

Years 9-11 Reading List

Thrilling adventures and fast-paced thrillers:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| https://cdn.microlibrarian.net/dol/api/dol/image/0/0/0/9781405293181.png | A Good Girl’s Guide to Murder  Holly Jackson | Five years ago, schoolgirl Andie Bell was murdered by Sal Singh. The police know he did it. Everyone in town knows he did it. But having grown up in the same small town that was consumed by the crime, Pippa Fitz-Amobi isn't so sure. When she chooses the case as the topic for her final project, she starts to uncover secrets that someone in town desperately wants to stay hidden. And if the real killer is still out there, how far will they go to keep Pip from the truth...? |
| Image for Arctic zoo | Arctic Zoo  Robert Muchamore | Following two teenagers living very different lives, ARCTIC ZOO is a thought-provoking thriller with themes of loneliness, hope, equality, politics and friendship. |
| https://cdn.microlibrarian.net/dol/api/dol/image/0/0/0/9780141375632.png | One of us is Lying  Karen McManus | On Thursday afternoon, five students at Bayview High walk into detention. But one of them never makes it out of that classroom. Before the end of detention, Simon's dead. And according to investigators, his death wasn't an accident. On Thursday, he died. But on Friday, he'd planned to post juicy reveals about all four of his high-profile classmates, which makes all four of them suspects in his murder. Or are they just the perfect patsies for a killer who's still on the loose? Everyone has secrets, right? What really matters is how far you would go to protect them. |
| Image for Indigo donut | Indigo Donut  Patrice Lawrence | Seventeen-year-old Indigo has had a tough start in life, having grown up in the care system after her dad killed her mum. Bailey, also seventeen, lives with his parents in Hackney and spends all his time playing guitar or tending to his luscious ginger afro. When Indigo and Bailey meet at sixth form, serious sparks fly. But when Bailey becomes the target of a homeless man who seems to know more about Indigo than is normal, Bailey is forced to make a choice he should never have to make. A life-affirming story about falling in love and everyone's need to belong. |
| Image for Liccle Bit | Liccle Bit  Alex Wheatle | At school Lemar, also known as Liccle Bit due to his height, is like any teenage boy. But when he attracts the attention of a notorious gang leader, he finds himself on a fast-track to something sinister. When he hears about a killing on the estate, Liccle Bit is forced to question his choices. How can he possibly put things right? |
| https://cdn.microlibrarian.net/dol/api/dol/image/0/0/0/9780340881538.png | The Recruit  Robert Muchamore | A terrorist doesn't let strangers in her flat because they might be undercover police or intelligence agents, but her children bring their mates home and they run all over the place. The terrorist doesn't know that a kid has bugged every room in her house, cloned the hard drive on her PC, and copied all the numbers in her phone book. The kid works for CHERUB. CHERUB kids live in the real world. They slip under adult radar and get information that sends criminals and terrorists to jail. For official purposes, these children do not exist. A past-paced action novel. |
| https://cdn.microlibrarian.net/dol/api/dol/image/0/0/0/9781407132082.png | The Hunger Games  (Part 1 of a series)  Suzanne Collins | First in the ground-breaking HUNGER GAMES series. In a vision of the near future, a terrifying reality TV show is taking place. Twelve boys and twelve girls are forced to appear in a live event called The Hunger Games. There is only one rule: kill or be killed. But Katniss has been close to death before. For her, survival is second nature. |
| https://cdn.microlibrarian.net/dol/api/dol/image/0/0/0/9780007420421.png | Divergent  (Part 1 of a series)  Veronica Roth | For sixteen-year-old Tris, the world changes in a heartbeat when she is forced to make a terrible choice. Turning her back on her family, Tris ventures out, alone, determined to find out where she truly belongs. Shocked by the brutality of her new life, Tris can trust no one. And yet she is drawn to a boy who seems to both threaten and protect her. The hardest choices may yet lie ahead... |
| https://cdn.microlibrarian.net/dol/api/dol/image/0/0/0/9781405242356.png | Gone  Michael Grant | When life as you know it ends at 15, everything changes. The adults vanish without a trace, and those left must do all they can to survive. But everyone's idea of survival is different. Some look after themselves, some look after others, and some will do anything for power...Even kill. It isn't until the world collapses around you that you find out what kind of person you really are. |
| Image for Rose, interrupted | Rose Interrupted  Patrice Lawrence | Eighteen months ago, 17-year-old Rose and 13-year-old Rudder escaped a strict religious sect with their mum. They are still trying to make sense of the world outside - no more rules about clothes and books, films and music, no more technology bans. But also no more friendship with the people they've known all their lives, no community and no certainty. When Rudder accidently sets a devastating chain of events into action, Rose must decide whether to sacrifice everything and go back to the life she hates, in order to save the people she loves. A story about coming of age, slap-bang in the middle of a strange new world. |
| https://cdn.microlibrarian.net/dol/api/dol/image/0/0/0/9781406379167.png | The Knife of Never Letting Go  Patrick Ness | Prentisstown isn't like other towns. Everyone can hear everyone else's thoughts in a constant, overwhelming noise. There is no privacy. There are no secrets. Then Todd Hewitt unexpectedly stumbles on a spot of complete silence. Which is impossible. And now he's going to have to run… |
| The Midwich Cuckoos: Now a major Sky series starring Keeley Hawes and Max Beesley by [John Wyndham] | The Midwich Cuckoos  John Wyndham | In the sleepy English village of Midwich, a mysterious silver object appears and all the inhabitants fall unconscious. A day later the object is gone and everyone awakens unharmed - except that all the women in the village are discovered to be pregnant. The resultant children of Midwich do not belong to their parents: all are blonde, all are golden eyed. They grow up too fast and their minds exhibit frightening abilities that give them control over others and brings them into conflict with the villagers just as a chilling realisation dawns on the world outside . . . |
