



English Language

Reading

See the full list of recommendations from [The School Reading List](#)

Recommendations for Year 12

Eve out of her Ruins by Ananda Devi

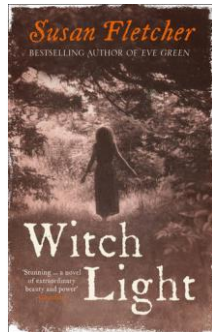


'There's a careful balance between beauty and despair, not just in the carefully crafted sentences but in the content. The depiction of the commodification of female sexuality is nuanced and haunting, never gratuitously bleak or polemical. In a storyline that involves a murder, a

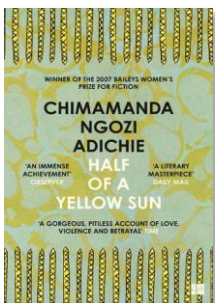
wrongful arrest, a riot and revenge, there's space for love, for poetry, for hope. That Devi (and Zuckerman) get all of this into less than 200 pages is remarkable'- *The Irish Times*

Witch Light by Susan Fletcher

The new novel from Susan Fletcher, author of the bestselling 'Eve Green' and 'Oystercatchers'. A wild young girl from the mountains of Scotland, has been imprisoned as a witch. Terrified, in a cold, filthy cell, she awaits her fate of death by burning – until she is visited by Charles Leslie, a young Irishman, hungry to question her.



Half of a Yellow Sun by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie



Caught in the middle of the Nigerian Civil War, three disparate characters find their lives inextricably intertwined in this visceral study of race, class privilege and love. A powerful image of African politics and the catastrophic and enduring effects of war.

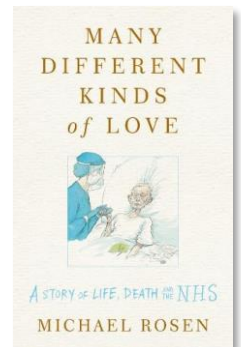
Mother Tongue: The Story of the English Language by Bill Bryson



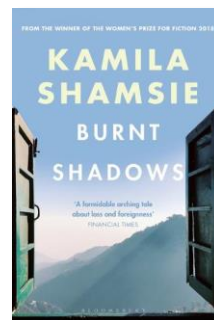
An entertaining read. Mother Tongue sweeps through the history of the English Language, from its starting point as a hybrid of ancient dialects, through to the impact of invader languages, and the nuances of modern grammar, spelling and pronunciation conventions. A great read for students interested in languages, linguistics and English.

Many Different Kinds of Love: A story of life, death and the NHS by Michael Rosen

Poems, diary entries, doctor's notes and nurses' observations make up this moving account of Michael Rosen's six weeks in a Covid-induced coma. An antidote to the anti-vaxxers and Covid denial, Many Different Kinds of Love is a warm expression of hope, strength and positivity and it is a compelling read for all sixth formers.



Burnt Shadows by Kamila Shamsie



Set on the day of the Nagasaki atomic bomb detonation in August 1945, this story follows Hiroko as her life changes in an instant, how she moves to Delhi and how her life moves again, to New York, with an astonishing turn of events. This moving novel combines a sweeping narrative with absorbing characters set to a backdrop of history, politics and social comment.



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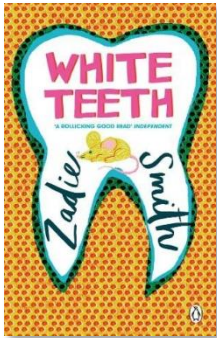
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Recommendations for Year 13

White Teeth

by Zadie Smith



One of the most talked about debut novels of all time, *White Teeth* is a funny, generous, big-hearted novel, adored by critics and readers alike. Dealing - among many other things - with friendship, love, war, three cultures and three families over three generations,

one brown mouse, and the tricky way the past has of coming back and biting you on the ankle, it is a life-affirming, riotous must-read of a book.

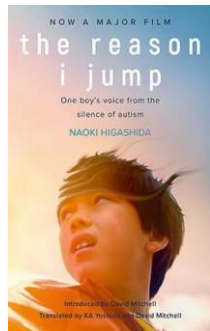
The Reason I Jump

by Naoki Higashida

This eye-opening first person autobiography reveals what it feels like to be autistic and how a neuro-divergent present sees and experiences the world.

Written when the author was 13, it offers teens a unique glimpse not just into non-verbal lives, but also into the many different ways events can be perceived, and all the different ways life can be lived.

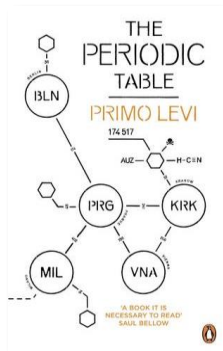
Recommended for students interested in abstract ideas, art and psychology.



The Periodic Table

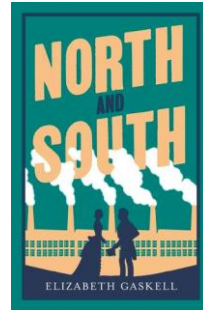
by Primo Levi

Inspired by the rhythms of the Periodic Table, Primo Levi assesses his life in terms of the chemical elements he associates with his past. From his birth into an Italian Jewish family through his training as a chemist, to the pain and darkness of the Holocaust and its aftermath, Levi reflects on the difficult course of his life in this heart felt and deeply moving book.



North and South

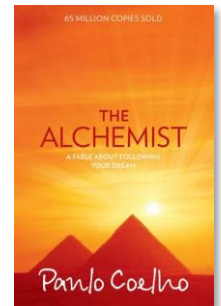
by Elizabeth Gaskell



Having grown up in London and rural southern England, Margaret Hale moves with her father to the northern industrial city of Milton. She is shocked by the poverty she encounters and dismayed by the unsympathetic attitude of the textile-mill owner John Thornton, whose factory

workers are engaged in an acrimonious strike.

Against this backdrop of social unrest, the relationship between the two is tumultuous, and it takes further upheaval and tragedy for them to see each other in a different light.



The Alchemist

by Paulo Coelho

A global phenomenon, *The Alchemist* has been read and loved by over 62 million readers, topping bestseller lists in 74 countries worldwide. Now this magical fable is beautifully repackaged in an edition that lovers of Paulo Coelho will want to treasure forever.

Every few decades a book is published that changes the lives of its readers forever. This is such a book – a beautiful parable about learning to listen to your heart, read the omens strewn along life's path and, above all, follow your dreams.

On the Beach

by Neville Shute



After the war is over, a radioactive cloud begins to sweep southwards on the winds, gradually poisoning everything in its path. An American submarine captain is among the survivors left sheltering in Australia, preparing with the locals for the

inevitable. Despite his memories of his wife, he becomes close to a young woman struggling to accept the harsh realities of their situation.