

The English Department @ The Norwood School

KS3 Suggested Reading List

While in Years 7, 8 and 9, you should try to read a wide variety of types of books. Don't just stick to one author, or one genre. Experiment with something new. That is one reason why this list is arranged in genre based sections. As well as reading books, don't forget that newspapers and good magazines are also excellent reading material and will get you used to a range of reading experiences that will set you up well for GCSE and beyond. Not only will reading benefit you in your school subjects, but it will also broaden your knowledge and understanding of the world around you.

It is recommended that you try to read at least one of the following texts each half term. The texts below are listed to complement what you will be learning during each half term. Please find the BAME authors and texts with BAME protagonists highlighted in pink and the LGBTQ+ authors and texts with LGBTQ+ representation are highlighted in orange.

As well as the recommended texts listed below, alongside the library, the English department offers a number of reading groups and challenges over the course of the school year. These include:

- **The Phoenix Book Award**
- **The Carnegie Book Award**
- **The 16 before 16 challenge**

We also work alongside Scholastic Book Fair, who visit our school in the Autumn term and offer over 200 titles for students at subsidised prices. If you would like further information on either the reading groups or challenges you can contact Mr Galea on galea.k@thenorwoodschoo.org.

Year 8 Autumn 1

During the Autumn term, Year 8 will be studying 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time' by Mark Haddon.

Murder mystery

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What is it about?
Artemis Fowl	Eoin Colfer	Craftily plotted and fiercely funny, Eoin Colfer's international bestseller follows the adventures of an inimitable twelve-year-old criminal mastermind. Artemis Fowl is determined to restore his

		family's fortunes and defeat the terrifying, crafty high-tech fairies with his cunning intelligence. A rip-roaring read from start to finish.
One Of Us Is Lying	Karen McManus	Five students go to detention. Only four leave alive.
High-Rise Mystery	Sharna Jackson	With its vibrant urban setting and winning characterisation, High Rise Mystery is a very welcome addition to the burgeoning child detective genre. The murder of their art school teacher sets young sleuths Nik and Norva on a thrilling adventure to bring his killer to justice. Whilst the brooding presence of the high rise block, theTri, ensures the novel feels topical and real, High Rise Mystery is, at its heart, a classic children's whodunit.
The London Eye Mystery	Siobhan Dowd	The London Eye Mystery is a children's mystery novel by English author Siobhan Dowd. First published in 2007, it tells the story of how Ted, a boy with Asperger syndrome, and his sister Kat, solve the mystery of how their cousin, Salim, seemingly vanishes from inside a sealed capsule on the London Eye.
A Good Girl's Guide to Murder	Holly Jackson	The case is closed. Five years ago, schoolgirl Andie Bell was murdered by Sal Singh. The police know he did it. Everyone in town knows he did it. But having grown up in the same small town that was consumed by the

		<p>crime, Pippa Fitz-Amobi isn't so sure. When she chooses the case as the topic for her final project, she starts to uncover secrets that someone in town desperately wants to stay hidden. And if the real killer is still out there, how far will they go to keep Pip from the truth . . .</p>
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Ambitious reads

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
The Hound of the Baskervilles	Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	The Hound of the Baskervilles is one of Sherlock Holmes' most famous and intriguing cases. When Sir Charles Baskerville is found mysteriously dead in the grounds of Baskerville Hall, everyone remembers the ancient legend of the monstrous creature that haunts the moor. The great detective Sherlock Holmes knows that there must be a more rational explanation, but the difficulty is to find it before the hellhound finds him!
The Extraordinary Cases of Sherlock Holmes	Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	There are few detectives in the world of fiction who have captured imaginations as much as Sherlock Holmes, and his trusty sidekick, Doctor Watson. This collection features eight classic crime mysteries, including The Speckled Band and The Reigate Puzzle written by the renowned Sir Arthur Conan Doyle. This is a masterful collection of best-loved

		stories of nocturnal intrigue and suspense, not to mention Mr Holmes' most unique powers of deduction...
Murder on the Orient Express	Agatha Christie	After a murder takes place on a train journey, a detective decides to investigate and find the culprit amongst the passengers aboard. In the process, he also learns the true identity of the victim.

