



Year 9 Academic Book List 2025/26



Humanities	
Subject	Book
English	How to Stop Time by Matt Haig
Tom Hazard has a dangerous secret. He may look like an ordinary 41-year-old, but owing to a rare condition, he has been alive for centuries. In this novel, you will encounter Shakespeare, who you have studied in every year group, and witchcraft, which you will study during Macbeth this year.	
Spanish / French	The House on Mango Street by Sandra Cisneros / The Hollow Needle by Maurice LeBlanc
Told in a series of vignettes – sometimes heart breaking, sometimes deeply joyous—it is the story of a young Latina girl growing up in Chicago, inventing for herself who and what she will become. Few other books in our time have touched so many readers. / As Lupin tackles a new set of high-stakes heists and tangled conspiracies, he finds himself drawn into a web of enigma and danger. With a blend of charm, resourcefulness, and a touch of chivalry, he outsmarts the police, unravels hidden secrets, and navigates the treacherous world of criminals and aristocrats.	
Geography	Between Sea and Sky by Nicola Penfold
In a near future where a series of environmental disasters has left much of the country underwater, Pearl lives on a floating oyster farm with her father and younger sister, Clover. Following her mum's death several years earlier, Pearl refuses to set foot on land, believing her illness was caused by the poisons in the ground. Meanwhile, Clover dreams of school, friends and a normal life.	
History	The Tattooist of Auschwitz by Heather Morris
A vivid, harrowing, and ultimately hopeful re-creation of Lale Sokolov's experiences as the man who tattooed the arms of thousands of prisoners with what would become one of the most potent symbols of the Holocaust, The Tattooist of Auschwitz is also a testament to the endurance of love and humanity under the darkest possible conditions.	
Beliefs & Values	The Dairy of a Young Girl by Anne Frank
The Diary of a Young Girl, also known as The Diary of Anne Frank, is a book of the writings from the Dutch-language diary kept by Anne Frank while she was in hiding for two years with her family during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands.	
STEM	
Maths	The Number Devil: A Mathematical Adventure by Hans Magnus Enzensberger
Twelve-year-old Robert hates his maths teacher: he sets his class boring problems and won't let them use their calculators. Then in his dreams Robert meets the Number Devil, who brings the subject magically to life, illustrating with wit and charm a world in which numbers can amaze and fascinate, where maths is nothing like the dreary, difficult process that so many of us dread. The Number Devil knows how to make maths devilishly simple.	
Science	Lightening Mary by Anthea Simmons
The true story of Mary Anning, a Victorian palaeontologist, whose discoveries of the ichthyosaur contributed to changes in scientific thinking about the history of the earth. Simmons shows us the challenges of class, poverty, and the expectations of women that Mary was subject to, but also how her passion, hard work and stubbornness helped her transcend those considerable restrictions. We chose this book as it links to fossilisation in the carbon cycle. It also shows the struggle of women in science.	
Computing	SLAY by Brittney Morris
A novel that follows a fierce teen game developer as she battles a real-life troll intent on ruining the Black Panther-inspired video game she created, and the safe community it represents for Black gamers. No one knows Kiera is the game developer, not her friends, her family, not even her boyfriend, Malcolm, who believes video games are partially responsible for the “downfall of the Black man.”	
Food & Nutrition	The Surprising Power of a Good Dumpling by Wai Chim
Anna Chiu has her hands full looking after her siblings and helping at her dad's restaurant, all while her mum stays in bed. Dad's new delivery boy, Rory, is a welcome distraction and even though she knows that things are not right at home, she is starting to feel like she could just be a normal teen.	
Design & Technology	An Absolutely Remarkable Thing by Hank Green
In New York City at three a.m., April May stumbles across a giant sculpture – like a ten-foot-tall transformer wearing a suit of samurai armour. Together with her best friend Andy, she names it ‘Carl’ and films a quick video for YouTube. The next day, April wakes up to a viral sensation ... and a new life.	
ARTS	
Drama	Blood Brothers (The Play) by Willy Russell
Blood Brothers is a musical with book, lyrics, and music by Willy Russell. The story is a contemporary nature versus nurture plot, revolving around fraternal twins, Mickey, and Eddie, who were separated at birth, one subsequently being raised in a wealthy family, the other in a poor family. We will be studying Blood Brothers this term and will be using extracts from the script in our lessons. If you're looking to take GCSE Drama, it's important you start to engage with scripts. It will also help your English studies as you start to explore modern stagecraft for both the end of Year 9 and the start of Year 10.	
Art & Design	The Power of the Pencil by Guy Field
Lovingly put together by quirky illustrator, Guy Field, this playful and practical book starts with the basics, discussing which pencils you need in your personal drawing toolkit, then goes on to give tips and methods for drawing everything from a self-portrait to your evening meal.	
Music	I Was Born for This by Alice Oseman
For Angel Rahimi, life is only about one thing: The Ark – a pop-rock trio of teenage boys who are currently taking the world by storm. Being part of The Ark's fandom has given her everything – her friendships, her dreams, her place in the world. Jimmy Kaga-Ricci owes everything to The Ark too. He's their frontman – and playing in a band is all he's ever dreamed of doing. It's just a shame that recently everything in his life seems to have turned into a bit of a nightmare. Because that's the problem with dreaming – eventually, inevitably, real life arrives with a wake-up call. And when Angel and Jimmy are unexpectedly thrust together, they will discover just how strange and surprising facing up to reality can be.	
P.E.	Gravity by Sarah Demming
Gravity "Doomsday" Delgado is good at breaking things. She learned it from her broken home. But since she started boxing with a legendary coach at a gym in Brooklyn, Gravity is finding her talent for breaking things has an upside. Lately, she's been breaking records, breaking her competitors, and breaking down the walls inside her. Boxing is taking her places, and if she just stays focused, she knows she'll have a chance at the Olympics.	