



# St Bernard's Catholic Grammar School English Department:

## GCSE READING LIST - YEAR 9, YEAR 10 and YEAR 11

### Before you browse this booklist...

All students studying GCSE English and English Literature will be expected to read a selection of texts set for the examination. In addition to the prescribed texts, we would like you to read at least **five** texts from this list, or their equivalent, to enhance your reading skills, broaden your vocabulary and elevate your written work.

Reading for pleasure has been proven to help performance in exams as well as being a lifelong source of enjoyment. Some of the books have been starred\* to show that they are more suited to Year 9 students or are more accessible than the other titles. Others have been marked with a cross+ to indicate that the events they depict may be distressing and require maturity of understanding: parental guidance may be needed in these cases. The books marked with ^ have been especially popular with boys.

The list is not intended to be prescriptive but it is hoped you will pick writers who are challenging and who will expand your experience, understanding and enjoyment of the written word.

<b>ADVENTURE</b>		Date / Signature
<i>The Thirty-Nine Steps</i>	BUCHAN John	
<i>After the First Death</i> * ^	CORMIER Robert	
<i>Heroes</i> * ^	CORMIER Robert	
<i>Revolver</i> * ^	SEDGWICK Marcus	
<i>Touching the Void</i> ^	SIMPSON Joe	
<i>Treasure Island</i> * ^	STEVENSON Robert Louis	
<i>Lord of the Flies</i> ^	GOLDING William	
<i>Slaughterhouse Five</i>	VONNEGUT Kurt	
<b>AUTOBIOGRAPHY</b>		
<i>Cider with Rosie</i>	LEE Laurie	
<i>The Fry Chronicles</i> ^	FRY Stephen	
<i>Angela's Ashes</i> +	McCOURT Frank	
<i>Going Solo</i> ^	DAHL Roald	
<b>CLASSICS</b>		
<i>Brighton Rock</i> * ^	GREENE Graham	
<i>The Go-Between</i>	HARTLEY L P	
<i>The Old Man and the Sea</i> *	HEMMINGWAY Ernest	
<i>On the Road</i> ^	KEROUAC Jack	
<i>To Kill a Mocking Bird</i> *	LEE Harper	
<i>Animal Farm</i> *	ORWELL George	
<i>The Catcher in the Rye</i> ^	SALINGER J D	
<i>Wuthering Heights</i>	BRONTE Emily	
<i>Great Expectations</i> ^	DICKENS Charles	
<i>Tess of the D'Urbervilles</i>	HARDY Thomas	
<i>The Great Gatsby</i>	SCOTT FITZGERALD F	
<b>CRIME &amp; DETECTIVE</b>		
<i>The Big Sleep</i> ^+	CHANDLER Raymond	
<i>Room</i>	DONOGHUE Emma	
<i>Sherlock Holmes Stories</i> ^	DOYLE Arthur Conan	
<i>Lasting Damage</i> +	HANNAH Sophie	
<i>The Talented Mr Ripley</i> +	HIGHSMITH Patricia	
<i>The Westing Game</i> ^	RASKIN Ellen	
<i>The Constant Gardener</i>	LE CARRE John	
<b>DYSTOPIA</b>		
<i>1984</i> ^	ORWELL George	
<i>The Giver</i> * ^	LOWRI Lois	
<i>A Clockwork Orange</i> ^+	BURGESS Anthony	
<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> +	ATWOOD Margaret	
<i>The Road</i> + ^	MCCARTHY Cormac	