Year 8 Autumn 2

During Autumn 2, Year 8 will be studying 'Macbeth' by William Shakespeare.

Tragedy

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What is it about?
Romeo and Juliet	William Shakespeare	The rivalry between Verona's two well-established families, the Capulets and the Montagues, affects the relationship of their children Romeo and Juliet.
Salt to the Sea	Ruta Sepetys	Salt to the Sea is a 2016 historical fiction young adult novel by Ruta Sepetys. It tells the story of four individuals in World War II who make their way to the ill-fated MV Wilhelm Gustloff.
The Bunker Diary	Kevin Brooks	The Bunker Diary features the story of Linus Weems, a teenager who is captured and imprisoned in a mysterious bunker.
We Were Liars	E. Lockhart	Gloriously witty, sharp and utterly addictive, We Were Liars explores outwardly perfect lives

		consumed by secrets, deception and privileges taken too far. Controlled and perfectly-paced, Lockhart's ingenious novel has a way of handing you one surprise after another, while still leaving you hungry for more.
The Fault in Our Stars	John Green	Despite the tumor-shrinking medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel has never been anything but terminal, her final chapter inscribed upon diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten.

Ambitious reads

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
Things Fall Apart	Chinua Achebe	Things Fall Apart is the debut novel by Nigerian author Chinua Achebe, first published in 1958. Its story chronicles pre-colonial life in the southeastern part of Nigeria and the arrival of Europeans during the late 19th century
Othello	William Shakespeare	The story of an African general in the Venetian army who is tricked into suspecting his wife of adultery, Othello is a tragedy of sexual jealousy. First performed around 1604, the play is also a pioneering exploration of racial prejudice.

The Crucible	Arthur Miller	The Crucible is a 1953 play by American playwright Arthur Miller. It is a dramatized and partially fictionalized story of the Salem witch trials that took place in the Massachusetts Bay Colony during 1692–93.
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Year 8 Spring 1

During Spring 1, Year 8 will be studying an 'Introduction to Victorian Literature' unit.

Victorian Literature

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
A Christmas Carol	Charles Dickens	Maya Angelou's poetry - lyrical and dramatic, exuberant and playful - speaks of love, longing, partings; of Saturday night partying, and the smells and sounds of Southern cities; of freedom and shattered dreams.
Oliver Twist	Charles Dickens	The novel was the first of the author's works to realistically depict the impoverished London underworld and to illustrate his belief that poverty leads to crime.
Alice's Adventures in Wonderland	Lewis Carroll	It tells of a young girl named Alice, who falls through a rabbit hole into a subterranean fantasy world populated by peculiar, anthropomorphic creatures.
Treasure Island	Robert Louis Stevenson	The story is about Jim, a young boy who goes in search of treasure after finding a treasure map. Jim faces shipwreck, a pirate mutiny, and sword

		<p>fighters. Jim's tale is a rags-to-riches story of a young boy who overcomes the odds.</p>
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Ambitious reads

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer	Mark Twain	Tom Sawyer is an 1876 novel by Mark Twain about a young boy growing up along the Mississippi River. It is set in the 1840s in the fictional town of St. Petersburg, inspired by Hannibal, Missouri, where Twain lived as a boy.
Nicholas Nickleby	Charles Dickens	The story centres on the life and adventures of Nicholas Nickleby, a young man who must support his mother and sister after his father dies.
Robinson Crusoe	Daniel Defoe	Driven from a loving family and a comfortable, secure life by an unswerving compulsion for the high seas, Crusoe finds successive misfortunes and escapes culminating in near-death disaster and emerging as lone survivor.

