*A majestic assault on the corruption of late Victorian England.*

**Anna Karenina** Leo Tolstoy

*The supreme novel of the married woman's passion for a younger man.*

**The Brothers Karamazov**

Dostoevsky

*Mystical tragedy by the author of Crime and Punishment.*

**The Portrait of a Lady** Henry James

*The story of Isabel Archer shows James at his witty and polished best.*

**Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde** RL

Stevenson

*A suggestive study of human duality.*

**Three Men in a Boat** JK Jerome

*One of the funniest English books ever.*

**The Picture of Dorian Gray** Wilde

*A coded and epigrammatic melodrama inspired by his own tortured sexuality.*

**Jude the Obscure** Thomas Hardy

*Its savage bleakness makes it one of the first twentieth-century novels.*

**The Call of the Wild** Jack

London

*The story of a dog who joins a pack of wolves after his master's death.*

**Nostromo** Joseph Conrad

*Conrad's masterpiece: a tale of money, love and revolutionary politics.*

**In Search of Lost Time** Proust

*An unforgettable portrait of Paris in the belle epoque.*

**The Good Soldier** Ford Madox

Ford

*Unreliably narrated adulteries.*

**Ulysses** James Joyce

*Pursued by the British police, this is a novel more discussed than read.*

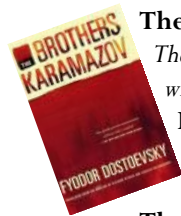
**Mrs Dalloway** Virginia Woolf

*One of the great twentieth-century novels.*

**The Great Gatsby** F. Scott

Fitzgerald

*The quintessential Jazz Age novel.*



**The Trial** Franz Kafka

*The enigmatic story of Joseph K.*

**As I Lay Dying** William Faulkner

*A strange black comedy.*

**Brave New World** Aldous Huxley

*Dystopian fantasy about the world of the seventh century AF (after Ford).*

**The Big Sleep** Raymond

Chandler

*Introducing Philip Marlowe: cool, sharp, handsome - and bitterly alone.*

**The Plague** Albert Camus

*A mysterious plague sweeps through the Algerian town*

*of Oran.*

**The Quiet American**

Graham Greene

*Prophetic novel set in 1950s Vietnam.*

**On the Road** Jack Kerouac

*The Beat Generation bible.*

**Lolita** Vladimir Nabokov

*Humbert Humbert's obsession with Lolita is a tour de force of style and narrative.*

**The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie**

Muriel Spark

*A writer whose prose is like cut glass.*

**One Hundred Years of Solitude**

Gabriel Garcia Marquez

*A postmodern masterpiece.*

**If on a Winter's Night a Traveller**

Italo Calvino

*A strange, compelling story about the pleasures of reading.*

**A Bend in the River** V. S. Naipaul

*The finest living writer of English prose.*

**The New York Trilogy** Auster

*Dazzling metaphysical thriller.*

**Money** Martin Amis

*Corruption, greed and wit.*

**The Book of Laughter and**

**Forgetting** Milan Kundera

*Inspired by the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968.*

**Atonement** Ian McEwan

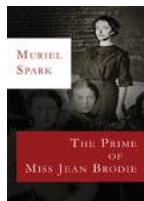
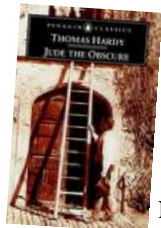
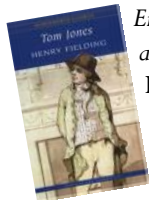
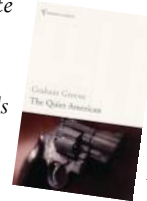
*A contemporary classic of mesmerising narrative conviction.*

**American Pastoral** Philip Roth

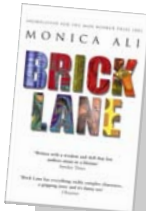
*Recently, Roth has enjoyed an extraordinary revival.*

