

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. At the end of this document, there is more information regarding the school reading clubs/challenges; If you would like further information on either the reading groups or challenges you can contact Mr Galea on galea.k@thenorwoodschoool.org.

Year 9 Autumn 1

During the Autumn term, Year 9 will be studying 'Of Mice and Men' by John Steinbeck.

Tragedy and Race Relations

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What is it about?
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.
Brown Girl Dreaming	Jacqueline Woodson	Written entirely in verse, is the autobiographical account of Woodson's time as a young African American girl growing up in the '60s and '70s. With the Jim Crow laws still lingering and the Civil Rights movement in full swing, she struggles to find her way growing up in different regions of the U.S. (Northern and Southern).
Native Son	Richard Wright	First published in 1940 and subsequently banned from both the UK and the US, the story follows Bigger Thomas, an impoverished black man in 1930's Chicago. Bigger commits a crime and the story follows the causation behind his actions.
If Beale Street Could Talk	James Baldwin	If Beale Street Could Talk is a love story set in Harlem, New York. The story follows a young black couple as they go through the courts as Fonny is accused of raping a white woman. The couple need to find a lawyer to clear his name all before their first child is born.
If He Hollers Let Him Go	Chester Himes	If He Hollers Let Him Go is a protest novel inspired by the works of Richard Wright. The novel follows African-American Bob Jones as he starts work in LA. He struggles with the systemic racism he experiences daily and

		eventually lashes out - he's accused of rape and the rest of the novel follows how he deals with this.
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Ambitious reads

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
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.
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn	Mark Twain	Published in 1885 though set in the antebellum south, Huck Finn follows the story of the eponymous protagonist as he runs away from home and takes off down the Mississippi in the company of an escaped slave called Jim.
Beloved	Toni Morrison	Beloved, a sharp and touching novel, uses the style of magical realism to hauntingly display the psychological impacts of slavery and how we feel pain. The novel follows escaped slave Sethe and her daughter Denver as they navigate their new lives in Cincinnati, Ohio.

		As the story progresses, they are perpetually haunted by the ghost of Sethe's eldest daughter, Beloved, as she grows.
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Year 9 Autumn 2

During Autumn 2, Year 9 will be studying 'A Raisin in the Sun' by Lorraine Hansberry.

Tragedy and Race Relations

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What is it about?
Fences	August Wilson	Troy Maxson makes his living as a sanitation worker in 1950s Pittsburgh. Maxson once dreamed of becoming a professional baseball player, but was deemed too old when the major leagues began admitting black athletes. Bitter over his missed opportunity, Troy creates further tension in his family when he squashes his son's chance to meet a college football recruiter.
Dreams from my Father	Barack Obama	A Story of Race and Inheritance is a memoir by Barack Obama, that explores the events of his early years in Honolulu and Chicago up until his entry into law school in 1988.
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.

Iggie's House	Judy Blume	Iggie's House is a 1970 young adult novel by Judy Blume. The story concerns Winnie, whose best friend Iggie has moved away. The new family moving into Iggie's house are the first black people in the neighborhood.
Well-Read Black Girl: Finding Our Stories, Discovering Ourselves	Glory Edim	An inspiring collection of essays by black women writers, curated by the founder of the popular book club Well-Read Black Girl, on the importance of recognizing ourselves in literature.
Collected Poems of Langston Hughes	Langston Hughes	860 poems that sound the heartbeat of black life in America during five turbulent decades, from the 1920s through the 1960s.

Ambitious reads

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
The Color Purple	Alice Walker	The Color Purple documents the traumas and gradual triumph of Celie, an African American teenager raised in rural isolation in Georgia, as she comes to resist the paralyzing self-concept forced on her by others. Celie narrates her life through painfully honest letters to God.
Death of a Salesman	Arthur Miller	About Death of a Salesman. Arthur Miller's play Death of a Salesman addresses loss of identity and a man's inability to accept change within himself and society. The play is a montage of

		memories, dreams, confrontations, and arguments, all of which make up the last 24 hours of Willy Loman's life.
The Bluest Eye	Toni Morrison	The Bluest Eye, published in 1970, is the first novel written by author Toni Morrison. The novel takes place in Lorain, Ohio, and tells the story of a young African-American girl named Pecola who grows up during the years following the Great Depression. Wikipedia

Year 9 Spring 1

During Spring 1, Year 9 will be studying a 'Poetry from Around the World' unit.

Diverse voices

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
Small Island	Andrea Levy	The novel is based on four main characters —Hortense, Queenie, Gilbert and Bernard—and the story is told from each of their points of view. Mainly set in 1948, the plot focuses on the diaspora of Jamaican immigrants, who, escaping economic hardship on their own "small island", move to England, the Mother Country, for which the men have fought during World War II.
Things Fall Apart	Chinua Achebe	<i>Things Fall Apart</i> is the debut novel by Nigerian author Chinua Achebe, the story chronicles pre-colonial life in the southeastern part of Nigeria and the arrival of Europeans during the late 19th century.