Year 8 Spring 2

During Spring 2, Year 8 will be studying a 'WW1 Poetry' unit.

WW1

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
War Horse	Michale Morpurgo	In the deadly chaos of the First World War, one horse witnesses the reality

		<p>of battle from both sides of the trenches. Bombarded by artillery, with bullets knocking riders from his back, Joey tells a powerful story of the truest friendships surviving in terrible times.</p>
Summerland	Lucy Adlington	<p>A teenager goes in search of a family mystery when she is evacuated from Europe to England during World War 2.</p>
War is Over	David Almond	<p>It's 1918, and war is everywhere. John's dad is fighting in the trenches far away in France. His mum works in the munitions factory just along the road. His teacher says that John is fighting, too, that he is at war with enemy children in Germany. One day, in the wild woods outside town, John has an impossible moment: a meeting with a German boy named Jan. John catches a glimpse of a better world, in which children like Jan and himself can come together, and scatter the seeds of peace</p>
Private Peaceful	Michael Morpurgo	<p>It is about a soldier called Thomas "Tommo" Peaceful, who is looking back on his life from the trenches of World War I in France.</p>
Poppy in the Field	Mary Hooper	<p>When Poppy learns that the love of her life, Freddie de Vere, is to marry someone else, she knows her heart will break. Devastated, she volunteers her nursing skills overseas to take her away from the painful</p>

		reminders at home. But things are about to get much worse for Poppy
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Ambitious reads

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
Regeneration	Pat Barker	The novel explores the experience of British army officers being treated for shell shock during World War I at Craiglockhart War Hospital in Edinburgh. Inspired by her grandfather's experience of World War I, Barker draws extensively on first person narratives from the period.
A Farewell to Arms	Ernest Hemingway	A Farewell to Arms is a novel by Ernest Hemingway set during the Italian campaign of World War I. First published in 1929, it is a first-person account of an American, Frederic Henry, serving as a lieutenant in the ambulance corps of the Italian Army.
The Poems of Wilfred Owen	Edited by John Stallworthy	Owen's death in battle, a few days before the Armistice, was a disastrous loss to English letters and left a legacy of the finest poetry that vividly captured the unimaginable horrors of the Great War. This volume, edited by Oxford Professor Jon Stallworthy, gathers together the poems for which Owen is best known, and which represent his most important contribution to poetry in the twentieth century.

Year 8 Summer Term

During the Summer term, Year 8 will be studying either 'The Hate U Give' by Angie Thomas or 'Crongton Knights' by Alex Wheatle.

Novels closely linked with protest and the Black Lives Matter Movement

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
Patron Saints of Nothing	Randy Ribay	A powerful coming-of-age story about grief, guilt, and the risks a Filipino-American teenager takes to uncover the truth about his cousin's murder.
I Am Alfonso Jones	Tony Medina	The ghost of fifteen-year-old Alfonso Jones travels in a New York subway car full of the living and the dead, watching his family and friends fight for justice after he is killed by an off-duty police officer while buying a suit in a Midtown department store.
Arctic Zoo	Robert Muchamore	Two teenagers, Georgia in England, Julius in Nigeria, end up in the same Adolescent Mental Health Unit when they become involved in very different violent political protests.
Dear Martin	Nic Stone	Justyce McAllister is top of his class and set for the Ivy League – but none of that matters to the police officer who just put him in handcuffs. And despite leaving his rough neighbourhood behind, he can't escape the scorn of his former peers or the ridicule of his new classmates.
"I Will Not Be Erased": Our stories about growing up	gal-dem	gal-dem, the award-winning online and

<p>as people of colour</p>		<p>print magazine, is created by women and non-binary people of colour. In this life-affirming, moving and joyous collection of fourteen essays, gal-dem's talented writers use raw material from their teenage years - diaries, poems and chat histories - to give advice to their younger selves and those growing up today.</p>
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Ambitious reads

