

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

From,

The English Team

Title	Author	Year Published	Genre/Description
The Inheritors	William Golding	1955	When the spring came the people - what was left of them - moved back by the old paths from the sea. But this year strange things were happening, terrifying things that had never happened before. Inexplicable sounds and smells; new, unimaginable creatures half glimpsed through the leaves. What the people didn't, and perhaps never would, know, was that the day of their people was already over.
The Yellow Wallpaper	Charlotte Perkins Gilman	1892	A woman and her husband rent a summer house, but what should be a restful getaway turns into a suffocating psychological battle. This chilling account of postpartum depression and a husband's controlling behaviour in the guise of treatment will leave you breathless.
Middlesex	Jeffrey Eugenides	2002	<i>Middlesex</i> tells the breathtaking story of Calliope Stephanides, and

			three generations of the Greek-American Stephanides family, who travel from a tiny village overlooking Mount Olympus in Asia Minor to Prohibition-era Detroit, witnessing its glory days as the Motor City and the race riots of 1967 before moving out to the tree-lined streets of suburban Grosse Pointe, Michigan.
Letters from Constantinople	Mary Wortley Montagu	Early 1700s	Lady Mary Wortley Montagu was an English aristocrat and writer. Montagu is today chiefly remembered for her letters, particularly her letters from Turkey, which have been described by Billie Melman as “the very first example of a secular work by a woman about the Muslim Orient”.
Confessions of an English Opium Eater	Thomas De Quincey	1821	<i>Confessions</i> is a remarkable account of the pleasures and pains of worshipping at the 'Church of Opium'. Thomas De Quincey consumed daily large quantities of laudanum (at the time a legal painkiller), and this autobiography of addiction hauntingly describes his surreal visions and hallucinatory nocturnal wanderings through London
Jane Eyre	Charlotte Bronte	1847	Orphaned as a child, Jane has felt an outcast her whole young life. Her courage is tested once again when she arrives at Thornfield Hall, where she has been hired by the brooding, proud Edward Rochester to care for his ward Adèle. Jane finds herself drawn to his troubled yet kind spirit. She falls in love. Hard. But there is a terrifying secret inside the gloomy, forbidding Thornfield Hall. Is Rochester hiding from Jane? Will Jane be left heartbroken and exiled once again?
Wide Sargasso Sea	Jean Rhys	1966	Best read after reading <i>Jane Eyre</i> , Rhys' masterpiece imaginatively brings to life one of literature's

			most fascinating and mysterious characters; the madwoman in the attic in Bronte's opus.
The Hawkline Monster	Richard Brautigan	1974	The time is 1902, the setting eastern Oregon. Magic Child, a fifteen-year-old Indian girl, wanders into the wrong whorehouse looking for the right men to kill the monster that lives in the ice caves under the basement of Miss Hawkline's yellow house. What follows is a series of wild, witty, and bizarre encounters.
Sense and Sensibility	Jane Austen	1811	Marianne Dashwood wears her heart on her sleeve, and when she falls in love with the dashing but unsuitable John Willoughby she ignores her sister Elinor's warning that her impulsive behaviour leaves her open to gossip and innuendo. Meanwhile Elinor, always sensitive to social convention, is struggling to conceal her own romantic disappointment, even from those closest to her. Through their parallel experience of love—and its threatened loss—the sisters learn that sense must mix with sensibility if they are to find personal happiness in a society where status and money govern the rules of love.
Little Women	Louise May Alcott	1868	The lovable March sisters, talented tomboy and author-to-be Jo, tragically frail Beth, beautiful Meg, and romantic, spoiled Amy, are united in their devotion to each other and their struggles to survive in New England during the Civil War.
Middlemarch	George Eliot	1872	Taking place in the years leading up to the First Reform Bill of 1832, <i>Middlemarch</i> explores nearly every subject of concern to modern life: art, religion, science, politics, self, society, human relationships. Among her characters are some of the most remarkable portraits in English literature: Dorothea