| https://cdn.microlibrarian.net/dol/api/dol/image/0/0/0/9781444000054.png | Revolver  Marcus Sedgwick | 1910. A cabin north of the Arctic Circle. Fifteen-year-old Sig Andersson is alone. Alone, except for the corpse of his father, who died earlier that day after falling through a weak spot on the ice-covered lake. Then comes a knock at the door. It's a man that Sig has never seen before but Wolff claims to have unfinished business with his father. As Sig gradually learns the awful truth about Wolff's connection to his father, his thoughts are drawn to a certain box hidden on a shelf in the storeroom, in which lies his father's prized possession - a revolver. As Wolff begins to close in, Sig's choice is pulled into sharp focus. Should he use the gun, or not? |
| https://cdn.microlibrarian.net/dol/api/dol/image/0/0/0/9780141326108.png | iBoy  Kevin Brooks | Before the attack, sixteen-year-old Tom Harvey was just an ordinary boy. But now fragments of a shattered iPhone are embedded in his brain and it's having an extraordinary effect...Because now Tom has powers. The ability to know and see more than he could ever imagine. And with incredible power comes knowledge - and a choice. Seek revenge on the violent gangs that rule his estate and assaulted his friend Lucy, or keep quiet? Tom has control when everything else is out of control. But it's a dangerous price to pay. And the consequences are terrifying... |
| https://cdn.microlibrarian.net/dol/api/dol/image/0/0/0/9781471401893.png | Maggot Moon  Sally Gardner | A boy, a friendship, a lie and some hard choices. The Motherland is a world in which individuality and difference are crushed but Standish Treadwell won't be subdued. Utterly original and stunning, it is impossible not to be moved by Maggot Moon's powerful story and the unforgettable heroism of Standish. |
| https://cdn.microlibrarian.net/dol/api/dol/image/0/0/0/9780008125127.png | Flawed  Cecilia Ahern | Celestine North lives a perfect life. She’s a model daughter and sister, she’s well-liked by her classmates and teachers, and she’s dating the impossibly charming Art Creva. But then Celestine encounters a situation in which she makes an instinctive decision. She breaks a rule and now faces life-changing repercussions. She could be imprisoned. She could be branded. She could be found FLAWED. |
| The Outsiders: S.E. Hinton (The Originals) | The Outsiders  S.E. Hinton | An outstanding story of teenage rebellion, written when the author was only 17. Teenagers in a small Oklahoma town have split into two gangs, divided by money, tastes and attitude. The Socs' idea of having a good time is beating up Greasers like Ponyboy Curtis. Ponyboy knows what to expect and knows he can count on his brothers and friends - until the night someone takes things too far, and life is changed forever. |
| Walkabout (A Puffin Book) | Walkabout  James Vance Marshall | Mary and her young brother Peter are the only survivors of an air-crash in the middle of the Australian outback. Facing death from exhaustion and starvation, they meet an aboriginal boy who helps them to survive, and guides them along their long journey. But a terrible misunderstanding results in a tragedy that neither Mary nor Peter will ever forget… |
| https://cdn.microlibrarian.net/dol/api/dol/image/0/0/0/9780552555708.png | Noughts & Crosses  Malorie Blackman | Sephy is a Cross - a member of the dark-skinned ruling class. Callum is a nought - a 'colourless' member of the underclass who were once slaves to the Crosses. The two have been friends since early childhood. But that's as far as it can go. Until the first steps are taken towards more social equality and a limited number of Noughts are allowed into Cross schools. Against a background of prejudice and distrust, intensely highlighted by violent terrorist activity by Noughts, a romance builds between Sephy and Callum- a romance that is to lead both of them into terrible danger... |
| https://cdn.microlibrarian.net/dol/api/dol/image/0/0/0/9780141375656.png | Two Can Keep a Secret  Karen McManus | A perfect town is hiding secrets. Secrets that somebody would kill to keep hidden. Now Ellery has to live there with her estranged grandmother, after her mother lands in rehab. Malcolm’s older brother was the prime suspect in a girl’s death and left Echo Ridge in disgrace. But now he's back- just as mysterious threats appear around town, hinting that a killer will strike again. |
| https://cdn.microlibrarian.net/dol/api/dol/image/0/0/0/9781847803795.png | When I was Joe  Keren David | When Ty witnesses a stabbing, his own life is in danger from the criminals he's named, and he and his mum have to go into police protection. Ty has a new name, a new look and a cool new image - life as Joe is good, especially when he gets talent spotted as a potential athletics star, special training from an attractive local celebrity and a lot of female attention. But his mum can't cope with her new life, and the gangsters will stop at nothing to flush them from hiding. Joe's cracking under extreme pressure, and then he meets a girl with dark secrets of her own. |
| https://cdn.microlibrarian.net/dol/api/dol/image/0/0/0/9780099450252.png | The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time  Mark Haddon | The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time is a murder mystery novel like no other. The detective, and narrator, is Christopher Boone. Christopher is fifteen and has Asperger's Syndrome. He knows a very great deal about maths and very little about human beings. He loves lists, patterns and the truth. He hates the colours yellow and brown and being touched. He has never gone further than the end of the road on his own, but when he finds a neighbour's dog murdered he sets out on a terrifying journey which will turn his whole world upside down. |
| Image for Grow | Grow  Luke Palmer | A white supremacist group and its violent leader targets teenage Josh, who is struggling to cope with his father's recent death at the hands of terrorists. Will he find the strength to resist, or will his unlikely relationship with Dana give them both the escape that they so badly need? |