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
<p>All American Boys</p>	<p>Jason Reynolds and Brendan Kiely</p>	<p>Two teens--one black, one white--grapple with the repercussions of a single violent act that leaves their school, their community, and, ultimately, the country bitterly divided by racial tension.</p>
<p>On the Come Up</p>	<p>Angie Thomas</p>	<p>It tells the story of Bri, a sixteen-year old rapper hoping to fill the shoes of her father and 'make it' as an underground hip-hop legend.</p>
<p>Concrete Rose</p>	<p>Angie Thomas</p>	<p>Angie Thomas revisits Garden Heights seventeen years before the events of The Hate U Give in this searing and poignant exploration of Black boyhood and manhood.If there's one thing seventeen-year-old Maverick Carter knows, it's that a real man takes care of his family.</p>

Novels closely linked with the themes explored in 'Crongton Knights'

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
Liccle Bit	Alex Wheatle	<p>What's worse than hiding a secret? Liccle Bit's about to find out... Venetia King is the hottest girl at school. Too bad Lemar is the second shortest guy in his year. Everyone calls him Liccle Bit, and his two best friends, McKay and Jonah, never tire of telling him he has no chance with girls. Things aren't much better at home. His mum is permanently hassled, his sister a frustrated single mum and his dad moved out years ago. Liccle Bit wishes he could do something - anything! - to make life better. A new phone would be a start...</p>
Straight Outta Crongton	Alex Wheatle	<p>Round these ends, it's hard to hold on to your dreams. Life's a constant hustle for Mo. Her mum's boyfriend Lloyd is just another man who likes to beat down women; the South Crong streets are fraught with hazards and nasty G's; and when it comes to matters of the heart ...she's still hung up on Sam. No wonder she's vexed so much of the time. Thank god her sistrens, Elaine and Naomi, are on her side: if one of them falls then they all fall. When badness goes down and a life is left hanging in the balance, Mo has to face her hot urge for revenge ...and she might end up losing more than she wins.</p>
OrangeBoy	Patrice Lawrence	<p>Sixteen-year-old Marlon has made his mum a</p>

		promise - he'll never follow his big brother, Andre, down the wrong path. So far, it's been easy, but when a date ends in tragedy, Marlon finds himself hunted. They're after the mysterious Mr Orange, and they're going to use Marlon to get to him.
The Dirty South	Alex Wheatle	Set in Brixton, 20 years after the race riots, The Dirty South follows the adventures of Bricky teenager Dennis Huggins as he drifts into the easy, dangerous life of the shotta - or drug dealer - and discovers that, hard as the struggle for respect on the streets is, the struggle for love is harder still.

Ambitious reads

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
With the Fire on High	Elizabeth Acevedo	Ever since she got pregnant, seventeen-year-old Emoni's life has been about making the tough decisions - doing what has to be done for her young daughter and her grandmother. Keeping her head down at school, trying not to get caught up with new boy Malachi. The one place she can let everything go is in the kitchen, where she has magical hands - whipping up extraordinary food beloved by everyone.
Piecing Me Together	Renee Watson	Tired of being singled out at her mostly-white private school as

		someone who needs support, high school junior Jade would rather participate in the school's amazing Study Abroad program than join Women to Women, a mentorship program for at-risk girls.
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Reading groups and challenges

Phoenix Book Award

This exciting South London based Book Prize targets KS2 and KS3 pupils in Lambeth, encouraging them to read through the transition years. Phoenix is a unique book prize as students are involved in every stage of the award; from picking the shortlist, to shadowing the award and then finally voting for their favourite. It is open to all schools in the Lambeth area and The Norwood School takes part every year!

