

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
<i>Flush</i>	Virginia Woolf	1933	This story of Elizabeth Barrett Browning's cocker spaniel, Flush, enchants right from the opening pages. Although Flush has adventures of his own with bullying dogs, horrid maids, and robbers, he also provides the reader with a glimpse into Browning's life.
<i>Sapiens</i>	Y. N. Harari	2011	100,000 years ago, at least six human species inhabited the earth. Today there is just one. Us. Homo sapiens. Bold, wide-ranging and provocative, Sapiens challenges everything we thought we knew about being human: our thoughts, our actions, our power ... and our future.
<i>Kim</i>	Rudyard Kipling	1901	Set after the Second Afghan War which ended in 1881, but before the Third fought in 1919, probably in the period 1893 to 1898. The novel is notable for its detailed portrait of the people, culture, and varied religions of India. The book

			presents a vivid picture of India, its teeming populations, religions, and superstitions, and the life of the bazaars and the road.
<i>Tales of Mystery and Imagination</i>	Edgar Allan Poe	1842	Spiral into a dimly lit world, down streets lined with madmen and their black deeds, through the cold twists of the catacombs, and into rooms where secrets dwell. From the tortured mind of Edgar Allan Poe, these three tales, "The Black Cat," "The Fall of the House of Usher," and "The Cask of Amontillado," speak to the hidden places inside us all.
<i>Lord of the Flies</i>	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.
<i>The Catcher in the Rye</i>	J. D. Salinger	1951	Fleeing the crooks at Pencey Prep, he pinballs around New York City seeking solace in fleeting encounters—shooting the bull with strangers in dive hotels, wandering alone round Central Park, getting beaten up by pimps and cut down by erstwhile girlfriends. The city is beautiful and terrible, in all its neon loneliness and seedy glamour, its mingled sense of possibility and emptiness. Holden passes through it like a ghost, thinking always of his kid sister Phoebe, the only person who really understands him, and his determination to escape the phonies and find a life of true meaning.
<i>The Picture of</i>	Oscar Wilde	1890	A devastating portrait of the effects

<i>Dorian Gray</i>			of evil and debauchery on a young aesthete in late-19th-century England. Combining elements of the Gothic horror novel and decadent French fiction, the book centers on a striking premise: As Dorian Gray sinks into a life of crime and gross sensuality, his body retains perfect youth and vigor while his recently painted portrait grows day by day into a hideous record of evil, which he must keep hidden from the world.
<i>Before Adam</i>	Jack London	1906	<i>Before Adam</i> is a bit of a departure from London's other novels. Still an adventure novel, this one revolves around the dreams of a young boy, dreams that involve racial memories and the knowledge of his prior existence as a man-like creature named Big Tooth living in prehistoric times.
<i>Orlando</i>	Virginia Woolf	1928	Virginia Woolf's <i>Orlando</i> 'The longest and most charming love letter in literature', playfully constructs the figure of Orlando as the fictional embodiment of Woolf's close friend and lover, Vita Sackville-West.
<i>Calvin and Hobbes</i>	Bill Watterson	1985-1996	<i>Calvin and Hobbes</i> is unquestionably one of the most popular comic strips of all time. The imaginative world of a boy and his real-only-to-him tiger was first syndicated in 1985 and appeared in more than 2,400 newspapers when Bill Watterson retired on January 1, 1996.
<i>Eve Out of Her Ruins</i>	Ananda Devi	2006	With brutal honesty and poetic urgency, Ananda Devi relates the tale of four young Mauritians trapped in their country's endless cycle of fear and violence: Eve, whose body is her only weapon and source of power; Savita, Eve's best friend, the only one who loves Eve without self-interest, who has plans to leave but will not go alone; Saadiq, gifted would-be poet, inspired by Rimbaud, in love with

