

Year 9 & 10 Book Reading List

These top 10 books have been selected as **MUST READS** because they are controversial and current.

Have a read of the plot overview and see if any of them take your fancy!

1. The Outsiders <i>by S.E. Hinton</i>	This is a classic tale of conflict between society's have and have nots. Ponyboy is a Greaser who, along with his brothers and his friends, has to cope with the viciousness and brutality of the Socs (the Social Elites) until events are taken too far. The Outsiders gave a powerful voice to a group of teenagers who were hitherto disenfranchised, marginalised and cast aside.
2. Catcher in the Rye <i>by J.D Salinger</i>	With its 16-year-old hero is hell bent in losing his virginity, Catcher in the Rye was always going to court controversy. But Salinger pushes this further with Holden Caulfield prone to bouts of vulgarity, psychotic happenings and erratic behaviour. That's before we even start on his drinking, smoking, lying and promiscuity: conduct not befitting an educated teenager in 50s America. It raised many of the moral issues facing America's - and beyond - youth at that time.
3. The Book Thief <i>by Markus Zusak</i>	In 1938, young orphan Liesel (Sophie Néliste) arrives at the home of her new foster parents, Hans (Geoffrey Rush) and Rosa (Emily Watson). When Hans, a kindly housepainter, learns that Liesel cannot read, he teaches the child the wonders of the written language. Liesel grows to love books, even rescuing one from a Nazi bonfire. Though Liesel's new family barely scrape by, their situation becomes even more precarious when they secretly shelter a Jewish boy whose father once saved Hans' life.
4. The Hate U Give <i>by Angie Thomas</i>	A young teenage girl witnesses a shooting and killing of one of her friends and she knows she must stand up to this type of crime and say what she knows.
5. The Handmaid's Tale <i>by Margaret Atwood</i>	Set in a near-future New England, in a totalitarian theocracy which has overthrown the United States government, the dystopian novel explores themes of women in subjugation and the various means by which they gain agency. This novel is all about how women were forced to conform to the wishes of the men around them.
6. Thirteen Reasons Why <i>by Jay Asher</i>	Clay Jensen returns home from school to find a mysterious box with his name on it lying on his porch. Inside he discovers cassette tapes recorded by Hannah Baker—his classmate and crush—who committed suicide two weeks earlier. On tape, Hannah explains that there are thirteen reasons why she decided to end her life.
7. The Hunger Games <i>by Suzanne Collins</i>	In what was once North America, the Capitol of Panem maintains its hold on its 12 districts by forcing them each to select a boy and a girl, called Tributes, to compete in a nationally televised event called the Hunger Games. Every citizen must watch as the youths fight to the death until only one remains. District 12 Tribute Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence) has little to rely on, other than her hunting skills and sharp instincts, in an arena where she must weigh survival against love.
8. The Clockwork Orange <i>by Anthony Burgess</i>	In an England of the future, Alex (Malcolm McDowell) and his "Droogs" spend their nights getting high at the Korova Milkbar

	<p>before embarking on "a little of the old ultraviolence," while jauntily warbling "Singin' in the Rain." After he's jailed for bludgeoning the Cat Lady to death, Alex submits to behaviour modification technique to earn his freedom; he's conditioned to abhor violence. Returned to the world defenceless, Alex becomes the victim of his prior victims.</p>
<p>9. The Lovely Bones <i>by Alice Sebold</i></p>	<p>In heaven, Susie Salmon can have whatever she wishes for - except what she most wants, which is to be back with the people she loved on earth. In the wake of her murder, Susie watches as her happy suburban family is torn apart by grief; as her friends grow up, fall in love, and do all the things she never had the chance to do herself. But as Susie will come to realize, even in death, life is not quite out of reach.</p> <p>A luminous, astonishing novel about life and death, memory and forgetting, and finding light in the darkest places, Alice Sebold's <i>The Lovely Bones</i> became an instant classic when it was first published in 2002.</p>
<p>10. Gone Girl <i>by Gillian Flynn</i></p>	<p>The book begins with a surreal setting. On the morning of their fifth commemoration, Nick Dunne's wife, Amy, vanishes from their North Carthage, Missouri home. A couple of years prior, they moved there from New York to deal with Nick's mom, who was passing on of disease. The disappearance is not all it seems though as Nick is quickly accused of killing his wife.</p>