



**Year 10 and Year 11
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The Hate U Give – Angie Thomas

Starr Carter is a sixteen-year-old girl living between two worlds: the poor, predominantly Black neighbourhood she calls home, and the wealthy, mostly white private school she attends. Her life is turned upside down when she witnesses the fatal shooting of her childhood friend, Khalil, by a police officer. As the incident becomes national news, Starr faces pressure from her community, the media, and law enforcement while grappling with her own fears and loyalties. The story explores systemic racism, police brutality, activism, family bonds, identity, and moral courage, showing the struggle to balance personal safety with standing up for justice.

Concrete Rose – Angie Thomas

A prequel to *The Hate U Give*, *Concrete Rose* follows a young Maverick Carter as he navigates the challenges of adolescence in a world filled with gang activity, social pressure, and limited opportunities. When he unexpectedly becomes a father, Maverick is forced to rethink his priorities, confront his fears, and make difficult decisions about responsibility, loyalty, and his future. Themes include fatherhood, resilience, moral dilemmas, family, community, and personal growth, offering insight into the choices that shape a person's life before they reach adulthood.

The Lucky List – Rachael Lippincott

After the sudden death of her mother, a teen girl struggles to cope with grief and uncertainty. To reclaim control over her life, she makes a list of things she wants to accomplish, from small joys to meaningful adventures. Along the way, she discovers the importance of friendship, love, resilience, self-discovery, and pursuing what truly matters, learning that healing comes in both big and small steps. The story blends heartfelt emotion with relatable teen experiences, showing the complexity of navigating loss while finding hope.

Five Feet Apart – Daughtry / Lippincott / Iaconis

Stella and Will are two teens living with cystic fibrosis, a condition that requires them to maintain strict physical distance from others to survive. Despite the challenges, they fall in love, forming a bond that is emotionally intense and fraught with tension. The novel explores romance, vulnerability, the fragility of life, resilience, hope, and the human need for connection, emphasizing how love can thrive even under seemingly impossible circumstances.

Punching the Air – Ibi Zoboi & Yusef Salaam

Amal Shahid is a gifted artist with a promising future, but when he is wrongfully imprisoned, his world collapses. Through poetry and creative expression, he documents his experiences and confronts systemic racism, injustice, and the emotional toll of incarceration. The story explores identity, resilience, racial inequality, the power of art, and social justice, portraying the challenges of maintaining humanity, hope, and self-expression within a broken system.

Silence Is Goldfish – Annabel Pitcher

After a family betrayal, a teenage girl chooses complete silence as a form of protest and personal protection. As she withdraws from the world, she reflects on her identity, relationships, and place within her family. Through her journey, she learns to confront fear, embrace her individuality, and reclaim her voice. Themes include identity, family dynamics, self-expression, rebellion, personal growth, and the search for truth, offering a unique blend of emotional depth and wit.

Guantánamo Boy – Anna Perera

A teenage boy is wrongly accused of terrorism and sent to Guantánamo Bay, where he experiences extreme isolation, interrogation, and discrimination. The story follows his struggle to maintain his innocence and humanity while grappling with complex moral and cultural dilemmas. Themes include injustice, radicalisation, prejudice, resilience, moral courage, and identity, providing a sobering perspective on political and social issues through the eyes of a young person caught in extraordinary circumstances.

All This Time – Mikki Daughtry & Rachael Lippincott

After the sudden death of her sister, the protagonist struggles to navigate grief while forming new connections and exploring first love. Her emotional journey involves confronting past regrets, opening herself to others, and finding strength in vulnerability. The story explores grief, resilience, healing, love, friendship, and personal growth, offering a deeply emotional and relatable look at the process of recovery and rediscovery.

A Very Large Expanse of Sea – Tahereh Mafi

Set in the aftermath of 9/11, a Muslim teen girl faces prejudice and misunderstanding at school while trying to build friendships and explore first love. The novel addresses cultural bias, identity, resilience, societal pressures, and self-acceptance, highlighting the challenges of growing up as a minority in a world that often misunderstands and judges based on fear or assumptions. The narrative balances emotional depth with moments of humour and hope.