			Eve; Clélio, belligerent rebel, waiting without hope for his brother to send for him from France.
<i>Atomic Habits: An Easy and Proven Way to Build Good Habits and Break Bad Ones</i>	James Clear	2018	No matter your goals, <i>Atomic Habits</i> offers a proven framework for improving—every day. James Clear, one of the world's leading experts on habit formation, reveals practical strategies that will teach you exactly how to form good habits, break bad ones, and master the tiny behaviors that lead to remarkable results.
<i>Congratulations, You Have Just Met the ICF</i>	Cass Pennant	2002	Cass Pennant was one of the best-known figures of the I.C.F. He has used his unique position as a West Ham insider to bring together these first-hand accounts of the men who were at the eye of the storm, both on and off the terraces. These tales from the terraces range from the inflamed East End rivalry with Millwall to the shed-end-battles with Chelsea, from aggravation at Anfield's Kop to the disaster at Heysel. The stories unfold against a backdrop of sharp fashion and music, such as The Cockney Rejects and Sham 69, that became the hallmark of the hooligans.
<i>The Man Who Mistook his Wife for a Hat</i>	Oliver Sacks	1985	If a man has lost a leg or an eye, he knows he has lost a leg or an eye; but if he has lost a self—himself—he cannot know it, because he is no longer there to know it. Dr. Oliver Sacks recounts the stories of patients struggling to adapt to often bizarre worlds of neurological disorder.
<i>Running Upon the Wires</i>	Kate Tempest	2018	Award-winning writer, spoken-word star, and spellbinding performer Kate Tempest is as bold an observer of the human heart as she is of social and political change. Her raw and exhilarating new collection of poems throbs with love's extremes: the end of one relationship, the budding of another, and what happens when

			the heart is pulled both ways at once.
<i>Rebecca</i>	Daphne du Maurier	1938	The novel begins in Monte Carlo, where our heroine is swept off her feet by the dashing widower Maxim de Winter and his sudden proposal of marriage. Orphaned and working as a lady's maid, she can barely believe her luck. It is only when they arrive at his massive country estate that she realizes how large a shadow his late wife will cast over their lives--presenting her with a lingering evil that threatens to destroy their marriage from beyond the grave.
<i>Papillon</i>	Henri Charriere	1969	Henri Charrière, called "Papillon," for the butterfly tattoo on his chest, was convicted in Paris in 1931 of a murder he did not commit. Sentenced to life imprisonment in the penal colony of French Guiana, he became obsessed with one goal: escape. After planning and executing a series of treacherous yet failed attempts over many years, he was eventually sent to the notorious prison, Devil's Island, a place from which no one had ever escaped . . . until Papillon. His flight to freedom remains one of the most incredible feats of human cunning, will, and endurance ever undertaken.
<i>The Grapes of Wrath</i>	John Steinbeck	1939	Steinbeck's Pulitzer Prize-winning epic of the Great Depression chronicles the Dust Bowl migration of the 1930s and tells the story of one Oklahoma farm family, the Joads—driven from their homestead and forced to travel west to the promised land of California.
<i>Three Men in a Boat</i>	Jerome K. Jerome	1889	Martyrs to hypochondria and general seediness, J. and his friends George and Harris decide that a jaunt up the Thames would suit them to a 'T'. But when they set off, they can hardly predict the troubles that lie ahead with

			tow-ropes, unreliable weather forecasts and tins of pineapple chunks - not to mention the devastation left in the wake of J.'s small fox-terrier Montmorency.
<i>Songs of Innocence and of Experience</i>	William Blake	1794	The work compiles two contrasting but directly related books of poetry by William Blake. <i>Songs of Innocence</i> honors and praises the natural world, the natural innocence of children and their close relationship to God. <i>Songs of Experience</i> contains much darker, disillusioned poems, which deal with serious, often political themes.
<i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i>	Arthur Conan Doyle	1902	Could the sudden death of Sir Charles Baskerville have been caused by the gigantic ghostly hound that is said to have haunted his family for generations? Arch-rationalist Sherlock Holmes characteristically dismisses the theory as nonsense. And immersed in another case, he sends Watson to Devon to protect the Baskerville heir and observe the suspects close at hand. With its atmospheric setting on the ancient, wild moorland and its savage apparition, <i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i> is one of the greatest crime novels ever written. Rationalism is pitted against the supernatural, good against evil, as Sherlock Holmes seeks to defeat a foe almost his equal.