

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/Overview   |
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| <i>One Day in the Life of Ivan Denisovich</i> | Alexandr Solzhenitsyn | 1962           | Ivan Denisovich Shukhov was accused of becoming a spy after being captured briefly by the Germans as a prisoner of war during WW2. Although innocent, he is sentenced to ten years in a forced labour camp. This captivating and haunting novella tells the story of one single day in his life. |
| <i>Shakespeare: The World as a Stage</i>      | Bill Bryson           | 2007           | A brilliantly funny and gently insightful travel guide to 16th century England. Examining centuries of myths, half-truths and downright lies, Bill Bryson makes sense of the man behind the masterpieces.  |
| <i>Frankenstein</i>                           | Mary Shelley          | 1818           | Dive into the mind of Mary Shelley as she has Dr. Frankenstein create a monster in this romantic classic. But it will leave you questioning, who is the true monster?  |

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| <i>Brave New World</i>  | Aldous Huxley      | 1932 | You'd think that a world that is pain-free would be great. But as you see in the dystopian novel, <i>Brave New World</i> by Aldous Huxley, life loses its luster and becomes very meaningless.  |
| <i>The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas</i>                         | John Boyne         | 2006 | This classic young adult novel explores the forbidden friendship of Jewish and German boys leading to unimaginable consequences.  |
| <i>Survival</i> (first book in the <i>Alpha Force</i> series) | Chris Ryan         | 2002 | Five kids: Alex, Li, Paulo, Hex and Amber bond on board a sailing ship. When they are marooned on a desert island, they must face the ultimate test - survival! Killer komodo dragons, sharks and modern day pirates are amongst the dangers they face. The team is born. |
| <i>Animal Farm</i>  | George Orwell      | 1945 | An allegorical novel written in 1945, <i>Animal Farm</i> explores the plight of a group of animals as they try to gain their freedom against the humans, only to become like the humans themselves.   |
| <i>Robinson Crusoe</i>  | Daniel Defoe       | 1719 | Daniel Defoe relates the tale of an English sailor marooned on a desert island for nearly three decades. An ordinary man struggling to survive in extraordinary circumstances, Robinson Crusoe wrestles with fate and the nature of God.                                  |
| <i>A Study in Scarlet</i>                                     | Arthur Conan Doyle | 1887 | The first in the classic Sherlock Holmes series. In this story, Holmes investigates the mysterious deaths of two American visitors to London that appear to have some mysterious connection to goings-on across the pond.   |
| <i>The Road of Bones</i>                                      | Anne Fine          | 2006 | Told who to cheer for, who to   |

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|                                  |             |      | believe in, Yuri grows up in a country where no freedom of thought is encouraged - where even one's neighbours are encouraged to report any dissension to the authorities. But it is still a shock when a few careless words lead him to a virtual death-sentence - sent on a nightmare journey up north to a camp amidst the frozen wastes. What, or who, can he possibly believe in now? Can he even survive? And is escape possible ... ? |
| <i>Life of Pi</i>                | Yann Martel | 2006 | Life of Pi is a fantasy adventure novel by Yann Martel published in 2001. The protagonist, Piscine Molitor "Pi" Patel, a Tamil boy from Pondicherry, explores issues of spirituality and practicality from an early age. He survives 227 days after a shipwreck while stranded on a boat in the Pacific Ocean with a Bengal tiger named Richard Parker.  |
| <i>Casino Royale</i>             | Ian Fleming | 1953 | British Secret Service agent James Bond, a.k.a. 007, is sent to France to play in a high-stakes baccarat game in an effort to take down Le Chiffre, a financier for the villainous SMERSH. Things get more complicated when he is partnered with Vesper Lynd, a beautiful and smart MI6 employee with a dark secret.   |
| <i>Notes from a Small Island</i> | Bill Bryson | 1995 | Veering from the ludicrous to the endearing and back again, <i>Notes from a Small Island</i> is a delightfully irreverent jaunt around the unparalleled floating nation that has produced zebra crossings, Shakespeare, Twiggie Winkie's Farm, and places with names like Farleigh Wallop and Titsey. The result is an uproarious social commentary that conveys the   |

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|  |                         |      | true glory of Britain, from the satiric pen of an unapologetic Anglophile   |
| <i>The Time Machine</i>                          | H.G. Wells              | 1895 | H.G. Wells is a master at his craft. Standing the test of time, you'll find this 1800s science fiction about a Victorian man travelling to the year 802,701 an instant page-turner.   |
| <i>Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy</i> (Series) | Douglas Adams           | 1979 | If you enjoyed reading the first part of the series, why not continue on?   |
| <i>The War of the Worlds</i>                     | H.G. Wells              | 1897 | Interested to see how someone can make it out of an alien invasion? The classic <i>The War of the Worlds</i> by H.G. Wells is the basis of many current invasion books and movies.  |
| <i>His Dark Materials</i>                        | Philip Pullman          | 1995 | Lyra is rushing to the cold, far North, where witch clans and armoured bears rule. North, where the Gobblers take the children they steal—including her friend Roger. North, where her fearsome uncle Asriel is trying to build a bridge to a parallel world. Can one small girl make a difference in such great and terrible endeavours? |
| <i>Good Omens</i>                                | N. Gaiman, T. Pratchett | 1990 | According to <i>The Nice and Accurate Prophecies of Agnes Nutter, Witch</i> (the world's only completely accurate book of prophecies, written in 1655, before she exploded), the world will end on a Saturday. Next Saturday, in fact. Just before dinner.  |
| <i>The Call of the Wild</i>                      | Jack London             | 1903 | First published in 1903, <i>The Call of the Wild</i> is regarded as Jack London's masterpiece. Based on London's experiences as a gold prospector in the Canadian wilderness and his ideas about nature and the struggle for existence, <i>The Call of the</i>  |

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|  |  |  | <p><i>Wild</i> is a tale about unbreakable spirit and the fight for survival in the frozen Alaskan Klondike.</p> |
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