

*This KS5 reading list comprises book recommendations from the English department and Library team. Books are largely also suitable for KS4, though come with the caveat that some of them deal with adult themes.*

### **Mr. Bergin**

#### ***1984* by George Orwell**

Everybody has to have read 1984. It should be compulsory.

#### ***The Great Gatsby* by F Scott Fitzgerald**

The most beautiful and optimistic book ever written. Fact.

### **Miss Berhe**

#### ***The Heart is a Lonely Hunter* by Carson McCullers**

A tale of love and how to make sense of our experiences as human beings.

#### ***Bruce Lee - Fighting Spirit* by Bruce Thomas**

My idol! A tale of racism, self-belief, self-reflection, real love, the importance of having optimistic view and a real commitment to oneself!

### **Miss Davies**

#### ***The Secret Barrister - Stories of the Law and how it's Broken* by The Secret Barrister**

It's a terrifying insight from an anonymous insider about the realities of our justice system: the impact of the budget cuts, the calculated risk our society makes of whether it is better to imprison an innocent person or let a guilty person run free, and how many of us turn a blind eye to the problems because we think 'it could never happen to me'.

#### ***The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak**

A novel set in Germany during the Second World War from the perspective of 'Death'. We follow the story of a young girl who, in being exposed to the horrors of the Nazi regime, is caught between the innocence of her childhood and the maturity demanded by her destructive surroundings.

## Miss Deakin

*Little Fires Everywhere* by Celeste Ng A beautiful story that uncovers racism in a time when people proclaim they do not see colour at all. It is her second novel and takes place in Shaker Heights, Ohio where Ng grew up. She described writing about her hometown as "a little bit like writing about a relative."

### *Everything I Never told You* by Celeste Ng

This book will captivate and uncover a story unexpected: 'the perfect family.'

## Miss Eagle

### *Fingersmith* by Sarah Waters

This historical crime novel set in the Victorian era is one of those books you just CANNOT put down. If you love good plotting, with plenty of twists and turns and gasp-out-loud moments, then I guarantee this is for you.

### *Chinglish* by Sue Cheung

One of my absolute favourite books this year, Chinglish is a funny, poignant tale about growing up Chinese in Coventry in the 1980's. Read it - it is full of hope and heart.

## Miss Gaden

### *The Steppenwolf* by Herman Hesse

A book about everything: joy of living, passion, desire and madness. A man's search for meaning.

### *Persepolis: The Story of a Childhood* by Marjane Satrapi

An autobiographical account of a girl growing up in the havoc of the wars in Iran and trying to find her identity between two cultures.

## Mr. Herklotts

### *Cannery Row* by John Steinbeck

A nostalgic tribute to Steinbeck's native California, Steinbeck cares about the misfit characters who inhabit Cannery Row and captures a piece of social history whilst retaining humour and kindness throughout the short novel.

### *The Trial* by Franz Kafka

Josef K is on trial but he doesn't know what for, things get stranger and stranger as he explores this bizarre world and gets lost in a maze of its bureaucracy.

### **Mrs Hood**

#### *Home Going* by Yaa Gyasi

An incredible debut novel set in the Gold Coast in the 18<sup>th</sup> Century which traces the very different paths of two half-sisters and their descendants right through to the present day.

#### *Middlemarch* by George Eliot

I read this in the summer after my A Levels and disappeared into it for days at a time – a book about people, relationships and life's hopes and disappointments.

### **Miss Kaur**

#### *Midnight's Children* by Salman Rushdie

This book led to an exploration of a brutal period in world (and family) history, which I knew very little about at school. However, by combining magical realism with historical fiction it held another part of my childhood close: those stories told by my grandmother of peacocks on the roof at sunset, casual sightings of cobras on the walk back from school, friendships across borders. A book which highlights the power of people and relationships against the backdrop of mass disempowerment and the bloodiest and largest migration in human history.

*Feel Free* by Zadie Smith.

Opinions shouldn't be static and fixed but they should always try to be hopeful.

### **Mr. Lester**

#### *Stasiland: Stories from Behind the Berlin Wall* by Anna Funder

Whenever I visit a new place or city I try to find an oral history book that will help broaden my understanding and enjoyment of where I am - this book is one of the best I've read and paints a fascinating picture of life in the GDR.

### *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* by Thomas Hardy

Admittedly not a book that I have read since, but as a reluctant A level literature student I outwardly turned my nose up at this with the rest of my class whilst secretly looking forward to every lesson in which we read it - the *Heart of Darkness* of my A level life but the provider of many valuable literary lessons.

### **Ms. McKeone**

#### *The Goldfinch* by Donna Tartt

A boy loses his mother and gains a priceless painting in this highly engaging story of friendship, betrayal, suspicion, double-dealing, shoot-outs and survival.

#### *Young Romantics: The Shelleys, Byron and other Tangled Lives* by Daisy Hay

Passion, politics, poetry, this book reads like a novel in its vivid depiction of the frenzied times of the romantic poets and their tangled, creative and personal lives.

### **Miss Murdock**

#### *The Good Immigrant* edited by Nikesh Shukla.

21 writers explore what it means to be black, Asian & minority ethnic in Britain today.

#### *1984* by George Orwell

A dystopian classic - It's almost impossible to talk about propaganda, surveillance, authoritarian politics, or perversions of truth without dropping a reference to 1984

### **Ms. Tracey**

#### *Underground- the Tokyo Gas Attack and the Japanese Psyche* by Haruki Murakami

Heart breaking but fascinating interviews with the victims and cult members responsible for events that day.

#### *Madame Bovary* by Gustave Flaubert

Remarkable tale about the dangers of narcissism, romance, ambition and self-indulgence; Flaubert outraged Paris at the time and faced an obscenity charge for this novel