

Dear students,

We, members of the English team, would like to recommend these books to you to read over the summer holidays. We have tried to create a diverse list to represent the diverse interests of you all, and have provided a very short description of the text. We recommend that you do a little further research before committing to reading a book, but make sure you don't research too much ... SPOILER ALERT!

For the titles which are 'classics', and by extension, old: while for most it is preferable to have an actual, real-life, honest to God book in your hands, it is also possible to find these books free and legally via two wonderful resources:

- Project Gutenberg (<https://www.gutenberg.org/>) books in the public domain are here available as eBooks to download both in pdf and kindle formats
- Librivox (<https://librivox.org/>) books in the public domain are available here in audiobook format, read by volunteers. You can also download an app version and listen on your phone.

We hope you enjoy your summer, and your summer reading!

From,

The English Team

Title	Author	Year Published	Genre/Description
<i>The Rise and Fall of Adam and Eve</i>	Stephen Greenblatt	2017	The most influential story in Western cultural history, the biblical account of Adam and Eve is now treated either as the sacred possession of the faithful or as the butt of secular jokes. Here, acclaimed scholar Stephen Greenblatt explores it with profound appreciation for its cultural and psychological power as literature.
<i>Genesis</i>	The Bible	-	To be read alongside the above title
<i>The Godfather</i>	Mario Puzo	1969	A searing portrayal of the Mafia underworld, <i>The Godfather</i> introduced readers to the first family of American crime fiction, the Corleones, and their powerful legacy of tradition, blood, and honour. The seduction of power, the pitfalls of greed, and the allegiance to family—these are the themes that have resonated with millions

			of readers around the world and made <i>The Godfather</i> the definitive novel of Mafia subculture
<i>The Selfish Gene</i>	Richard Dawkins	1976	Suppose, instead of thinking about organisms using genes to reproduce themselves, as we had since Mendel's work was rediscovered, we turn it around and imagine that "our" genes build and maintain us in order to make more genes. That simple reversal seems to answer many puzzlers which had stumped scientists for years, and we haven't thought of evolution in the same way since. Drawing fascinating examples from every field of biology, Dawkins paved the way for a serious re-evaluation of evolution.
<i>Bridget Jones' Diary</i>	Helen Fielding	1996	<i>Bridget Jones' Diary</i> is the devastatingly self-aware, laugh-out-loud daily chronicle of Bridget's permanent, doomed quest for self-improvement — a year in which she resolves to: reduce the circumference of each thigh by 1.5 inches, visit the gym three times a week not just to buy a sandwich, form a functional relationship with a responsible adult, and learn to program the VCR.
<i>Demonic Males: Apes and the Origins of Human Violence</i>	Richard Wrangham	1996	Whatever their virtues, men are more violent than women. Why do men kill, rape, and wage war, and what can we do about it? Drawing on the latest discoveries about human evolution and about our closest living relatives, the great apes, <i>Demonic Males</i> offers some startling new answers. Dramatic, vivid, and firmly grounded in meticulous research, this book will change the way you see the world. As the <i>San Francisco Chronicle</i> said, it "dares to dig for the roots of a contentious and complicated subject that makes

			up much of our daily news."
<i>Think: A Compelling Introduction to Philosophy</i>	Simon Blackburn	1999	Here at last is a coherent, unintimidating introduction to the challenging and fascinating landscape of Western philosophy. Written expressly for "anyone who believes there are big questions out there, but does not know how to approach them," Think provides a sound framework for exploring the most basic themes of philosophy, and for understanding how major philosophers have tackled the questions that have pressed themselves most forcefully on human consciousness.
<i>The Reason I Jump</i>	Naoki Higashida	2005	This is a one-of-a-kind memoir that demonstrates how an autistic mind thinks, feels, perceives, and responds in ways few of us can imagine.
<i>White Teeth</i>	Zadie Smith	2000	At the centre of this invigorating novel are two unlikely friends, Archie Jones and Samad Iqbal. Hapless veterans of World War II, Archie and Samad and their families become agents of England's irrevocable transformation.
<i>The Buddha of Suburbia</i>	Hanif Kureishi	1990	Karim Amir lives with his English mother and Indian father in the routine comfort of suburban London, enduring his teenage years with good humor, always on the lookout for adventure and sexual possibilities. Life gets more interesting, however, when his father becomes the Buddha of Suburbia, beguiling a circle of would-be mystics.
<i>The Pleasure of Finding Things Out</i>	Richard Feynman	1999	The Pleasure of Finding Things Out is a magnificent treasury of the best short works of Richard P. Feynman, from interviews and speeches to lectures and printed articles. A sweeping, wide-ranging collection, it presents an intimate and