Books that deal with real life issues:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| https://cdn.microlibrarian.net/dol/api/dol/image/0/0/0/9780702313677.png | Gay Club!  Simon James Green | Barney's a shoo-in for LGBTQ+ Society President at the school club's next election. But when the vote is opened up to the whole student body, who will win? |
| Image for Before I fall | Before I fall  Lauren Oliver | They say 'live every day as if it's your last' - but you never actually think it's going to be. At least I didn't. The thing is, you don't get to know when it happens. You don't remember to tell your family that you love them or - in my case - remember to say goodbye to them at all. But what if, like me, you could live your last day over and over again? Could you make it perfect? If your whole life flashed before your eyes, would you have no regrets? Or are there some things you'd want to change...? |
| Image for The perks of being a wallflower | The Perks of Being a Wallflower  Stephen Chbosky | Charlie is a freshman. And while he's not the biggest geek in the school, he is by no means popular. Shy, intelligent beyond his years yet socially awkward, he is a wallflower, caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it. Charlie is attempting to navigate his way through uncharted territory: the world of first dates and mix-tapes, family dramas and new friends. But Charlie can't stay on the sideline forever. Standing on the fringes of life offers a unique perspective. But there comes a time to see what it looks like from the dance floor. |
| https://cdn.microlibrarian.net/dol/api/dol/image/0/0/0/9781405291460.png | The Poet X  Elizabeth Acevedo | Xiomara has always kept her words to herself. When it comes to standing her ground in her Harlem neighbourhood, she lets her fists and her fierceness do the talking. But X has secrets – her feelings for a boy in her bio class, and the notebook full of poems that she keeps under her bed. And a slam poetry club that will pull those secrets into the spotlight. Because in spite of a world that might not want to hear her, Xiomara refuses to stay silent. |