The following books have been shortlisted for this award in the past:

- **Serafina and the Black Cloak** by Robert Beatty
- **Boy X** by Dan Smith
- **Sweet Pizza** by GR Gemin
- **The Mystery of the Jewelled Moth** by Katherine Woodfine

The Carnegie Book Award

The CILIP Carnegie and Kate Greenaway Medals are the UK's oldest and best-loved children's book awards, recognising outstanding reading experiences created through writing and illustration in books for children and young people.

The following books have been shortlisted for The CILIP Carnegie Medal Shortlist 2020

- **Girl. Boy. Sea** by Chris Vick
- **The Black Flamingo** by Dean Atta
- **Lark** by Anthony McGowan
- **Patron Saints of Nothing** by Randy Ribay
- **On the Come Up** by Angie Thomas
- **Nowhere on Earth** by Rick Lake
- **Lampie** by Annet Schaap and Laura Watkinson
- **Voyages in the Underworld of Orpheus Black** by Marcus Sedgwick and Julian Sedgwick

Reading Challenge: 16 before 16

'16 before 16' is our reading challenge for all students Year 9+. Some texts include mature themes, so if students in Years 7 and 8 want to participate, they have to have a note signed by their parents/carers. It runs until the end of Year 11 or until students have read their 16 books.

The increased difficulty and level of challenge in the new English GCSE means that students need to be fully prepared for what is now expected of them. The '16 before 16' initiative is designed to support and aid this preparation.

Below is a list of 25 books specially selected by our English Department as the 'must read' texts for young individuals. Your child is asked to choose 16 of these 25 and read them before they finish their studies at The Norwood School.

If your child would like to participate in this competition they need to pick up a passbook from their English teacher or from the school library. The passbook is designed to allow them to complete a short review of each book and also to enable you to add your signature to verify that they have completed the text. House points will be awarded after each finished book and a prize and certificate will be issued when the competition has been completed and 16 pages of the passbook have been filled.

Students are encouraged to read at their own pace and to then show their English teacher their passbook after they have read each text in order to be awarded house points. Many of the texts are available to be booked out from the school library. There is no requirement for students to read the texts in a particular set order. Please find the shortlisted books below:

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
Frankenstein	Mary Shelley	Frankenstein tells the story of gifted scientist Victor Frankenstein who succeeds in giving life to a being of his own creation. However, this is not the perfect specimen he imagines that it will be, but rather a hideous creature who is rejected by Victor and mankind in general.
The White Tiger	Aravind Adiga	The White Tiger is the story of Balram Halwai's

		life as a self-declared “self-made entrepreneur”: a rickshaw driver's son who skillfully climbs India's social ladder to become a chauffeur and later a successful businessman.
The Tattooist of Auschwitz	Heather Morris	The book tells the story of how Slovakian Jew Lale Sokolov, who was imprisoned at Auschwitz in 1942, fell in love with a girl he was tattooing at the concentration camp.
To Kill A Mockingbird	Harper Lee	Shoot all the Bluejays you want, if you can hit 'em, but remember it's a sin to kill a Mockingbird. Lawyer Atticus Finch gives this advice to his children as he defends the real mockingbird of Harper Lee's classic novel - a black man charged with the rape of a white girl. Through the young eyes of Scout and Jem Finch, Harper Lee explores with exuberant humour the irrationality of adult attitudes to race and class in the Deep South of the 1930s.
Things Fall Apart	Chinua Achebe	The novel chronicles the life of Okonkwo, the leader of an Igbo community, from the events leading up to his banishment from the community for accidentally killing a clansman, through the seven years of his exile, to his return, and it addresses a particular problem of emergent Africa—the intrusion in

		the 1890s of white missionaries and colonial government into tribal Igbo society.
The Outsiders	S.E. Hinton	The novel tells the story of Ponyboy Curtis and his struggles with right and wrong in a society in which he believes that he is an outsider. Ponyboy and his two brothers — Darrel (Darry), who is 20, and Sodapop, who is 16 — have recently lost their parents in an automobile accident.
The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy	Douglas Adams	One early morning, Arthur's friend, who's actually an alien, informs him of Earth's impending doom and whisks him away in a spaceship. While Arthur deals with his woes, he also has a great adventure.
Brighton Rock	Graham Greene	Pinky, a small time gangster, becomes the leader of a gang on the English seaside of the Brighton town. His guilt for murdering a rival, leads him on a path of self-destructions.
Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry	Mildred D Taylor	Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry is the classic story of a girl growing up in the deep South. Set in Mississippi at the height of the American Depression, this is the story of a family's struggle to maintain their integrity, pride and independence against the forces of a cruelly racist society.

