

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 Mr Smith (librarian)! 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; ***Bulleteatcher*** 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