

The English Department at Alder Community High School
Reading Challenge: Graduation!

'16 Before 16' is our reading challenge for all students. It runs until the end of Year 11 or until students have read their 16 books. Congratulations! You have completed our challenge and have now graduated.

Below is a list of books specially selected by our English Department to help stretch students further. These books are slightly more challenging, and only for our students who have completed their '16 Before 16' challenge. Can you read 10 of these books before you finish year 11?

Students can access their new reading log in their planners (KS3) or by collecting from the library (KS4). Students will use their reading log to write a short review of each book and track their progress. House points will be awarded after each finished book and a prize and certificate will be issued when the competition has been completed and the reading log has been filled. All of the texts are available to be booked out from the school library. Please find the shortlisted books below:

Please find the BAME authors and texts with BAME protagonists highlighted in pink, the LGBTQ+ authors and texts with LGBTQ+ representation are highlighted in orange and the novels highlighted in green tell a story about life through the lens of a unique perspective.

GOTHIC/HORROR		
What's the title?	Who's the author?	What is it about?
The Graveyard Book	Neil Gaiman	When a baby escapes a murderer intent on killing the entire family, who would have thought it would find safety and security in the local graveyard? Brought up by the resident ghosts, ghouls and spectres, Bod has an eccentric childhood learning about life from the dead.
A Monster Calls	Patrick Ness	The monster showed up after midnight. As they do. But it isn't the monster Conor's been expecting. He's been expecting the one from his nightmare, the one he's had nearly every night since his mother started her treatments. This monster is something different, though. And it wants the most dangerous thing of all from Conor.

NON-FICTION		
What's the title?	Who's the author?	What is it about?
No Summit out of Sight	Jordan Romero	On May 22, 2010, at the age of thirteen, American teenager Jordan Romero became the youngest person to climb to the summit of Mount Everest. Jordan recounts his experience, which started as a spark of an idea at the age of nine.

Steve Jobs: Insanely Great	Jessie Hartland	Jobs's remarkable life reads like a history of the personal technology industry. He started Apple Computer in his parents' garage and eventually became the tastemaker of a generation, creating products we can't live without.
Unbroken (the Young Adult adaptation)	Laura Hillenbrand	On a May afternoon in 1943, an American military plane crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared. Then, on the ocean surface, a face appeared. So began one of the most extraordinary sagas of the Second World War.
This Book Will Save the Planet	Dany Sigwalt	Our planet is in crisis. The ice caps are melting, sea levels are rising, wildfires are raging... and those most affected by global warming are marginalised communities across the globe. But all is not lost – there's still time for each and every one of us to make a difference.
Prisoners of Geography <i>Miss Brown recommends!</i>	Tim Marshall	If you've ever wondered why Putin is so obsessed with Crimea, why the USA was destined to become a global superpower, or why China's power base continues to expand ever outwards, the answers are all here.
One Summer: America 1927 <i>Miss Cargill recommends!</i>	Bill Bryson	Bill Bryson's One Summer is the story of just four months – June to September 1927 – in the life of America. Four crucial months, needless to say – four months in which, Bryson contends, his homeland came to dominate the world in everything from banking to baseball and talkies to telly.

GROWING UP

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What is it about?
No Ballet Shoes in Syria	Catherine Bruton	Aya is 11 years old and has just arrived in Britain with her mum and baby brother, seeking asylum from war in Syria. When Aya stumbles across a local ballet class, the dance teacher spots her exceptional talent and believes that Aya has the potential to earn a prestigious ballet scholarship.
Afrotistic	Kala Allen Omeiza	In her new town, Noa strives to make Dean's Merit Society, an elite honor society that she sees as her ticket to success. To make the society, she needs leadership experience, but there's one problem: Noa struggles to socialise.

Clap When You Land	Elizabeth Acevedo	Camino Rios lives for the summers when her father visits her in the Dominican Republic. But on the day when his plane is supposed to land, Camino arrives at the airport to see crowds of crying people... In New York City, Yahaira Rios is called to the principal's office, where her mother is waiting to tell her that her father has died in a plane crash. Separated by distance—and Papi's secrets—the two girls are forced to face a new reality.
A Quiet Kind of Thunder	Sara Barnard	Steffi has been a selective mute for most of her life. Rhys, the new boy at school, is deaf, and her knowledge of basic sign language means that she's assigned to look after him. To Rhys it doesn't matter that Steffi doesn't talk and, as they find ways to communicate, Steffi finds that she does have a voice.
I Was Born for This	Alice Oseman	For Angel Rahimi life is about one thing: The Ark - a pop-rock trio of teenage boys who are taking the world by storm. Being part of The Ark's fandom has given her everything she loves - her friend Juliet, her dreams, her place in the world. When Jimmy and Angel are unexpectedly thrust together, they find out how strange and surprising facing up to reality can be.
Mockingbird	Katherine Erskine	Since her brother's death in a school shooting, Caitlin has no one to explain the world to her. And for Caitlin, the world is a confusing place. She hates it when colours get mixed up, prefers everything to be black-and-white, and needs to check her Facial Expressions Chart to understand emotions.

