



# Year 8 Academic Book List 2023/24



Humanities	
Subject	Book
English	The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Raúf
This is the story about how one ordinary nine-year-old child and three classmates are full of empathy for Ahmet, a boy that comes to their school as a refugee from Syria. A story that explores the theme of displacement, which you will explore through many of the texts you study this year, including The Odyssey, The Tempest, and The Woman in Black.	
Spanish	Cemetery Boys by Aiden Thomas
When his traditional Latinx family has problems accepting his gender, Yadriel becomes determined to prove himself a real brujo. With the help of his cousin and best friend Maritza, he performs the ritual himself, and then sets out to find the ghost of his murdered cousin and set it free. This novel is written in English but unapologetically and authentically uses Spanish, too.	
Geography	In The Sea There Are Crocodiles by Fabio Geda
The story of a ten-year-old Afghan boy who escapes from Afghanistan and makes his way through Iran, Turkey, and Greece and eventually to Italy. It is a frank, revealing and clear-eyed testament of the experiences faced by a young asylum-seeker in the contemporary world. This is an incredibly story which you can use in preparation for beliefs and values' unit looking at religious conflict and questioning the idea that 'it will never happen to us. 'We chose this book as we discuss population and migration in this year's scheme of work. The book offers a first-hand perspective and explores the reasoning why people might migrate. It also offers an opportunity to promote empathy as students can explore how living standards may be different elsewhere.	
History	Revolution - Jennifer Donnelly
Two girls, two centuries apart. One never knowing the other. But when Andi finds Alexandrine's diary, she recognizes something in her words and is moved to the point of obsession. There's comfort and distraction for Andi in the journal's antique page. Until, on a midnight journey through the catacombs of Paris, Alexandrine's words transcend paper and time, and the past becomes suddenly, terrifyingly present. We chose this book as it explores the complex reasons behind why the French overthrew their own monarchy and the lasting consequences of this event on the entire world.	
Beliefs and Values	The Henna Wars by Adiba Jaigirdar
When Nishat comes out to her parents, they say she can be anyone she wants—as long as she isn't herself. Because Muslim girls aren't lesbians. Nishat doesn't want to hide who she is, but she also doesn't want to lose her relationship with her family. And her life only gets harder once a childhood friend walks back into her life. Flávia is beautiful and charismatic, and Nishat falls for her instantly. But when a school competition invites students to create their own businesses, both Flávia and Nishat choose to do henna, even though Flávia is appropriating Nishat's culture. Amidst sabotage and school stress, their lives get more tangled—but Nishat can't quite get rid of her crush on Flávia and realizes there might be more to her than she realized.	
STEM	
Maths	Counting by 7s by Holly Goldberg Sloan
Willow Chance is a twelve-year-old genius, obsessed with nature and diagnosing medical conditions, who finds it comforting to count by 7s. This is a great cross-curricular read as Willow's perceptions of people, her interaction, and her routines, are driven by her extreme intelligence and enthusiasms for things, like maths, food, hygiene, and the environment. It sets her apart and she likes it that way. This book has been chosen to introduce you to Mathematical concepts and key words. We hope that this fun fictional text which incorporates some mathematical ideas. Our librarian thinks this is an especially great read for fans of Wonder by R. J. Palacio.	
Science	Scavengers by Darren Simpson
Landfill has lived his whole life as a scavenger, running with woofers, swimming with turtles and feasting on fresh gull. Old Babagoo has always looked after him, on one condition - follow his rules. Never come looking Outside. Never rise above the wall. But despite the dangers, Landfill longs to see Outside. And some rules are made to be broken.	
Computing	Welcome to Trashland by Steve Cole
Theo lives in a vast dumping ground of broken electronics in Ghana. He searches the trash for metal scraps to sell for cash, and dreams of going to school and escaping this harsh life. So, when Emanuel turns up with talk of buried treasure, Theo sees a chance to get out of Trashland. But Emanuel draws the attention of a local gang, and Theo realises his new friend is keeping dangerous secrets...	
Food and Nutrition	When Life Gives You Mangoes by Kereen Getten
Nothing much happens in Sycamore, the small village where Clara lives - at least, that's how it looks. She loves eating ripe mangoes fallen from trees, running outside in the rainy season, and escaping to her secret hideout with her best friend Gaynah. There's only one problem - she can't remember anything that happened last summer. When a quirky girl called Rudy arrives from England, everything starts to change. Gaynah stops acting like a best friend, while Rudy and Clara roam across the island and uncover an old family secret. As the summer reaches its peak and the island storms begin, Clara's memory starts to return, and she must finally face the truth of what happened last year.	
Design and Technology	Cinder by Marissa Meyer
Cinder, a gifted mechanic in New Beijing, is also a cyborg. She's reviled by her stepmother and blamed for her stepsister's sudden illness. But when her life becomes entwined with the handsome Prince Kai's, she finds herself at the centre of a violent struggle between the desires of an evil queen - and a dangerous temptation. Cinder is caught between duty and freedom, loyalty, and betrayal. Now she must uncover secrets about her mysterious past in order to protect Earth's future.	
ARTS	
Drama	Hard to Swallow by Mark Wheeller (Script)
Mark Wheeler's play uses the words from Catherine's diaries and also of those most integrally involved and affected by her illness, anorexia nervosa. This gives the reader further insight into the psychological trauma of anorexia and how Catherine's illness affected her and the impact it had on her family.	
Art and Design	Warhol by Klaus Honnef
Drawing on contemporary advertisements, comic strips, consumer products, and Hollywood's most famous faces, Warhol proposed a radical re-evaluation of what constituted artistic subject matter.	
Music	The Kingdom of Back by Marie Lu
The historical fantasy novel tells the lesser-known story of Maria Anna (Nannerl) Mozart, the older sister of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. In this thrilling read, you will discover to what dangerous lengths Nannerl will go to make history remember her - a girl who cannot even compose. This fictional story highlights the life for a female aspiring musician during the 18th Century.	
P.E.	Kicking Off! by Eve Ainsworth
It is 1917 and Britain is at war. Shy teenager, Hettie, wants to help the war effort, and signs up to work in the local Dick, Kerr & Co. munitions factory. For, inside this factory are young women who are about to make sporting history.	