



## Recommended Reads for Key Stage 4

### Action, Mysteries, Horror & Thrillers

*Famous Last Words* or *Bad Girls Don't Die* – Alender  
*Bodyguard: Hostage* (& sequels) by Chris Bradford\*  
*Dead Time* (& sequels), *Getting Away With It* or  
*The Bone Room* by Anne Cassidy\*  
*And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie  
*Say Her Name* by Juno Dawson  
*Mortal Chaos, Speed Freaks, The Everest Files* or  
*Lie, Kill, Walk Away* by Matt 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  
*Carrie* or *It* by Stephen King  
*We Were Liars* by E Lockhart  
*Here We Lie, Sweetfreak, Blood Ties* or *Girl Missing*  
(& sequels) by Sophie McKenzie  
*#Murdertrending* by Gretchen McNeil\*  
*One of Us is Lying, One of Us Is Next* or *Two Can*  
*Keep a Secret* by Karen McManus  
*I am Still Alive* by Kate Marshall  
*Blame* or *Itch* (& sequels) by Simon Mayo  
*The Recruit (Cherub), The Escape (Henderson's*  
*Boys)* or *Rock War* (& sequels) by R Muchamore\*  
*Foul Play* (& sequels) or *Ghost Stadium* - T Palmer\*  
*Daniel X* or *Confessions of Murder* by J. Patterson\*  
*13 Minutes* by Sarah Pinborough  
*Remade* or *TimeRiders* (& sequels) -Alex Scarrow\*

### Autobiographies/Memoirs/Biographies

*Tuesdays With Morrie* by Mitch Albom  
*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  
*Nothing to Envy* (North Korea) by B Demick  
*Hope in a Ballet Shoe:* Michaela & Elaine DePrince  
*Wave: Life After the Tsunami* by S. Deraniyagala  
*One Dog at a Time* (& sequels) by Pen Farthing  
*Fatal Throne: The Wives of Henry VIII* - multiple YA  
writers (fictionalised biography)  
*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  
*The Story of My Life* by Helen Keller  
*Finding Gobi* by Dion Leonard\*  
*Today Everything Changes* by Andy McNab\*  
*Chinese Cinderella* by Adeline Yen Mah  
*Long Walk to Freedom* by Nelson Mandela  
*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)\*  
*Touching the Void* by Joe Simpson\*  
*Brown Girl Dreaming* by Jacqueline Woodson\*  
*Black Boy: A Record of Youth & Childhood*-R Wright  
*I am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai

### Classics & Modern Literature

*Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe  
*Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Adichie  
*Pride and Prejudice* or *Emma* by Jane Austen  
*Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury  
*Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte  
*Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte  
*Great Expectations* or *Oliver Twist* by C Dickens  
*Sherlock Holmes* by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle  
*The Great Gatsby* by FS Fitzgerald  
*Lord of the Flies* by William Golding  
*Tess of the D'ubervilles* by Thomas Hardy  
*Not Without Laughter* by Langston Hughes  
*Brave New World* by Alex Huxley  
*Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro  
*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee  
*Cider With Rosie* by Laurie Lee

*The Road* by Cormac McCarthy  
*Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier  
*The Bluest Eye* or *Beloved* by Toni Morrison  
*1984* or *Animal Farm* by George Orwell  
*The Catcher in the Rye* by JD Salinger  
*Frankenstein* by Mary Shelly  
*Dr Jekyll and Mr Hide* by RL Stevenson  
*Dracula* by Bram Stoker  
*The Adventures of Huck Finn* by Mark Twain  
*The Color Purple* by Alice Walker

