



**Year 9
Recommended
Reads**

Green Rising - Lauren James	2
The Lie Tree – Frances Hardinge	2
Double Cross – Malorie Blackman	2
STAGS – M.A. Bennett	2
Every Day – David Levithan	2
Humans – Matt Haig	3
This is Where It Ends – Marieke Nijkamp	3
The Blue Book of Nebo – Manon Steffan Ros	3
One of Us is Lying – Karen M. McManus	3
Monsters of Men – Patrick Ness	4
The Maze Runner – James Dashner	4
Twilight – Stephanie Meyer	4
Brave New World – Aldous Huxley	4
Dracula – Bram Stoker	4
We're All Made of Molecules – Susin Nielsen	5
The Inheritance Games – Jennifer Lynn Barnes	5
One in a Hundred Thousand – Linni Ingemundsen	5
Kick the Moon – Muhammad Khan	5
When the Moon Was Ours – Anna-Marie McLemore	6
Great Expectations – Charles Dickens	6
A List of Cages – Robin Roe	6

Green Rising - Lauren James

Green Rising is set in a near-future world threatened by climate collapse. Teens are at the forefront of environmental activism while confronting personal, political, and ethical challenges. The story explores climate change, activism, leadership, friendship, ethical decision-making, and resilience, combining high-stakes adventure with socially relevant themes.

The Lie Tree – Frances Hardinge

The Lie Tree is set in Victorian England where a curious girl investigates her father's mysterious death using a magical tree that exposes hidden truths. Along the way, she confronts deception, ambition, and moral dilemmas. Themes include curiosity, truth, deception, family secrets, morality, and ambition, blending historical fiction with fantasy and mystery.

Double Cross – Malorie Blackman

Double Cross follows Callum, a young boy caught in dangerous situations while trying to do what is right. As he faces challenges and makes risky choices, he learns the importance of courage, loyalty, and trusting the right people. The story explores themes of friendship, bravery, and standing up for justice, all set in a fast-paced, thrilling adventure.

STAGS – M.A. Bennett

A scholarship student attends an elite boarding school where a seemingly harmless game among classmates escalates into deadly consequences. Through psychological games and social rivalries, students are forced to confront trust, power, and survival. Themes include class, morality, power dynamics, survival, betrayal, and human psychology, blending suspense, dark humour, and tension.

Every Day – David Levithan

“A” wakes up each day in a different person's body, living their life and facing their struggles while forming a connection with a girl he loves. The constant change allows exploration of identity, perspective, and empathy, as “A” learns to navigate multiple lives and emotional landscapes. The novel explores love, identity, perspective-taking, human connection, and moral choices, offering a unique and thought-provoking narrative about the fluidity of experience.

Humans – Matt Haig

An alien is sent to inhabit a human body on Earth, experiencing the complexity, beauty, and emotional depth of human life. He observes relationships, morality, and daily struggles, gradually gaining insight into the joys and hardships that define humanity. Themes include identity, empathy, human experience, morality, love, and self-discovery, combining humour, philosophical reflection, and emotional resonance to examine what it means to truly live.

This is Where It Ends – Marieke Nijkamp

This Is Where It Ends is a powerful young-adult novel that follows four teenagers during a terrifying fifty-four minutes of a school shooting. The story takes place inside Opportunity High School, where a former student, Tyler Browne, locks the auditorium doors and opens fire on his classmates. Through the perspectives of Autumn, Sylvia, Tomas, and Claire, the novel reveals fear, courage, friendship, and the desperate attempts to survive and help others. As the characters struggle with trauma, loss, and the urgency of the moment, the book highlights how quickly lives can change and how strength and compassion can appear even in the darkest situations.

The Blue Book of Nebo – Manon Steffan Ros

The Blue Book of Nebo is a post-apocalyptic novel about a mother and son trying to survive after a disaster destroys modern society. The story is written as diary entries in a blue notebook by Dylan, a teenage boy, and his mother Rowenna, who live in a small village in Wales after “The End,” a catastrophic event that causes electricity, technology, and most of civilization to collapse. As they learn to live off the land, grow food, and adapt to a simpler life, their entries reveal their fears, hopes, and the secrets they keep from each other. Through their reflections, the novel explores survival, loneliness, family bonds, and what it means to rebuild a life when the world you once knew is gone.

One of Us is Lying – Karen M. McManus

One of Us Is Lying is a mystery about five students who go to detention, but only four leave alive. Simon, who runs a gossip app that exposes students’ secrets, dies from an allergic reaction that turns out to be murder. Because he planned to reveal secrets about Bronwyn, Addy, Nate, and Cooper, they all become suspects. The story follows them as they try to prove their innocence while their hidden secrets start to come out.

