

St Mary's Recommended Reads for Year 9-11

For year 9 students/parents/carers:

This list combines reading suggestions for year 9 with year 10 and 11. We want to encourage our year 9s to be aspirational in their reading choices. Generally, year 9 students are ready for this but parents know their children best; if you have queries about suitability, please check online reviews or ask Mrs Frino (librarian) or Miss Keane (Literacy Coordinator)! Books with more adult themes are only available from the school library to students in year 9 with parental permission.

Please also double check it's on AR if you are in year 9 and looking to quiz!

**** = 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 so please check with an adult before reading.

^ = verse novel

Action, Mysteries, Horror & Thrillers

***Famous Last Words* or *Bad Girls Don't Die*— Alender
S.T.A.G.S. (& sequels) by M.A. Bennett
Bodyguard series; ***Bulletcatcher*** by Chris Bradford*
The Bunker Diary; ***Martyn Pig***; ***iBoy*** - Kevin Brooks
Dead Time (& sequels); ***The Bone Room**** -A Cassidy
Say Her Name by Juno Dawson
Mortal Chaos* or *Lie, Kill, Walk Away -M Dickinson
A Gathering Light by Jennifer Donnelly
Zero Day by Jan Gangsei
The Enemy (& sequels) by Charlie Higson*
House of Silk, ***Moriarty***, ***Magpie Murders***-Horowitz+
A Good Girl's Guide to Murder by Holly Jackson
Sawbones* or *Blade & Bone by Catherine Johnson
The Long Weekend by Savita Kalhan*
We Were Liars by E Lockhart
Girl, Missing; ***Here We Lie***; ***Blood Ties*** by S McKenzie
#Murdertrending by Gretchen McNeil*
One of Us is Lying (& sequels) by Karen McManus**

I am Still Alive* or *Rules for Vanishing by K Marshall
Knife Edge; ***Blame*** by Simon Mayo
The Recruit (Cherub) (& sequels) by R Muchamore*
Foul Play (& sequels) or ***Ghost Stadium*** - T Palmer*
13 Minutes by Sarah Pinborough

Autobiographies/Memoirs/Biographies

I Know Why a Caged Bird Sings by M. Angelou+
A Street Cat Named Bob by James Bowen*+
Playing the Enemy by John Carlin+
In Cold Blood by Truman Capote+
Hope in a Ballet Shoe: Michaela & Elaine DePrince
Wave: Life After the Tsunami by S. Deraniyagala+
Fatal Throne: Henry VIII (multiple YA writers)
Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank
Marley & Me by John Grogan*+
Mud, Sweat and Tears by Bear Grylls*+
Fever Pitch by Nick Hornby+
War Dog (WWII) by Damien Lewis+
Today Everything Changes by Andy McNab*+
Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah+
A History of the World in 21 Women-Jenni Murray+
The Greatest: Muhammed Ali by WD Myers*
Dreams From My Father by Barack Obama+
Becoming by Michelle Obama+
Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi (graphic novel)*+
How to Be Extraordinary - Rashmi Sirdeshpande*^
Educated by Tara Westover+
Night by Elie Wiesel+
Black Boy: A Record of Youth&Childhood-R Wright+
I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai

Classics (off the beaten path) & Modern Literature

Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Adichie+
Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line - Deepa Anapparo+
Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury+
All The Light We Cannot See by Anthony Doerr+
Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha by Roddy Doyle
Invisible Man by Ralph Ellison+
Homegoing by Yaa Gyasi+
Woman in Black by Susan Hill+
Not Without Laughter by Langston Hughes+
Brave New World by Alex Huxley+
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee+
Cider With Rosie by Laurie Lee+
Small Island by Andrea Levi+
Circe* or *Song of Achilles by Madeline Miller+

Hamnet by Maggie O'Farrell+
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+
Nickel Boys by Colson Whitehead+
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*^
The Hypnotist by Laurence Anholt
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
See Through Me; Dumb Chocolate Eyes - K Brooks*
Hate List by Jennifer Brown
Junk or **The Hit** by Melvin Burgess
Heart-Shaped Bruise by Tanya Byrne
Looking for JJ; No Virgin/No Shame-Anne Cassidy
The Perks of Being a Wallflower by S. Chbosky
Stolen by Lucy Christopher
The Chocolate War by Robert Cormier
Toffee; One; Moonrise by S Crossan*^
Meat Market by Juno Dawson
A Swift Pure Cry; Solace of the Road -S. Dowd
Furious Thing; Before I Die by Jenny Downam
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
Full Disclosure by Camryn Garrett
After the Fire by Will Hill
Looking at the Stars by Lewis Hine
The Outsiders by SE Hinton*
And the Stars Were Burning Brightly by D Jawando
That Asian Kid; Girl in Broken Mirror by S Kalhan
That's Not What Happened by Kody Keplinger
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*
Run, Rebel by Manjeet Mann^
Out of Heart; A Beautiful Lie by Irfan Master
Sister Heart by Sally Morgan^
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 & Holding Up Universe - Niven
Before I Fall; Vanishing Girls by Lauren Oliver
Heartstopper (graphic novel); **Solitaire**-A Oseman*
My Sister's Keeper; Small Great Things -J Picoult+
Patron Saints of Nothing by Randy Ribay
Rani & Sukh; (Un)arranged Marriage; Killing Honour; The Gun*; Stay a Little Longer* - Bali Rai
Gloves Off^; Wrecked^; Black Heart Blue by L Reid*
Long Way Down^; All American Boys - J Reynolds*
Extraordinary Means by Robyn Schneider
The Lovely Bones or **Lucky** by Alice Sebold+
Voyages in Underworld of Orpheus Black-Sedgwick*
The Boxer or **Run, Riot** Nikesh Shukla
Counting by 7s by Holly Sloan
The Million Pieces of Neena Gill by E Smith-Barton
Stone Cold by Robert Swindells*
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*
The List by Siobhan Vivian
It's Kind of a Funny Story by Ned Vizzini
My Name is Leon by Kit de Waal
What Momma Left Me by Renee Watson
Liclle Bit (& sequels) or **Uprising** by Alex Wheatle*
Frankly in Love by David Yoon