Lord of the Flies	William Golding	William Golding's 1954 novel Lord of the Flies tells the story of a group of young boys who find themselves alone on a deserted island. They develop rules and a system of organization, but without any adults to serve as a 'civilizing' impulse, the children eventually become violent and brutal.
Great Expectations	Charles Dickens	Great Expectations follows the childhood and young adult years of Pip, a blacksmith's apprentice in a country village. He suddenly comes into a large fortune (his great expectations) from a mysterious benefactor and moves to London where he enters high society.
I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings	Maya Angelou	I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, the first of seven autobiographical works by American writer Maya Angelou, published in 1969. The book chronicles her life from age 3 through age 16, recounting an unsettled and sometimes traumatic childhood.
Hagseed	Margaret Atwood	Felix is at the top of his game as Artistic Director of the Makeshiweg Theatre Festival. His productions have amazed and confounded. Now he's staging a Tempest like no other. It will boost his reputation. It will heal

		emotional wounds. Or that was the plan.
White Teeth	Zadie Smith	A humorous and strange novel focusing on the joining of 2 old war friends, their families and the strange events that unfold including cults, animal experiments and anarchy.
Small Island	Andrea Levy	Andrea Levy's Small Island tells the story of post-war Caribbean migration through four narrators – Hortense and Gilbert, who migrate from Jamaica to London in 1948, and an English couple, Queenie and Bernard, in whose house in London they find lodgings.
Home Fire	Kamila Shamsie	Two families' fates are inextricably, devastatingly entwined in this searing novel that asks: what sacrifices will we make in the name of love? A contemporary reimagining of Sophocles' Antigone, Home Fire is an urgent, fiercely compelling story of loyalties torn apart when love and politics collide - confirming Kamila Shamsie as a master storyteller of our times.
The Handmaid's Tale	Margaret Atwood	An unforgettable portrait of defiance and authoritarian rule, The Handmaid's Tale is a classic dystopian vision of a terrifyingly

		believable future. A devastatingly powerful exploration of female oppression with an all-too chilling resonance for our times.
The Catcher in the Rye	J.D. Salinger	Holden Caulfield, the maelstrom of contradictions and repressed rage at the tale's centre, emerges as an everyman for a disaffected generation, a boy adrift in time. Through a series of encounters – old friends, random strangers – Caulfield's story is that of coming of age, a young man profoundly shocked by the understanding that all innocence must end.
The Secret History	Donna Tartt	Under the influence of their charismatic classics professor, a group of clever, eccentric misfits at an elite New England college discover a way of thinking and living that is a world away from the humdrum existence of their contemporaries. But when they go beyond the boundaries of normal morality their lives are changed profoundly and for ever.
My Sister, the Serial Killer	Oyikan Braithwaite	Satire meets slasher in this short, darkly funny hand grenade of a novel about a Nigerian woman whose younger sister has a very inconvenient habit of killing her boyfriends.
Educated	Tara Westover	Westover's journey from an Idaho mountain- girl

		<p>who, according to the state, did not exist to a Cambridge-educated, sharply intelligent young woman is detailed with candour and grace in this remarkable memoir. Both a fascinating snapshot of survivalist, rural America and an uplifting tribute to the power of self-knowledge, <i>Educated</i> is a singularly gripping work of nonfiction.</p>
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