Monsters of Men – Patrick Ness

Monsters of Men is the final book in the Chaos Walking trilogy. It continues the story of Todd and Viola as a war begins between the human settlers and the native Spackle on the planet. As battles grow more dangerous, both characters must make difficult choices about loyalty, leadership, and survival. The novel explores themes of power, violence, and whether peace is possible after so much conflict.

The Maze Runner – James Dashner

The Maze Runner is a dystopian novel about a boy named Thomas who wakes up in a place called the Glade with no memory of his past. He and other boys live there, surrounded by a huge maze filled with dangerous creatures called Grievers. Every day, runners explore the maze to find a way out. When a girl arrives with a mysterious message, Thomas begins to uncover secrets about the maze and why they were all sent there.

Twilight – Stephanie Meyer

Twilight is a fantasy romance about a teenage girl named Bella Swan who moves to a small town and meets Edward Cullen. She soon discovers that Edward is a vampire. As their relationship grows, Bella is drawn into the dangerous world of vampires and must face the risks that come with loving someone supernatural.

Brave New World – Aldous Huxley

Brave New World by is a dystopian novel set in a future society where people are genetically engineered and controlled to keep the world stable and peaceful. Emotions, family, and individuality are discouraged, and people are kept happy through entertainment and a drug called soma. When a man named John, who was raised outside this society, enters this world, he struggles to understand and challenge its values.

Dracula – Bram Stoker

Dracula is a gothic horror novel about a vampire Count named Count Dracula who moves from Transylvania to England to spread his undead curse. A group of people, led by Professor Abraham Van Helsing, work together to stop him. The story follows their struggle to protect others and destroy Dracula before he gains more power.

We're All Made of Molecules – Susin Nielsen

We're All Made of Molecules is a young-adult novel about two very different teenagers, Stewart and Ashley, who are forced to live under the same roof when their single parents get married. Stewart is quiet and thoughtful, while Ashley is dramatic and struggles with fitting in. Through humour, awkward situations, and emotional growth, they navigate family dynamics, friendship, and the challenges of adolescence, learning to understand each other despite their differences.

The Inheritance Games – Jennifer Lynn Barnes

The Inheritance Games is a mystery-thriller about a teenage girl named Avery who unexpectedly inherits the fortune of a reclusive billionaire, Tobias Hawthorne. To claim it, she must live in his mansion alongside the Hawthorne family, who are full of secrets, riddles, and hidden agendas. Avery navigates puzzles, family tension, and danger as she tries to uncover why she was chosen, making the story full of suspense, twists, and clever mind games.

One in a Hundred Thousand – Linni Ingemundsen

One in a Hundred Thousand is a coming of age story about fifteen year old Sander, who has Silver Russell syndrome — a rare condition that makes him much smaller than other kids his age. At school he feels overlooked and different, especially compared with popular, tall boys like Niklas. But Sander also notices things others miss, and as the story goes on, he learns about friendship, self acceptance, and standing out rather than fitting in. It's about growing up, finding your place, and seeing strength in being unique.

Kick the Moon – Muhammad Khan

Kick the Moon is a young adult novel about fifteen year old Ilyas Mian, a British Pakistani teen under pressure from family, school and friends. When he's stuck in detention, he befriends Kelly, an outsider who shares his love of comics. Their friendship grows, but trouble starts when Kelly catches the attention of Imran, a local gang leader who once recruited Ilyas. Ilyas must decide whether to stand up for himself, protect his friendships, and chase his own dreams — just like the superhero he draws in his comics, going to “kick the moon.”

When the Moon Was Ours – Anna-Marie McLemore

When the Moon Was Ours is a lyrical young-adult fantasy about best friends Miel and Sam, who live in a small town where magic and secrecy intertwine. Sam has roses growing from his wrists, and Miel can hear people's thoughts when they touch water. Together, they navigate love, identity, and the pressures of a world that often misunderstands them, while confronting danger and prejudice. The story blends romance, magic, and poetic storytelling to explore self-discovery, courage, and belonging.

Great Expectations – Charles Dickens

Great Expectations follows Pip, a poor orphan who dreams of becoming a gentleman. After receiving money from a mysterious benefactor, he moves to London and changes his lifestyle. He later discovers the money comes from a convict he once helped, not Miss Havisham. The novel explores themes of social class, ambition, and personal growth, showing that kindness and loyalty are more important than wealth or status.

A List of Cages – Robin Roe

A List of Cages by Robin Roe follows Adam, a high school student who reconnects with Julian, a boy he once fostered. When Adam realises Julian is being abused at home, he tries to help but struggles with what to do. The novel explores themes of abuse, friendship, responsibility, and mental health, showing how important it is to speak up and support others in difficult situations.