<b>FANTASY / MAGIC REALISM</b>		
<i>Across the Nightingale Floor</i> *^	HEARN Lian	
<i>The Life of Pi</i>	MARTEL Yan	
<i>Chaos Walking Trilogy</i> *^	NESS Patrick	
<i>His Dark Materials</i> *^	PULLMAN Philip	
<i>The Lord of the Rings</i> ^	TOLKIEN J R R	
<i>Beloved</i> +	MORRISON Toni	
<i>The Famished Road</i>	OKRI Ben	
<i>The Time Traveller's Wife</i>	NIFFENEGGER Audrey	
<b>HORROR &amp; GHOST STORIES</b>		
<i>The Turn of the Screw</i>	JAMES Henry	
<i>Collected Ghost Stories</i>	JAMES M R	
<i>Dark Matter</i> *	PAVER Michelle	
<i>Tales of Mystery and Imagination</i>	POE Edgar Allan	
<i>Frankenstein</i>	SHELLEY Mary	
<b>HISTORICAL / WAR</b>		
<i>Fatherland</i> ^	HARRIS Robert	
<i>The Poisonwood Bible</i>	KINGSOLVER Barbara	
<i>Atonement</i> +	McEWAN Ian	
<i>The Shell House</i>	NEWBERRY Linda	
<i>Here Lies Arthur</i> *	REEVE Philp	
<i>Dissolution</i> +	SANSOM C J	
<i>The Reader</i> +	SCHLINK Bernard	
<i>Eagle of the Ninth</i> *^	SUTCLIFF Rosemary	
<i>Restoration</i>	TREMAIN Rose	
<i>Out of the Shadows</i> +	WALLACE Jason	
<i>The Book Thief</i> *	ZUSAK Marcus	
<i>Birdsong</i> +	FAULKES Sebastian	
<i>Charlotte Gray</i>	FAULKES Sebastian	
<i>The Empire of the Sun</i> ^	BALLARD J G	
<i>All Quiet On the Western Front</i>	REMARQUE Erich Maria	
<i>Tamar</i> *	PEET Mar	
<i>A Passage to India</i>	FORSTER E M	
<i>Spies</i> + ^	FRAYN Michael	
<b>HUMOUR</b>		
<i>The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy</i> ^	ADAMS Douglas	
<i>The Darling Buds of May</i>	BATES H E	
<i>Notes from A Big Country</i>	BRYSON Bill	
<i>Cold Comfort Farm</i>	GIBBONS Stella	
<i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time</i> *^	HADDON Mark	
<i>Starter for Ten</i> +	NICHOLLS David	
<i>Jeeves and Wooster</i>	WODEHOUSE P G	
<b>REAL LIFE IN FICTION</b>		
<i>Lucas</i> ^	BROOKS Kevin	
<i>The Rotters' Club</i>	COE Jonathan	
<i>A Kestrel for a Knave</i> *	HINES Barry	
<i>The Kite Runner</i> +	HOSSEINI Khaled	
<i>High Fidelity</i> +	HORNBY Nick	
<i>White Teeth</i>	SMITH Zadie	
<i>The Road Home</i>	TREMAIN Rose	
<i>The Last Taboo</i> *	RAI Bali	

<b>SCIENCE FICTION</b>		
<i>I, Robot</i>	ASIMOV Isaac	
<i>Noughts and Crosses*</i>	BLACKMAN Malorie	
<i>Fahrenheit 451</i>	BRADBURY Ray	
<i>Brave New World</i>	HUXLEY Aldous	
<i>Never Let Me Go</i>	ISHIGURO Kazuo	
<i>The Day of the Triffids*</i>	WYNDHAM John	

### Reading beyond novels... Read all types and genres of literature and just keep reading.

You should regularly read news reports on current affairs as well as be acquainted with the style of other non-fiction, for example, biography, travel writing, film/music reviews, comment (eg. Thought for the Day) and humorous writing (eg. Bill Bryson. Reading plays (or even film scripts) and poetry will also be beneficial, especially if you wish to pursue your interest in literature beyond GCSE level.

You might like to try some of the following writers:

<b>Playwrights</b> ( <i>obviously Shakespeare, but also...</i> )	<b>Poets</b>
Henrik Ibsen (Enemy of the People, A Doll's House)	John Keats (Odes, Lamia, La Belle Dame)
Tennessee Williams (Streetcar Named Desire)	Samuel Coleridge (Ancient Mariner, Kubla Khan)
Arthur Miller (Death of a Salesman)	Pablo Neruda, Ted Hughes, Seamus Heaney
Christopher Marlowe (The Jew of Malta)	Emily Dickinson, Simon Armitage, Wendy Cope
John Webster (The Duchess of Malfi)	<i>Or good anthologies such as:</i>
Peter Shaffer (Amadeus, Equus)	The Rattlebag (Heaney&Hughes)
Alan Bennett (Talking Heads, The History Boys)	Staying Alive (Astley)