

**Recommended  
Reads for Key  
Stage 4**

**Action, Mysteries, Horror & Thrillers**

**Famous Last Words** or **Bad Girls Don't**

**Die**– Alender

**Bodyguard: Hostage** (& sequels) by Chris Bradford\*

**Dead Time** (& sequels), **Getting Away With It** or **The Bone Room** by Anne Cassidy\*

**And Then There Were None** by Agatha Christie

**Say Her Name** by Juno Dawson

**Mortal Chaos, Speed Freaks, The Everest Files** or **Lie, Kill, Walk Away** by Matt Dickinson\*

**A Gathering Light** by Jennifer Donnelly

**Zero Day** by Jan Gangsei

**The Enemy** (& sequels) by Charlie Higson\*

**House of Silk, Moriarty, Magpie**

**Murders**- Horowitz

**A Good Girl's Guide to Murder** by Holly Jackson

**Sawbones** or **Blade & Bone** by Catherine Johnson

**The Long Weekend** by Savita Kalhan

**Carrie** or **It** by Stephen King

**We Were Liars** by E Lockhart

**Here We Lie, Sweetfreak, Blood Ties** or

**Girl Missing** (& sequels) by Sophie McKenzie

**#Murdertrending** by Gretchen McNeil\*

**One of Us is Lying, One of Us Is Next** or

**Two Can Keep a Secret** by Karen McManus

**I am Still Alive** by Kate Marshall

**Blame or Itch** (& sequels) by Simon Mayo

**The Recruit (Cherub), The Escape (Henderson's Boys)** or **Rock War** (&

sequels) by R Muchamore\*

**Foul Play** (& sequels) or **Ghost Stadium** - T Palmer\*

**Daniel X** or **Confessions of Murder** by J. Patterson\*

**13 Minutes** by Sarah Pinborough

**Remade** or **TimeRiders** (& sequels) -Alex Scarrow\*

**Autobiographies/Memoirs/Biographies**

**Tuesdays With Morrie** by Mitch Album

**I Know Why a Caged Bird Sings** by M. Angelou

**A Street Cat Named Bob\*** by James Bowen

**Playing the Enemy** by John Carlin

**In Cold Blood** by Truman Capote

**Nothing to Envy** (North Korea) by B Demick

**Hope in a Ballet Shoe:** Michaela & Elaine DePrince

**Wave: Life After the Tsunami** by S. Deraniyagala

**One Dog at a Time** (& sequels) by Pen Farthing

**Fatal Throne: The Wives of Henry VIII** - multiple YA writers (fictionalised biography)

**Diary of a Young Girl** by Anne Frank

**Marley & Me** by John Grogan\*

**Mud, Sweat and Tears** by Bear Grylls\*

**Fever Pitch** by Nick Hornby

**The Story of My Life** by Helen Keller

**Finding Gobi** by Dion Leonard\*

**Today Everything Changes** by Andy McNab\*

**Chinese Cinderella** by Adeline Yen Mah

**Long Walk to Freedom** by Nelson Mandela

**A History of the World in 21 Women** - Jenni Murray

**The Greatest: Muhammed Ali** by WD Myers\*

**Dreams From My Father** by Barack Obama

**Becoming** by Michelle Obama

**Persepolis** by Marjane Satrapi (graphic novel)\*

**Touching the Void** by Joe Simpson\*

**Brown Girl Dreaming** by Jacqueline Woodson\*

**Black Boy: A Record of Youth & Childhood**-R Wright

**I am Malala** by Malala Yousafzai

**Classics & Modern Literature**

**Things Fall Apart** by Chinua Achebe  
**Purple Hibiscus** by Chimamanda Adichie  
**Pride and Prejudice** or **Emma** by Jane Austen  
**Fahrenheit 451** by Ray Bradbury  
**Jane Eyre** by Charlotte Bronte  
**Wuthering Heights** by Emily Bronte  
**Great Expectations** or **Oliver Twist** by C Dickens  
**Sherlock Holmes** by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle  
**The Great Gatsby** by FS Fitzgerald  
**Lord of the Flies** by William Golding  
**Tess of the D'ubervilles** by Thomas Hardy  
**Not Without Laughter** by Langston Hughes  
**Brave New World** by Alex Huxley  
**Never Let Me Go** by Kazuo Ishiguro  
**To Kill a Mockingbird** by Harper Lee  
**Cider With Rosie** by Laurie Lee  
**The Road** by Cormac McCarthy  
**Rebecca** by Daphne du Maurier  
**The Bluest Eye** or **Beloved** by Toni Morrison  
**1984** or **Animal Farm** by George Orwell  
**The Catcher in the Rye** by JD Salinger  
**Frankenstein** by Mary Shelly  
**Dr Jekyll and Mr Hide** by RL Stevenson  
**Dracula** by Bram Stoker  
**The Adventures of Huck Finn** by Mark Twain  
**The Color Purple** by Alice Walker  
**Complex/Difficult/Thought-provoking Issues**  
**Change is Gonna Come** – various BAME authors  
**Poet X** by Elizabeth Acevedo\*  
**Simon vs the Homo Sapiens Agenda** – B Albertalli\*  
**Booked, Rebound** or **Crossover-** Kwame Alexander\*  
**The Hypnotist** by Laurence Anholt  
**Thirteen Reasons Why** by Jay Asher  
**Black Flamingo** by Dean Atta\*  
**Noughts & Crosses** or **Boys Don't Cry** -M Blackman\*  
**Tiger Eyes** or anything by Judy Blume\*