**Austerlitz** W. G. Sebald

*A sequence of dream-like fictions spun from memory, photographs and the past.*



# CONTEMPORARY FICTION



*Brick Lane*, Monica Ali

*The Rachel Papers*, Martin Amis

*Oryx and Crake*, Margaret Atwood

*Oracle Night*, Paul Auster

*The Untouchable*, John Banville



*A Long Long Way*, Sebastian Barry

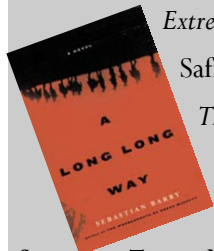
*Credo*, Melvin Bragg

*Disgrace*, J.M. Coetzee

*Quarantine*, Jim Crace

*The Island of the Day Before*, Umberto Eco

*Everything is Illuminated*, Jonathan Saffran Foer



*Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, Jonathan Saffran Foer

*The Good Doctor*, Damon Galgut

*The Line of Beauty*, Alan Hollinghurst

*Never Let Me Go*, Kazuo Ishiguro

*Scar Tissue*, Michael Ignatieff



*The History of Love*, Nicole Krauss

*The Impressionist*, Hari Kunzuru

*Small Island*, Andrea Levy

*A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian*, Marian Lewycka

*The Life of Pi*, Yann Martel

*Property*, Valerie Martin

*All the Pretty Horses*, Cormac McCarthy

*Saturday*, Ian McEwan

*Twelve Bar Blues*, Patrick Neate

*The Time Traveller's Wife*, Audrey Niffenegger

*My Name is Red*, Orhan Pamuk

*Vernon God Little*, DBC Pierre

*Close Range*, Annie Proulx

*The Book of Dave*, Will Self

*An Equal Music*, Vikram Seth

*The Secret History*, Donna Tartt

*Fingersmith*, Sarah Waters



**The Man Booker Prize** 2009  
shortlist

## A S Byatt *The Children's Book*

Byatt reminds us in chilling fashion of the perils of artistic creation, and the duties of its exponents to find out the difference between what is real and what is not. The heroine is a writer torn between domesticity and the demands of her craft. She has a rivalrous relationship with her sister (Byatt's feud with Margaret Drabble is well). The loss of her son haunts all that follows (Byatt's son died in an accident when he was a child). Byatt might be the most private of writers, but the troubles of her personal life seem to invigorate her prose.

## J M Coetzee *Summertime*

In his latest self-lacerating 'memoir', JM Coetzee portrays himself as a loser with no sexual presence. He has returned to his native South Africa, and is sharing a rundown shack with his elderly widowed father. The book consists of a series of interviews with people who knew him then. From these accounts emerges an unflattering composite of an awkward, buttoned-up, solitary person, a poor lover, eccentric, unkempt, unworldly enough to be scarcely able to care for himself, and most of all obsessed with the idea of writing as 'a gesture of refusal in the face of time.'

## Adam Foulds *The Quickening Maze*

A vividly sympathetic exploration of poetry, madness and identity. *The Quickening Maze* is based on real events and is set in and around the High Beach Asylum in 1840—a place of disorder and unpredictable dramas. Foulds' compelling tale centres on the life of the great nature poet John Clare. After years struggling with alcohol, critical neglect and depression, Clare finds himself in the Asylum. At the same time another poet, the young Alfred Tennyson, moves nearby.

## Hilary Mantel *Wolf Hall*

A dazzling recreation of the life of Thomas Cromwell, Henry VIII's marriage fixer. England in the 1520s is a heartbeat from disaster. If the king dies without a male heir, the country could be destroyed by civil war. The quest for the petulant king's freedom destroys his advisor, the brilliant Cardinal Wolsey, and leaves a power vacuum and a deadlock. Into this impasse steps Thomas Cromwell.

## Simon Mawer *The Glass Room*

High on a Czechoslovak hill, the Landauer House shines as a marvel of steel, glass and onyx. Built specially for newlyweds Viktor and Liesel Landauer, a Jew married to a gentile, it is one of the wonders of modernist architecture. But the radiant honesty and idealism of 1930 that the house seems to engender quickly tarnishes as the storm clouds of World War Two gather. Eventually, as Nazi troops enter the country, the family, accompanied by Viktor's lover Kata and her child Marika, must flee.

## Sarah Waters *The Little Stranger*

The Ayres family is left in a demoralised state after a shocking incident at a party. Roderick seems particularly badly affected, becoming anxious and secretive, and while Dr Faraday believes his behaviour to have its roots in nervous exhaustion, there are hints that there may be something odder at work. Betty, the maid, believes the house to be haunted; Caroline is uneasy, and Mrs Ayres is troubled with memories of her first child, Susan. Soon Roderick's behaviour tips over into something more alarming and the house begins almost to take on a life of its own, even Dr Faraday's scientific assurances are challenged.



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