HISTORICAL		
What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
While the Storm Rages	Phil Earle	September 1939. The world is on the brink of war. When the government advises people to have their pets put down in readiness for the chaos of war, hundreds of thousands of people do as they are told. With his two friends in tow, Noah goes on the run, to save his dog and as many animals as he can.
(The) Red Ribbon	Lucy Adlington	Fourteen-year-old Ella begins her first day at work. She is a dressmaker, but this is no

		ordinary sewing workshop. Ella has joined the seamstresses of Birkenau-Auschwitz. Every dress she makes could mean the difference between life and death.
I, Ada	Julia Gray	Ada Byron is rich and clever, but she longs to be free. Ada meets a man whose invention might just change the world.
Where the World Ends	Geraldine McCaughrean	Every summer Quill and his friends are put ashore on a remote sea stac to hunt birds. But this summer, no one arrives to take them home. Cold, starving and clinging to life, they are in the grip of a murderous ocean.
The Secrets Act	Alison Weatherby	Ellen is a codebreaker. She never expected to get close to a girl like Pearl - or fall for a chap like Dennis. But when tragedy strikes, their logical world is upended, with both friends caught in a spy plot.
The Island at the End of Everything	Karen Millwood Hargrave	Amihan lives on Culion Island, where some of the inhabitants have leprosy. Ami loves her home, but the arrival of malicious government official Mr Zamora changes her world forever: islanders untouched by sickness are forced to leave. Banished across the sea, she's desperate to return.
Schindler's Ark <i>Miss Bancroft recommends!</i>	Thomas Keneally	This is the extraordinary story of Oskar Schindler, who risked his life to protect Jews in Nazi-occupied Poland and who was transformed by the war into a man with a mission, a compassionate angel of mercy.
The Rasputin Dagger <i>Miss Bancroft recommends!</i>	Theresa Breslin	Russia, 1916. Nina Ivanovna's world is in turmoil. Stefan Kolodin wants change for Russia and its people. Amidst the chaos of a city in revolt, their lives collide. And a stormy relationship develops...full of passion and politics.
Gilead <i>Ms Smale recommends!</i>	Marilynne Robinson	Set in 1956, the novel is composed of the memoirs of Reverend John Ames, a congregationalist minister in the fictional town of Gilead, Iowa, as he tries to set down the story of his life for his young son before Reverend Ames dies.

THE SUPERNATURAL/MAGICAL

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
Children of Blood and Bone	Tomi Adeyemi	Zélie remembers when the soil of Orisha

		hummed with magic. When different clans ruled – Burners igniting flames, Tiders beckoning waves, and Zélie’s Reaper mother summoning forth souls. Under the orders of a ruthless king, anyone with powers was targeted and killed. Only a few people remain with the power to use magic, and they must remain hidden.
Heartless	Marissa Meyer	Catherine may be one of the most desired girls in Wonderland. A talented baker, all she wants is to open a shop with her best friend. But according to her mother, such a goal is unthinkable. Then Cath meets Jest, the handsome and mysterious court Joker.
La Belle Sauvage: The Book of Dust (Volume One)	Phillip Pullman	Eleven-year-old Malcolm Polstead and his dæmon, Asta, live with his parents at the Trout Inn near Oxford, on the banks of the River Thames which Malcolm navigates using his beloved canoe, a boat by the name of La Belle Sauvage. Across the River is the Godstow Priory where the nuns live in quiet seclusion. But Oxford’s peace is about to be shattered.
The Hotel Magnifique	Emily J. Taylor	When the Hotel Magnifique comes to her hometown, seventeen-year-old Jani hatches a plan to secure jobs there for herself and her younger sister, longing to escape their dreary life. Luck is on their side. But Jani soon begins to notice sinister spots in the hotel's decadent facade.
Six of Crows (Book One) *Parental guidance – this book is advertised for readers 14+*	Leigh Bardugo	Criminal prodigy Kaz Brekke is offered a chance at a deadly heist that could make him rich beyond his wildest dreams - but he can't pull it off alone. Six dangerous outcasts. One impossible heist. Kaz's crew is the only thing that might stand between the world and destruction - if they don't kill each other first.
Forging Silver into Stars	Brigid Kemmerer	Tycho of Rillisk has been a lot of things: son and brother, prisoner, soldier and friend to the king. Now, four years after Grey took the throne of Emberfall, Tycho has taken on a new role: courier and spy. As the only person the king can trust, Tycho carries secret messages back and forth between the kingdoms. The war is over, but peace still seems far away.
The Maze Runner (Series of 5 books)	James Dashner	He's surrounded by boys who welcome him to the Glade – a walled encampment at the centre of a bizarre and terrible stone maze.