**Am I Normal Yet?** (Spinster Club series)- H. Bourne  
**The Heart's Invisible Furies** by John Boyne  
**The Bunker Diary** or **See Through Me** by K Brooks\*  
**Hate List** by Jennifer Brown  
**Junk** or **The Hit** by Melvin Burgess  
**Looking for JJ** or **No Virgin/No Shame-** Anne Cassidy  
**The Perks of Being a Wallflower** by S. Chbosky  
**Stolen** by Lucy Christopher  
**The Chocolate War** by Robert Cormier  
**Toffee, One** or **The Weight of Water** by S Crossan\*  
**A Swift Pure Cry** or **Solace of the Road** - S. Dowd  
**Furious Thing** or **Before I Die** by Jenny Downam  
**Out of My Mind** by Sharon Draper  
**Heroic, Being Billy** or **Saving Daisy** by Phil Earle\*  
**Mockingbird** or **Seeing Red** by Kathryn Erskine  
**The Universe versus Alex Woods** by G. Extence  
**If I Stay & Where She Went** by Gayle Forman  
**Full Disclosure** by Camryn Garrett  
**Homegoing** by Yaa Gyasi  
**The Curious Incident of the Dog...** by Mark Haddon  
**After the Fire** by Will Hill  
**The Outsiders** by SE Hinton\*  
**That Asian Kid** by Savita Kalhan  
**Pigeon English** by Stephen Kelman  
**That's Not What Happened** by Kody Keplinger  
**I am Thunder** or **Kick the Moon** - Muhammed Khan  
**The Secret Life of Bees** or **Invention of Wings** - Kidd  
**Rose, Interrupted** or **Orangeboy** - Patrice Lawrence

