

# Recommended Reads: Year 9, 10 & 11

## 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  
**And Then There Were None** by Agatha Christie+  
**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\*  
**Carrie** or **It** by Stephen King+  
**Bluebeard, Bluebeard** by Attica Locke+  
**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+  
**One Dog at a Time** (& sequels) by Pen Farthing+  
**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+  
**This is Going to Hurt** by Adam Kay+  
**The Story of My Life** by Helen Keller+  
**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)\*+  
**Touching the Void** by Joe Simpson\*+  
**How to Be Extraordinary** - Rashmi Sirdeshpande\*  
**Educated** by Tara Westover+  
**Night** by Elie Wiesel+  
**Black Boy:A Record of Youth&Childhood**-R Wright+  
**Autobiography of Malcolm X**—MalcolmX&A Haley+  
**I am Malala** by Malala Yousafzai

## Classics (off the beaten path) & Modern Literature

**Things Fall Apart** by Chinua Achebe+  
**Purple Hibiscus** by Chimamanda Adichie+  
**Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line** - Deepa Anapparo+  
**The Testaments; The Handmaid's Tale** – Atwood+  
**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+  
**Girl, Woman, Other** by Bernadine Evaristo+  
**Birdsong** by Sebastian Faulks+  
**Homegoing** by Yaa Gyasi+  
**Woman in Black** by Susan Hill+  
**The Kite Runner** by Khalid Hosseini+  
**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+  
**Small Island** by Andrea Levi+  
**The Road** by Cormac McCarthy+  
**Circe** or **Song of Achilles** by Madeline Miller+

**The Bluest Eye** or **Beloved** by Toni Morrison+  
**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+

### Complex/Difficult/Thought-provoking Issues

**Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit** – J Winterson+  
**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\*  
**Where the Crawdads Sing** by Delia Owens+  
**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  
**Teacher's Dead, Face** or **Terror Kid** by B Zephaniah\*

### Dystopian, Science Fiction or Magic Realism

**Children of Blood and Bone** by Tomi Adeyemi  
**The Power** by Naomi Alderman+  
**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

*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  
*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  
*Station 11* by Emily Mandel+  
*The Passengers; The One* by John Marrs+  
*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  
*The Martian* by Andy Weir+  
*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\*  
*A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman+  
*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

*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

### War, History, Conflict, Genocide & Refugees

*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  
*The Librarian of Auschwitz* by Antonio Iturbe+  
*The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri+  
*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

**Maus** by Art Spiegelman (graphic novel)\*+

**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

*\* = 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.*

*^ = verse novel*