Dystopian, Science Fiction or Magic Realism

Children of Blood and Bone by Tomi Adeyemi
A Jigsaw of Fire & Stars by Yaba Badoe
Six of Crows; Crooked Kingdom 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
The Gender Game by Bella Forrest
Gone; Front Line (& sequels) by Michael Grant*
Half Bad (& sequels) by Sally Green

The Deathless Girls by Kiran Millwood Hargrave
Department 19 (& sequels) by Will Hill
Raybearer by Jordan Ifueko
The Loneliest Girl in the Universe by Lauren James
Maladapted by Richard Kurti
I Am Number Four (& sequels) by Pittacus Lore
Legend (& sequels) by Marie Lu
The Dog Runner; Across the Risen Sea-B MacDibble
A Blade So Black by L.L. McKinney
The 100 by Kass Morgan
Killer T by Robert Muchamore
The Knife of Never Letting Go series; ***Burn***-P Ness
Z For Zachariah by Robert O'Brien
The Loop by Ben Oliver
Replica or ***Delirium*** (& sequels) by Lauren Oliver
Only Ever Yours by Louise O'Neill
Divergent (& sequels) by Veronica Roth
Way of Kings (Stormlight Archive) by B Sanderson
Plague Land by Alex Scarrow
Oh My Gods by Alexandra Sheppard
Scythe, Unwind or ***Dry*** (& sequels) -N Shusterman
Concentr8 by William Sutcliffe
An Ember in the Ashes (& sequels) by Sabaa Tahir
Contagion or ***Slated*** (& sequels) by Teri Terry
Partials (& sequels) by Dan Wells
Uglies or ***Zeroes*** (& sequels) by Scott Westerfield
The 5th Wave (& sequels) by Rick Yancey

Humorous books

The Princess Diaries by Meg Cabot*
The Private Blog of Joe Cowley by Ben Davis*
An Abundance of Katherines by John Green
Noah Can't Even; Alex in Wonderland - SJ Green
Holes by Louis Sachar
The Reformed Vampire Support Group by Jinks*
Hellbent or ***Henry Tumour*** by Anthony McGowan*
Don't Even Think About It – Sarah Mylnowski
Discworld series by T Pratchett (try ***The Last Hero***)+
Good Omens by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman+
Geekhood series by Andy Robb
The Rosie Project (& sequel) by Graeme Simsion+
The Gifted, The Talented and Me by W Sutcliffe
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
To All the Boys I've Loved Before by Jenny Han
Slammed or ***Regretting You*** by Colleen Hoover
Hold Back the Stars by Katie Khan
Falling Fast (& sequels) by Sophie McKenzie
One Day or ***Sweet Sorrow*** by David Nicholls+
Unboxed; Second Best Friend by Nan Pratt*
Eleanor and Park & Fangirl by Rainbow Rowell
Written in the Stars by Aisha Saeed
The Art of Racing in the Rain by Garth Stein+
Shiver or ***The Raven Boys***(&sequels) - M. Stiefvater
Our Chemical Hearts by Krystal Sutherland
Paper Avalanche; The Art/Normal by L Williamson
If You Come Softly by Jacqueline Woodson
Everything, Everything & Sun is Also a Star-Yoon
Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred Taylor
The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

War, History, Conflict, Genocide & Refugees

A Place for Us by Fatima Faheen Mirza
The Short Knife by Elen Caldecot
Illegal by Eoin Colfer (graphic novel)*
Copper Sun by Sharon M Draper
The Bone Sparrow by Zana Fraillion
An Act of Love or ***The Trap*** by Alan Gibbons
Bone Talk by Candy Gourlay
The Mercies by Kiran Millwood Hargrave+
Orphan, Monster, Spy by Matt Killeen
Dog Tags: Semper Fido or ***Strays*** by CA London*
Fallen Angels or ***Sunrise over Fallujah***-WD Myers*
Things a Bright Girl Can Do; Silent Stars - S Nicholls
Salt to the Sea by Ruta Sepetys
Milkweed by Jerry Spinelli
Deogratius (graphic novel) by JP Stassen*+
Code Named Verity & Enigma Game – E Wein
Kent State (verse novel) by Deborah Wiles^
My Dear I Wanted to Tell You by Louisa Young
Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah
The Book Thief by Marcus Zusak