The 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.

Revolver – Marcus Sedgwick

A young man is drawn into a dangerous and mysterious criminal plot after meeting a stranger who brings unexpected trouble into his life. As suspense builds, he faces moral dilemmas and life-threatening challenges that force him to question his values and survival instincts. Themes include morality, crime, suspense, tension, danger, and human psychology, creating a dark and engaging thriller.

Ghosts of Heaven – Marcus Sedgwick

Four interlinked stories span different historical periods, exploring human nature, mortality, and the mysteries of the cosmos. Each tale examines how knowledge, fear, and curiosity shape the lives of individuals across time, showing the enduring qualities of human experience. Themes include history, philosophy, morality, mortality, curiosity, and interconnectedness, offering a layered and reflective narrative across multiple perspectives.

Nerve – Jeanne Ryan

Top of Form

A teen joins a live online game of dares that starts as harmless fun but quickly escalates into dangerous and morally complex situations. The story examines the influence of social media, peer pressure, and personal courage as the protagonist navigates increasingly high-stakes challenges. Themes include technology, peer influence, morality, risk, bravery, and identity, providing a fast-paced and contemporary cautionary tale.

Shiver – Maggie Stiefvater

A girl falls in love with a werewolf, experiencing the tension between human emotion and supernatural transformation. The story explores the challenges of loyalty, mortality, and love in a world where the natural and the supernatural intersect. Themes include romance, identity, transformation, mortality, and self-discovery, creating a suspenseful and atmospheric narrative.

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.

Salt to the Sea – Ruta Sepetys

During World War II, refugees from various backgrounds make a treacherous journey, culminating in the tragic sinking of the *Wilhelm Gustloff*. Told from multiple perspectives, the novel explores war, human endurance, courage, loss, survival, and morality, highlighting both the horrors of conflict and the strength of the human spirit.

The Girl with All the Gifts – M.R. Carey

In a post-apocalyptic world, Melanie, a highly intelligent and unique girl, may hold the key to humanity's survival. As she navigates a world filled with danger, ethical dilemmas, and uncertainty, she must learn what it means to be human. Themes include morality, survival, identity, ethics, humanity, and personal growth, blending suspense, philosophy, and dystopian fiction.

Blame – Melvin Burgess

A teen experiences the consequences of social pressure and poor decisions, navigating complex friendships and moral dilemmas. The story examines responsibility, accountability, social dynamics, adolescence, and personal growth, offering a realistic and intense exploration of teenage life.

Book of Dust – Philip Pullman

A prequel and sequel series to *His Dark Materials*, expanding the universe and following Lyra and new characters on dangerous and transformative journeys. Themes include ethics, identity, adventure, morality, and the consequences of choices, offering deeper insights into the original saga.

Gone – Michael Grant

All the adults disappear from a town, leaving teens to form a new society under extreme conditions. As supernatural powers emerge, characters confront moral dilemmas, leadership challenges, and survival struggles. Themes include power, morality, survival, adolescence, human nature, and leadership, blending dystopia, fantasy, and suspense.

Hunger – Michael Grant

A continuation of *Gone*, teens face heightened danger and supernatural abilities while navigating ethical and emotional challenges. The story examines courage, morality, power, resilience, survival, and human nature, continuing the series' exploration of adolescents under extraordinary circumstances.

Am I Normal Yet? – Holly Bourne

A teen with OCD faces the challenges of mental health, school, and relationships, learning to navigate her condition while embracing her identity. Themes include mental health, self-acceptance, individuality, resilience, friendship, and personal growth, told with humour and emotional insight.

The Kite Runner – Khaled Hosseini

Amir reflects on his childhood friendship with Hassan in Afghanistan and the betrayal that haunts him into adulthood. As he seeks redemption, he confronts complex moral questions and the effects of political turmoil. Themes include friendship, loyalty, guilt, redemption, family, moral responsibility, and the impact of war, offering a deeply emotional and reflective story about human relationships and forgiveness.

