

BRITISH SECTION

Reading List

CLASS: Students entering 3GCSE in September 2025

Dear students,

We look forward to welcoming you to the British Section in September. As all your subjects will now be taught and assessed in English, we would like you to read **4** of these titles over the summer. There are some options within the titles outlined on the opposite page, but you must complete this reading before school starts in September. We encourage you to read even more than the minimum. You must read at least one from each category. Do not select books you have already read or studied please.

When students return to school in September they may be preparing a short review on one book from one of these categories – you will not know until September what category will be selected.

GCSE English Language and English Literature are challenging subjects. You will need to ensure that your reading, comprehension and writing skills are strong, so reading regularly this summer is an effective start to your GCSE career. Happy reading!

Kind regards,

British Section English Department

19th century fiction (Select one title)

- **Jane Eyre** - Charlotte Brontë
- **Treasure Island** – R L Stevenson
- **Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde** – R L Stevenson
- **War of the Worlds / The Time Machine** – H G Wells
- **Dracula** – Bram Stoker
- **Oliver Twist** – Charles Dickens

Non-fiction (Select one title)

- **Notes from a Big Country/Notes from a Small Island/Neither Here Nor There**– Bill Bryson
- **Touching the Void** – Joe Simpson
- **Shooting an Elephant** (essays) / **Down and Out in Paris and London** – George Orwell
- **In the Heart of the Sea** – Nathaniel Philbrick
- **We Should All Be Feminists** – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- **The Secret Footballer** – Anonymous
- **A Brief History of Everyone Who Ever Lived** - Adam Rutherford

Fiction (Select one title)

- **The Catcher in the Rye** – J D Salinger
- **Of Mice and Men** – John Steinbeck
- **I Capture the Castle** – Dodie Smith
- **Anita and Me** – Meera Syal
- **To Kill a Mockingbird** – Harper Lee
- **A Tree Grows in Brooklyn** – Betty Smith
- **A Separate Peace** – John Knowles

- ***The Book Thief*** – Markus Zusak
- ***The Old Man and the Sea/A Farewell to Arms*** – Ernest Hemingway
- ***1984*** – George Orwell
- ***The Hobbit / Lord of the Rings*** – JRR Tolkien
- ***Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*** – Philip K Dick
- ***Invisible Son*** – Kim Johnston

Autobiography/Biography (Select one title)

- ***The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid*** – Bill Bryson
- ***The Diary of Anne Frank*** – Anne Frank
- ***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*** – Maya Angelou
- ***Going Solo*** – Roald Dahl
- ***I am Malala*** – Malala Yousafzai
- ***Unbelievable*** – Jessica Ennis