			Brooke, the heroine, idealistic but naive; Rosamond Vincy, beautiful and egoistic: Edward Casaubon, the dry-as-dust scholar: Tertius Lydgate, the brilliant but morally-flawed physician: the passionate artist Will Ladislaw: and Fred Vincey and Mary Garth, childhood sweethearts whose charming courtship is one of the many humorous elements in the novel's rich comic vein.
The Great Gatsby	F. Scott Fitzgerald	1925	This exemplary novel of the Jazz Age has been acclaimed by generations of readers. The story of the fabulously wealthy Jay Gatsby and his love for the beautiful Daisy Buchanan, of lavish parties on Long Island at a time when <i>The New York Times</i> noted "gin was the national drink and sex the national obsession," it is an exquisitely crafted tale of America in the 1920s.
Crime and Punishment	Fyodor Dostoyevsky	1866	Raskolnikov, a destitute and desperate former student, wanders through the slums of St Petersburg and commits a random murder without remorse or regret. He imagines himself to be a great man, a Napoleon: acting for a higher purpose beyond conventional moral law. But as he embarks on a dangerous game of cat and mouse with a suspicious police investigator, Raskolnikov is pursued by the growing voice of his conscience and finds the noose of his own guilt tightening around his neck.
A Tale of Two Cities	Charles Dickens	1859	<i>A Tale of Two Cities</i> is Charles Dickens's great historical novel, set against the violent upheaval of the French Revolution. The most famous and perhaps the most popular of his works, it compresses an event of immense complexity to the scale of a family history, with a cast of characters that includes a bloodthirsty ogress and an antihero as believably

			flawed as any in modern fiction.
Lord of the Flies	William Golding	1954	At the dawn of the next world war, a plane crashes on an uncharted island, stranding a group of schoolboys. At first, with no adult supervision, their freedom is something to celebrate; this far from civilization the boys can do anything they want. Anything. They attempt to forge their own society, failing, however, in the face of terror, sin and evil. And as order collapses, as strange howls echo in the night, as terror begins its reign, the hope of adventure seems as far from reality as the hope of being rescued.
Birdsong	Sebastian Faulks	1993	The young Englishman Stephen Wraysford passes through a tempestuous love affair with Isabelle Azaire in France and enters the dark, surreal world beneath the trenches of No Man's Land. Faulks creates a world of fiction that is tragic yet sensuous.
On the Road	Jack Kerouac	1957	A quintessential novel of America & the Beat Generation On the Road chronicles Jack Kerouac's years traveling the N. American continent with his friend Neal Cassady, "a sideburned hero of the snowy West." As "Sal Paradise" & "Dean Moriarty," the two roam the country in a quest for self-knowledge & experience.
The Trial	Franz Kafka	1925	<i>The Trial</i> is the terrifying tale of Josef K., a respectable bank officer who is suddenly and inexplicably arrested and must defend himself against a charge about which he can get no information.
A Short History of Nearly Everything	Bill Bryson	2003	A masterful and accessible synthesis of mankind written with zip and flair. Funny and yet thought-provoking, Bryson's book is great for sparking interest in areas like physics, history, and geography.

The Lovely Bones	Alice Sebold	2002	<p>"My name was Salmon, like the fish; first name, Susie. I was fourteen when I was murdered on December 6, 1973."</p> <p>So begins the story of Susie Salmon, who is adjusting to her new home in heaven, a place that is not at all what she expected, even as she is watching life on earth continue without her -- her friends trading rumours about her disappearance, her killer trying to cover his tracks, her grief-stricken family unravelling. Out of unspeakable tragedy and loss, The Lovely Bones succeeds, miraculously, in building a tale filled with hope, humour, suspense, even joy.</p>
Maus	Art Spiegelman	1980	<p>Maus tells the story of Vladek Spiegelman, a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe, and his son, a cartoonist coming to terms with his father's story. Maus approaches the unspeakable through the diminutive. Its form, the cartoon (the Nazis are cats, the Jews mice), shocks us out of any lingering sense of familiarity and succeeds in "drawing us closer to the bleak heart of the Holocaust" (The New York Times).</p>