**Brock, Pike, Rook & Lark** by Anthony McGowan\*

**The Sky is Everywhere** or **I'll Give You..**  
by J Nelson

**Things a Bright Girl Can Do, An Island of our Own** or **Ways to Live Forever-** Sally Nicholls

**We Are All Made of Molecules, Word Nerd** or **No Fixed Address** by Susin Nielson

**All the Bright Places & Holding Up Universe** - Niven

**Before I Fall** or **Vanishing Girls** by Lauren Oliver

**My Sister's Keeper** or **Small Great Things** - J Picoult

**My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece** or **Ketchup Clouds** by Annabel Pitcher

**The Harder They Fall** or **Stay a Little Longer; (Un)arranged Marriage** or **Killing Honour** -Bali Rai\*

**Gloves Off** or **Black Heart Blue** by Louisa Reid\*

**Long Way Down** or **Ghost** by Jason Reynolds\*

**Extraordinary Means or Severed Heads, Broken Hearts** by Robin Schneider

**The Lovely Bones** or **Lucky** by Alice Sebold

**The Boxer** or **Run, Riot** Nikesh Shukla

**Counting by 7s** by Holly Sloan

**The Help** by Kathryn Stockett

**Stone Cold** by Robert Swindells\*

**Anita and Me** by Meera Syal

**Lies We Tell Ourselves** by Robin Talley

**Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry** by Mildred Taylor

**Somebody Give This Heart a Pen** by Sophia Thakur

**The Hate U Give** or **On the Come Up** by A Thomas\*

**The List** by Siobhan Vivian

**It's Kind of a Funny Story** by Ned Vizzini

**My Name is Leon** by Kit de Waal

**Can You See Me?** by L Scott & R Westcott

**Liccle Bit** (& sequels) by Alex Wheatle

**The Art of Being Normal** by Lara Williamson

**Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit** – J Winterson

**Frankly in Love** by David Yoon

**Teacher's Dead, Face** or **Terror Kid** by B. Zephaniah

**Conflict, War, Genocide & the Refugee Experience**

**A Country to Call Home: Anthology of Young Refugees & Asylum Seekers** ed. by Lucy Popescu

**Illegal** by Eoin Colfer (graphic novel)\*

**All The Light We Cannot See** by Anthony Doerr

**Birdsong** by Sebastian Faulks

**The Bone Sparrow** by Zana Fraillion

**Act of Love** or **The Trap** by Alan Gibbons\*

**Bone Talk** by Candy Gourlay

**The Nightingale** by Kristin Hannah

**The Kite Runner** by Khalid Hosseini

**Orphan, Monster, Spy** by Matt Killeen

**The Librarian of Auschwitz** by Antonio Iturbe

**The Beekeeper of Aleppo** by Christy Lefteri

**Dog Tags: Semper Fido** or **Strays** by CA London\*

**The Tattooist of Auschwitz** by Heather Morris

**Fallen Angels** or **Sunrise over Fallujah-** WD Myers\*

**A Long Walk to Water** by Linda Sue Park\*

**All Quiet on the Western Front** by EM Remarque

**Salt to the Sea** by Ruta Sepetys

**Maus** by Art Spiegelman (graphic novel)\*

**Milkweed** by Jerry Spinelli

**Night** by Elie Wiesel

**Code Name Verity, Rose Under Fire** by E. Wein

**My Dear I Wanted to Tell You** by Louisa Young

**Refugee Boy** by Benjamin Zephaniah

**The Book Thief** by Marcus Zusak

## **Dystopian, Science Fiction or Magic**

### **Realism**

**Children of Blood and Bone** by Tomi Adeyemi

**The Testaments** or **The Handmaid's Tale**  
– Atwood

**Ink** (& sequels) by Alice Broadway\*

**iBoy** by Kevin Brooks\*

**World War Z** by Max Brooks

**The Girl With All the Gifts** by MR Carey

**City of Bones** (& sequels) by Cassandra Clare

**Matched** (& sequels) by Ally Condie

**The Maze Runner** (& sequels) by J. Dashner

**Stepsister** by Jennifer Donnelly

**Cell 7** (& sequels) by Kerry Drewery\*

**The Gender Game** by Bella Forrest

**Gone** or **BZRK** (& sequels) by Michael Grant\*

**The Deathless Girls** by Kiran Millwood Hargrave

**Department 19** (& sequels) by Will Hill

**The Loneliest Girl in the Universe** by Lauren James

**Maladapted** by Richard Kurti\*

**I Am Number Four** (& sequels) by Pittacus Lore\*

**Legend** (& sequels) by Marie Lu\*

**The Passengers** by John Marrs\*

**Circe** or **Song of Achilles** by Madeline Miller

**The Knife of Never Letting Go** (& sequels)- P Ness

**MetaWars: Fight for Future** (&sequels) - J. Norton\*

**Z For Zachariah** by Robert O'Brien

**The Loop** by Ben Oliver

**Replica** or **Delirium** (& sequels) by Lauren Oliver

**Only Ever Yours** by Louise O'Neill

**Hatchet** by Gary Paulsen\*

**Divergent** (& sequels) by Veronica Roth

**Lord Loss**\* or **Zom-B**\* (& sequels) by D Shan

**Scythe, Unwind** or **Dry** (& sequels) -N Shusterman\*

**Concentr8** by William Sutcliffe

**An Ember in the Ashes** (& sequels) by Sabaa Tahir

**Contagion** or **Slated** (& sequels) by Teri Terry

**Uglies** or **Zeroes** (& sequels) by Scott Westerfield

**The 5th Wave** (& sequels) by Rick Yancey\*

### **Humorous books**

**The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy** by D Adams

**The Life and Times of The Thunderbolt Kid** - Bryson

**Swim the Fly** or **Call the Shots** by Don Calame

**The Private Blog of Joe Cowley** by Ben Davis\*

**An Abundance of Katherines** by John Green\*

**Noah Can't Even** or **Alex in Wonderland** - SJ Green\*

**The Reformed Vampire Support Group** by Jinks\*

**Hellbent** or **Henry Tumour** by Anthony McGowan\*

**Don't Even Think About It** – Sarah Mylnowski

**Discworld** series by T Pratchett (try **The Last Hero**)

**Good Omens** by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman

**A Midsummer Tights Dream** or **Georgia Nicholson** series by Louise Rennison

**The Rosie Project** (& sequel) by Graeme Simsion

**The Gifted, The Talented and Me** by W Sutcliffe

**The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole** – Sue Townsend

### **Relationships**

**Beautiful Broken Things** by Sara Barnard

**Three Daughters** by Consuelo Saah Baehr

**Tender Earth** by Sita Brahmachari

**Fault in Our Stars** or **Looking for Alaska**

by J Green\*

**Why We Broke Up** by Daniel Handler\*

**To All the Boys I've Loved Before** (& sequels) –J Han

**Slammed** or **Regretting You** by Colleen Hoover

**Hold Back the Stars** by Katie Khan

**Falling Fast** (& sequels) by Sophie McKenzie

**One Day** by David Nicholls

**Eleanor and Park** & **Fangirl** by Rainbow Rowell

**Written in the Stars** by Aisha Saeed

**The Art of Racing in the Rain** by Garth Stein\*

**Shiver** or **The Raven Boys**(&sequels) - M. Stiefvater

**Our Chemical Hearts** by Krystal Sutherland

**Paper Avalanche** by Lisa Williamson

**If You Come Softly** by Jacqueline Woodson

**Everything, Everything** & **Sun is Also a Star**-Yoon\*

**Girl Online** (& sequels) by Zoe Sugg\*

**\* = top picks for reluctant readers or readers who prefer visual/less dense texts. Includes some dyslexia friendly titles; quick-paced reads of longer books; verse novels; and graphic novels.**

**Note to parents: Many of these books are written for young adult readers (13+) or adults; this means there may be 'gritty' content. Generally by Key Stage 4 young people are ready for this, but parents know their children best; if you have queries about suitability, please check online reviews or ask your child's teacher.**