#### Complex/Difficult/Thought-provoking Issues

*Change is Gonna Come* – various BAME authors  
*Poet X* by Elizabeth Acevedo\*  
*Simon vs the Homo Sapiens Agenda* – B Albertalli\*  
*Booked, Rebound* or *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  
*The Heart's Invisible Furies* by John Boyne  
*The Bunker Diary* or *See Through Me* by K Brooks\*  
*Hate List* by Jennifer Brown  
*Junk* or *The Hit* by Melvin Burgess  
*Looking for JJ* or *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* or *The Weight of Water* by S Crossan\*  
*A Swift Pure Cry* or *Solace of the Road* -S. Dowd  
*Furious Thing* or *Before I Die* by Jenny Downam  
*Out of My Mind* by Sharon Draper  
*Heroic, Being Billy* or *Saving Daisy* by Phil Earle\*  
*Mockingbird* or *Seeing Red* by Kathryn Erskine  
*The Universe versus Alex Woods* by G. Extence  
*If I Stay & Where She Went* by Gayle Forman  
*Full Disclosure* by Camryn Garrett  
*Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi  
*The Curious Incident of the Dog...* by Mark Haddon  
*After the Fire* by Will Hill  
*The Outsiders* by SE Hinton\*  
*That Asian Kid* by Savita Kalhan  
*Pigeon English* by Stephen Kelman  
*That's Not What Happened* by Kody Keplinger  
*I am Thunder* or *Kick the Moon* - Muhammed Khan

*The Secret Life of Bees* or *Invention of Wings* - Kidd  
*Rose, Interrupted* or *Orangeboy* - Patrice Lawrence  
*Brock, Pike, Rook & Lark* by Anthony McGowan\*  
*The Sky is Everywhere* or *I'll Give You..* by J Nelson  
*Things a Bright Girl Can Do, An Island of our Own*  
or *Ways to Live Forever*- Sally Nicholls  
*We Are All Made of Molecules, Word Nerd* or *No Fixed Address* by Susin Nielson  
*All the Bright Places & Holding Up Universe* - Niven  
*Before I Fall* or *Vanishing Girls* by Lauren Oliver  
*My Sister's Keeper* or *Small Great Things* - J Picoult  
*My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece* or *Ketchup Clouds* by Annabel Pitcher  
*The Harder They Fall* or *Stay a Little Longer;*  
*(Un)arranged Marriage* or *Killing Honour* -Bali Rai\*  
*Gloves Off* or *Black Heart Blue* by Louisa Reid\*  
*Long Way Down* or *Ghost* by Jason Reynolds\*  
*Extraordinary Means* or *Severed Heads, Broken Hearts* by Robin Schneider  
*The Lovely Bones* or *Lucky* by Alice Sebold  
*The Boxer* or *Run, Riot* Nikesh Shukla  
*Counting by 7s* by Holly Sloan  
*The Help* by Kathryn Stockett  
*Stone Cold* by Robert Swindells\*  
*Anita and Me* by Meera Syal  
*Lies We Tell Ourselves* by Robin Talley  
*Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry* by Mildred Taylor  
*Somebody Give This Heart a Pen* by Sophia Thakur  
*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  
*Can You See Me?* by L Scott & R Westcott  
*Liccle Bit* (& sequels) by Alex Wheatle  
*The Art of Being Normal* by Lara Williamson  
*Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* – J Winterson  
*Frankly in Love* by David Yoon  
*Teacher's Dead, Face* or *Terror Kid* by B. Zephaniah

#### Conflict, War, Genocide & the Refugee Experience

*A Country to Call Home: Anthology of Young Refugees & Asylum Seekers* ed. by Lucy Popescu  
*Illegal* by Eoin Colfer (graphic novel)\*  
*All The Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr  
*Birdsong* by Sebastian Faulks  
*The Bone Sparrow* by Zana Fraillion  
*Act of Love* or *The Trap* by Alan Gibbons\*