			fascinating view of a life in science—a life like no other.
<i>Delia's Complete Cookery Course</i>	Delia Smith	1982	Delia is renowned for her tried-and-tested, foolproof recipes. <i>The Complete Cookery Course</i> is the book that has taken pride of place in kitchens for over 30 years. As clear and comprehensive as ever, Delia's recipes are suitable for beginners as well as more experienced cooks, providing you with all you need for a lifetime of cooking and eating well.
<i>So You've Been Publicly Shamed</i>	Jon Ronson	2015	For the past three years, Jon Ronson has travelled the world meeting recipients of high-profile public shamings. The shamed are people like us - people who, say, made a joke on social media that came out badly, or made a mistake at work. Once their transgression is revealed, collective outrage circles with the force of a hurricane and the next thing they know they're being torn apart by an angry mob, jeered at, demonised, sometimes even fired from their job.
<i>Cancel This Book: The Progressive Case Against Cancel Culture</i>	Dan Kovalik	2021	While many progressives believe that "cancelling" others is a form of activism and holding others accountable, <i>Cancel This Book</i> argues that "cancellation" is oftentimes counter-productive and destructive of the very values which the "cancellers" claim to support.
<i>Catch-22</i>	Joseph Heller	1961	Fifty years after its original publication, <i>Catch-22</i> remains a cornerstone of American literature and one of the funniest—and most celebrated—books of all time.
<i>A Fort of Nine Towers</i>	Qais Akbar Omar	2013	The surprising, stunning book that took the publishing world by storm: a coming-of-age memoir

			of unimaginable perils and unexpected joys, steeped in the rhythms of folk tales and poetry, that is as unforgettable as it is rare--a treasure for readers.
<i>Slaughterhouse-Five</i>	Kurt Vonnegut	1956	Slaughterhouse-Five, an American classic, is one of the world's great antiwar books. Centering on the infamous firebombing of Dresden, Billy Pilgrim's odyssey through time reflects the mythic journey of our own fractured lives as we search for meaning in what we fear most.
<i>Moby Dick</i>	Herman Melville	1851	<i>Moby-Dick</i> is the story of an eerily compelling madman pursuing an unholy war against a creature as vast and dangerous and unknowable as the sea itself. But more than just a novel of adventure, more than an encyclopaedia of whaling lore and legend, the book can be seen as part of its author's lifelong meditation on America. Written with wonderfully redemptive humour, <i>Moby-Dick</i> is also a profound inquiry into character, faith, and the nature of perception.
<i>Dune</i>	Frank Herbert	1965	Set on the desert planet Arrakis, Dune is the story of the boy Paul Atreides, heir to a noble family tasked with ruling an inhospitable world where the only thing of value is the "spice" melange, a drug capable of extending life and enhancing consciousness. Coveted across the known universe, melange is a prize worth killing for...
<i>The Man in the High Castle</i>	Phillip K. Dick	1962	It's America in 1962. Slavery is legal once again. The few Jews who still survive hide under assumed names. In San Francisco, the I Ching is as common as the Yellow Pages. All because some twenty years earlier the United States lost a

			war — and is now occupied by Nazi Germany and Japan.
<i>A Confederacy of Dunces</i>	John Kennedy Toole	1980	<p>Meet Ignatius J. Reilly, the hero of John Kennedy Toole's riotous tragicomic tale, <i>A Confederacy of Dunces</i>. This 30-year-old medievalist lives at home with his mother in New Orleans, pens his magnum opus on Big Chief writing pads he keeps hidden under his bed, and relays to anyone who will listen to the traumatic experience he once had on a Greyhound Scenicruiser bound for Baton Rouge. ("Speeding along in that bus was like hurtling into the abyss.") But Ignatius's quiet life of tyrannising his mother and writing his endless comparative history screeches to a halt when he is almost arrested by the overeager Patrolman Mancuso—who mistakes him for a vagrant—and then involved in a car accident with his tipsy mother behind the wheel. One thing leads to another, and before he knows it, Ignatius is out pounding the pavement in search of a job.</p>