Stories set in the past:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| https://cdn.microlibrarian.net/dol/api/dol/image/0/0/0/9781903015209.png | Some Other War  Linda Newberry | Life changes completely for twins Alice and Jack when the First World War breaks out. Jack leaves the stables to fight and Alice becomes a nurse. In the four years of war they mature, maintaining their courage, sense of purpose and capacity for love. |
| Image for How I live now | How I live now  Meg Rosoff | Fifteen-year-old Daisy thinks she knows all about love. Her mother died giving birth to her, and now her dad has sent her away for the summer, to live in the English countryside with cousins she's never even met. There she'll discover what real love is: something violent, mysterious and wonderful. There her world will be turned upside down and a perfect summer will explode into a million bewildering pieces. How will Daisy live then? |
| https://cdn.microlibrarian.net/dol/api/dol/image/0/0/0/9781862302914.png | The Book Thief  Markus Zusak | By her brother's graveside, Liesel's life is changed forever when she picks up a single object, abandoned in the snow. It is The Gravedigger's Handbook, and this is her first act of book thievery. So begins Liesel's love affair with books and words, and soon she is stealing from Nazi book-burnings, the mayor's wife's library . . . wherever there are books to be found. But these are dangerous times, and when Liesel's foster family hides a Jew in their basement, nothing will ever be the same again.  Set in Nazi Germany and narrated by Death. |
| https://cdn.microlibrarian.net/dol/api/dol/image/0/0/0/9780552573504.png | The Boy at the Top of the Mountain  John Boyne | When Pierrot becomes an orphan, he must leave his home in Paris for a new life with his Aunt Beatrix, a servant in a wealthy household at the top of the German mountains. But this is no ordinary time, for it is 1935 and the Second World War is fast approaching; and this is no ordinary house, for this is the Berghof, the home of Adolf Hitler. Quickly, Pierrot is taken under Hitler's wing, and is thrown into an increasingly dangerous new world: a world of terror, secrets and betrayal, from which he may never be able to escape. |
| https://cdn.microlibrarian.net/dol/api/dol/image/0/0/0/9781407130545.png | The Ruby in the Smoke  Philip Pullman | Soon after Sally Lockhart's father drowns at sea, she receives an anonymous letter. The dire warning it contains makes a man died fear at her feet. Determined to discover the truth about her father's death, Sally is plunged into a terrifying mystery in the dark heart of Victorian London, at the centre of which lies a deadly blood-soaked jewel. |

Novels best suited to year 11s:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| https://cdn.microlibrarian.net/dol/api/dol/image/0/0/0/9780141364247.png | The Fault in Our Stars  John Green | Despite the tumour-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten. |
| https://cdn.microlibrarian.net/dol/api/dol/image/0/0/0/9780747566533.png | The Kite Runner  Khaled Hosseini | Afghanistan, 1975: Twelve-year-old Amir is desperate to win the local kite-fighting tournament and his loyal friend Hassan promises to help him. But neither of the boys can foresee what will happen to Hassan that afternoon, an event that is to shatter their lives. After the Russians invade and the family is forced to flee to America, Amir realises that one day he must return to Afghanistan under Taliban rule to find the one thing that his new world cannot grant him: redemption. |

Poetry and novels written in verse:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| https://cdn.microlibrarian.net/dol/api/dol/image/0/0/0/9780008422141.png | Punching the Air  Ibi Zoboi & Yusef Salaam | At just sixteen years old, Amal Shahid's bright future is upended: he is convicted of a crime he didn't commit and sent to prison. Despair and rage almost sink him until he turns to the refuge of his words, his art. This never should have been his story. But can he change it? Written in verse, this is perfect if you want to try a novel written in a different style. |
| https://cdn.microlibrarian.net/dol/api/dol/image/0/0/0/9781529083606.png | These are the Words  Nikita Gill | An empowering collection of feminist poems. |

Classics:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| https://cdn.microlibrarian.net/dol/api/dol/image/0/0/0/9780141036144.png | 1984  George Orwell | Winston Smith lives in a terrifying world run by the powerful ‘Party’. He desires to remain human in a world where individuality is punishable by death, but is this possible when Big Brother is always watching…? |
| The Catcher in the Rye | The Catcher in the Rye  J.D. Salinger | After being expelled from school, sixteen year old Holden Caulfield, who is struggling with his mental health, spends two days in New York. A coming of age classic. |
| To Kill A Mockingbird | To Kill a Mockingbird  Harper Lee | Atticus, a respected white lawyer, fights to defend a black man who has been falsely accused of rape, despite threats from the community. Told through the eyes of Atticus’ young daughter, Scout. |

Biographies and autobiographies:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Lioness: My Journey to Glory | Lioness  Beth Mead | The remarkable and inspirational story of England footballer Beth Mead, Player of the Tournament at the UEFA Euro 2022. |
| https://cdn.microlibrarian.net/dol/api/dol/image/0/0/0/9780099771012.png | Touching the Void  Joe Simpson | After disaster strikes on a climbing expedition, Simon Yates and Joe Simpson are left hanging on a rope. Simon must make the agonizing decision of whether to cut the rope to save his own life at the risk of killing his friend. An epic survival story and one of Miss Towner’s favourites. |
| Image for A hope more powerful than the sea  : the journey of Doaa al Zamel | A Hope More Powerful than the Sea  Melissa Fleming | The incredible story of Doaa, a Syrian refugee who was one of 500 people crammed on a fishing boat that was deliberately capsized. Finally rescued four days after the boat sank, Doaa was one of only 11 people to survive. |
| https://cdn.microlibrarian.net/dol/api/dol/image/0/0/0/9781788702959.png | Looking at the Stars  Lewis Hine | The incredible and inspirational story of Lewis Hine, the boy who was diagnosed with a brain tumour as a baby and became an internet sensation at 16 years old. |