		Like Thomas, the Gladers don't know why or how they came to be there – or what's happened to the world outside.
The Outrage *Parental guidance – this book is advertised for readers 14+*	William Hussey	Welcome to England, where the Protectorate enforces the Public Good. Here, there are rules for everything. Gabriel knows his sexuality must be kept secret. Because Eric isn't just the boy who has stolen Gabriel's heart. He's the son of the chief inspector at Degenerate Investigations ---- the man who poses the single biggest threat to Gabriel's life.

DETECTIVE/CRIME		
What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
Enola Holmes	Nancy Springer	When Enola Holmes, sister to the detective Sherlock Holmes, discovers her mother has disappeared, she quickly embarks on a journey to London in search of her. But nothing can prepare her for what awaits.
Girl, Missing	Sophie McKenzie	Lauren is adopted and eager to know more about her mysterious past. But when she discovers she may have been snatched from her family as a baby, her whole life suddenly feels like a sham. Could her adoptive parents really have been responsible for kidnapping her?
The King is Dead *Parental guidance – this book is advertised for readers 14+*	Benjamin Dean	James has been a prince all his life, and since he was born, he's been thrust into the spotlight as the first Black heir to the throne. James is crowned king at the tender age of seventeen, and his life changes. When James' boyfriend suddenly goes missing, threatening envelopes appear in the palace, and gossip and scandals that only he knows are leaked to the public.
The Knife of Never Letting Go	Patrick Ness	Prentissstown 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...
A Single Thread of Moonlight	Laura Wood	Iris Grey's childhood was idyllic... until her father remarried. Iris's new stepmother and two stepsisters were cold-hearted schemers, and when her father dies in mysterious circumstances, Iris knows that

		something is wrong.
The Boy Who Steals Houses	C.G Drews	Sam is only fifteen but he and his autistic older brother, Avery, have been abandoned by every relative he's ever known. Now Sam's trying to build a new life for them. He survives by breaking into empty houses when their owners are away, until one day he's caught when a family returns home.
The Secret Detectives	Ella Risbridger	When Isobel Petty is orphaned, she finds herself being taken away from her home in India and sent to live with a distant uncle in England. On board the SS Marianna, she witnesses a shocking act. Isobel and her two new reluctant friends must solve two mysteries before they reach England.
Eight Pieces of Silva	Patrice Lawrence	Becks is into girls but didn't come out because she was never in. When Becks' mum and stepdad go on honeymoon to Japan, Becks and her stepsister Silva are left alone. Except, Silva disappears. Becks ventures into the forbidden territory of Silva's room and finds the first of eight clues that help her discover her sister's secret life.
Terror Kid	Benjamin Zephaniah	Rico knows trouble. He knows the look of it and the sound of it. He also knows to stay away from it as best he can. Because if there's one thing his Romany background has taught him, it's that he will always be a suspect. Rico is angry and frustrated at the injustices he sees happening at home and around the world.

CLASSIC LITERATURE

(any book that is not a new book, one that merits re-reading, 10, 50 or 100 years(or more!) after its publication)

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
Murder on the Orient Express DETECTIVE / CRIME	Agatha Christie	The luxurious train is surprisingly full for the time of the year, but by the morning it is one passenger fewer. Isolated and with a killer in their midst, detective Hercule Poirot must identify the murderer - in case he or she decides to strike again.

<p>Fahrenheit 451 SUPERNATURAL/ MAGICAL</p>	<p>Ray Bradbury</p>	<p>Guy Montag is a fireman. In his world, where television rules and literature is on the brink of extinction, firemen start fires rather than put them out. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden.</p>
<p>Little Women HISTORICAL</p>	<p>Louisa May Alcott</p>	<p>Set in Boston during and just after the Civil War, Little Women follows the four March sisters, Meg, Beth, Jo, and Amy, as they struggle to overcome poverty and grow into proper young ladies. Even as the girls bicker like all siblings, they keep their home together as they wait for their father to return from the war.</p>
<p>Rebecca GOTHIC</p>	<p>Daphne Du Maurier</p>	<p>An unnamed heroine falls in love with Maxim de winter, a wealthy widower. But as they arrive at Manderley, his mansion, a change comes over Max and the young bride is filled with dread. Friendless in the isolated house, she realises she doesn't know Maxim all too well, and in every corner of every room, the phantom of his first wife, Rebecca, haunts her.</p>
<p>Wuthering Heights GOTHIC</p>	<p>Emily Bronte</p>	<p>Young orphan Heathcliff who is adopted by the wealthy Earnshaw family and moves into their estate, Wuthering Heights. Heathcliff falls for his foster sister, Cathy. The two share an unbreakable bond until Cathy suppresses her feelings and marries Edgar Linton. Heathcliff vows to win her back.</p>