



Year 9 Academic Book List 2023/24



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	Café Con Lychee by Emery Lee
Theo Mori wants to escape. Leaving Vermont for college means getting away from working at his parents' Asian American café and dealing with their arch-rivals' hopeless son Gabi who's lost the soccer team more games than Theo can count. Gabi Moreno is miserably stuck in the closet. Forced to play soccer to hide his love for dance and iced out by Theo, the only openly gay guy at school, Gabi's only reprieve is his parents' Puerto Rican bakery and his plans to take over after graduation. But the town's new fusion café changes everything. Between the Mori's struggling shop and the Moreno's plan to sell their bakery in the face of the competition, both boys find their dreams in jeopardy. Then Theo has an idea—sell photo-worthy food covertly at school to offset their losses. When he sprains his wrist and Gabi gets roped in to help, they realize they need to work together to save their parents' shops but will the new feelings rising between them be enough to send their future plans up in smoke?	
Geography	Some Places More Than Others by Renee Watson
A heartwarming and inspiring middle grade novel about finding deep roots and exploring the past, the present, and the places that make us who we are. 'Some of the places I am still getting to know, some of these places I have known all my life. All these places made me, are making me.' All Amara wants for her birthday is to visit her father's family in New York City - Harlem. She can't wait to finally meet her Grandpa Earl and cousins in person, and to stay in the brownstone where her father grew up. This will help her understand her family - and herself - in a new way.	
History	Things a Bright Girl Can Do by Sally Nicholls
Through rallies and marches, in polite drawing rooms and freezing prison cells and the poverty-stricken slums of the East End, three courageous young women join the fight for the vote. Evelyn is seventeen, and though she is rich and clever, she may never be allowed to follow her older brother to university. Enraged that she is expected to marry her childhood sweetheart rather than be educated, she joins the Suffragettes, and vows to pay the ultimate price for women's freedom. May is fifteen, and already sworn to the cause, though she and her fellow Suffragists refuse violence. When she meets Nell, a girl who's grown up in hardship, she sees a kindred spirit. Together and in love, the two girls start to dream of a world where all kinds of women have their place. But the fight for freedom will challenge Evelyn, May, and Nell more than they ever could believe. As war looms, just how much are they willing to sacrifice?	
Beliefs and 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 Mysteries: A Mathematical Odyssey through Everyday Life by Marcus du Sautoy
An interesting read about how we can apply mathematics to everyday situations. In each chapter there is a journey through a big mathematical theme, and at the end of the chapter a mathematical "mystery" is revealed. This book has been chosen as it shows you how Maths is used in the real world, and we hope that this text can provide a fun insight for you of the applications of mathematics.	
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 and 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 and 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 – A Play by Willy Russell (Script)
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 and 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. Life outside the ring is heating up, too. Suddenly she's flirting (and more) with a cute boxer at her gym--much to her coach's disapproval. Meanwhile, things at home with Gravity's mom are reaching a tipping point, and Gravity must look out for her little brother, Ty. With Olympic dreams, Gravity will have to decide what is worth fighting for.	