**Bone Talk** by Candy Gourlay  
**The Nightingale** by Kristin Hannah  
**The Kite Runner** by Khalid Hosseini  
**Orphan, Monster, Spy** by Matt Killeen  
**The Librarian of Auschwitz** by Antonio Iturbe  
**The Beekeeper of Aleppo** by Christy Lefteri  
**Dog Tags: Semper Fido** or **Strays** by CA London\*  
**The Tattooist of Auschwitz** by Heather Morris  
**Fallen Angels** or **Sunrise over Fallujah**-WD Myers\*  
**A Long Walk to Water** by Linda Sue Park\*  
**All Quiet on the Western Front** by EM Remarque  
**Salt to the Sea** by Ruta Sepetys  
**Maus** by Art Spiegelman (graphic novel)\*  
**Milkweed** by Jerry Spinelli  
**Night** by Elie Wiesel  
**Code Name Verity, Rose Under Fire** by E. Wein  
**My Dear I Wanted to Tell You** by Louisa Young  
**Refugee Boy** by Benjamin Zephaniah  
**The Book Thief** by Marcus Zusak

#### Dystopian, Science Fiction or Magic Realism

**Children of Blood and Bone** by Tomi Adeyemi  
**The Testaments** or **The Handmaid's Tale** – Atwood  
**Ink** (& sequels) by Alice Broadway\*  
**iBoy** by Kevin Brooks\*  
**World War Z** by Max Brooks  
**The Girl With All the Gifts** by MR Carey  
**City of Bones** (& sequels) by Cassandra Clare  
**Matched** (& sequels) by Ally Condie  
**The Maze Runner** (& sequels) by J. Dashner  
**Stepsister** by Jennifer Donnelly  
**Cell 7** (& sequels) by Kerry Drewery\*  
**The Gender Game** by Bella Forrest  
**Gone** or **BZRK** (& sequels) by Michael Grant\*  
**The Deathless Girls** by Kiran Millwood Hargrave  
**Department 19** (& sequels) by Will Hill  
**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 Passengers** by John Marrs\*  
**Circe** or **Song of Achilles** by Madeline Miller  
**The Knife of Never Letting Go** (& sequels)- P Ness  
**MetaWars: Fight for Future** (&sequels) - J. Norton\*  
**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  
**Hatchet** by Gary Paulsen\*  
**Divergent** (& sequels) by Veronica Roth  
**Lord Loss\*** or **Zom-B\*** (& sequels) by D Shan  
**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  
**Uglies** or **Zeroes** (& sequels) by Scott Westerfield  
**The 5th Wave** (& sequels) by Rick Yancey\*

#### Humorous books

**The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy** by D Adams  
**The Life and Times of The Thunderbolt Kid** - Bryson  
**Swim the Fly** or **Call the Shots** by Don Calame  
**The Private Blog of Joe Cowley** by Ben Davis\*  
**An Abundance of Katherines** by John Green\*  
**Noah Can't Even** or **Alex in Wonderland** - SJ Green\*  
**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  
**A Midsummer Tights Dream** or **Georgia Nicholson**  
series by Louise Rennison  
**The Rosie Project** (& sequel) by Graeme Simsion  
**The Gifted, The Talented and Me** by W Sutcliffe  
**The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole** – Sue Townsend

#### Relationships

**Beautiful Broken Things** by Sara Barnard  
**Three Daughters** by Consuelo Saah Baehr  
**Tender Earth** by Sita Brahmachari  
**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** (& sequels) –J Han  
**Slammed** or **Regretting You** by Colleen Hoover  
**Hold Back the Stars** by Katie Khan  
**Falling Fast** (& sequels) by Sophie McKenzie  
**One Day** by David Nicholls  
**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** by Lisa Williamson  
**If You Come Softly** by Jacqueline Woodson

***Everything, Everything & Sun is Also a Star-Yoon\****  
***Girl Online*** (& sequels) by Zoe Sugg\*

***\* = top picks for reluctant readers or readers who prefer visual/less dense texts. Includes some dyslexia friendly titles; quick-paced reads of longer books; verse novels; and graphic novels.***

***Note to parents: Many of these books are written for young adult readers (13+) or adults; this means there may be 'gritty' content. Generally by Key Stage 4 young people are ready for this, but parents know their children best; if you have queries about suitability, please check online reviews or ask your child's teacher.***