Persepolis	Marjane Satrapi	Persepolis is an autobiographical story written as a graphic novel. It follows Satrapi's life before and after the Islamic Revolution in Iran, following her experiences of growing up under extremism and war.
The Stranger	Albert Camus	A philosophical novel that follows Meursault as he visits his mother's funeral in Algeria. He struggles to grieve for his mother's death and is seen as an outsider. He goes on to commit a crime for which he is incarcerated.

Ambitious reads

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
Americanah	Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	As teenagers in a Lagos secondary school, Ifemelu and Obinze fall in love. Nigeria at the time is under military dictatorship, and people are seeking to leave the country. Ifemelu moves to the United States to study, where she struggles for the first time with racism and the many varieties of racial distinctions: for the first time, Ifemelu discovers what it means to be a "Black Person".
The God of Small Things	Arundhati Roy	The God of Small Things is set in India as is a story about the childhood experiences of fraternal twins whose lives are destroyed by the "Love Laws" that lay down "who should be loved, and how. And how much." The book

		explores how the small things affect people's behavior and their lives. It won the Booker Prize in 1997.
Disgrace	J. M Coetzee	Set in post-Apartheid South Africa, Booker-Prize winning, Disgrace, follows the main character commit a crime against one of his students and subsequently lose everything he's worked for.

Year 9 Spring 2

During Spring 2, Year 9 will be studying 'In The Sea There are Crocodiles' by Fabio Geda.

The Refugee experience

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
Boy 87	Ele Fountain	Boy 87 is a gripping, uplifting tale of one boy's struggle for survival; it echoes the story of young people all over the world today. Shif is just an ordinary boy who likes chess, maths and racing his best friend home from school.
Refugee Boy	Benjamin Zephaniah	The whole story centers around the 14-year-old Alem Kelo. He is a boy born of an Ethiopian father and an Eritrean mother at a time when the two countries were at war with each other. His father takes him to London to be safe. There he has to fight for his status as a refugee.
Here I Stand: Stories That Speak For Freedom	Anthology including: Neil Gaiman, Matt Haig, Frances Hardinge, Jackie Kay and more	Inspired by the 800-year anniversary of the signing of the Magna Carta, a selection of writers - in conjunction with Amnesty International UK - explore the rights and freedoms still lacking in today's society, covering issues such as gender equality, race hatred, surveillance, identity and freedom of speech.
The Unwanted: Stories of the Syrian Refugees	Don Brown	Starting in 2011, refugees flood out of war-torn Syria in Exodus-like proportions. The surprising flood of victims

		<p>overwhelms neighbouring countries, and chaos follows. Resentment in host nations heightens as disruption and the cost of aid grows. By 2017, many want to turn their backs on the victims. The refugees are the unwanted. Don Brown depicts moments of both heartbreaking horror and hope in the ongoing Syrian refugee crisis. Shining a light on the stories of the survivors, The Unwanted is a testament to the courage and resilience of the refugees and a call to action for all those who read.</p>
Welcome To Nowhere	Elizabeth Laird	<p>Welcome to Nowhere is a powerful and beautifully written story about the life of one family caught up in civil war by the award-winning author Elizabeth Laird. Twelve-year-old Omar and his brothers and sisters were born and raised in the beautiful and bustling city of Bosra, Syria.</p>
Illegal	Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin	<p>Ebo: alone. His sister left months ago. Now his brother has disappeared too, and Ebo knows it can only be to make the hazardous journey to Europe. Ebo's epic journey takes him across the Sahara Desert to the dangerous streets of Tripoli, and finally out to the merciless sea. But with every step he holds on to his hope for a new life, and a reunion with his sister.</p>

Ambitious reads

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
The Bone Sparrow	Zana Fraillon	Subhi is a refugee. Born in an Australian permanent detention centre after his mother fled the violence of a distant homeland, life behind the fences is all he has ever known. But as he grows, his imagination gets bigger too, until it is bursting at the limits of his world.
Child I	Steve Tasane	A group of undocumented children with letters for names, are stuck living in a refugee camp, with stories to tell but no papers to prove them. As they try to forge a new family amongst themselves, they also long to keep memories of their old identities alive. Will they be heard and believed?
The Kite Runner	Khaled Hosseini	The Kite Runner is the story of Amir, a Sunni Muslim, who struggles to find his place in the world because of the aftereffects and fallout from a series of traumatic childhood events.

Year 9 Summer Term

During the Summer Term, Year 9 will be studying a mini 'Diverse Shorts unit' followed by 'Pigeon English' by Stephen Kelman.

Bildungsroman - Diverse voices

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
Anita and Me	Meera Syal	The novel follows nine-year-old Meena through a year spiced

		with pilfered sweets and money, bad words, and compulsive, yet inventive, lies. Anita and Me offers a fresh, sassy look at a childhood caught between two cultures.
DNA	Dennis Kelly	A group of teenagers do something bad, really bad, then panic and cover the whole thing up. But when they find that the cover-up unites them and brings harmony to their otherwise fractious lives, where's the incentive to put things right?
East of Acre Lane	Alex Wheatle	Biscuit has chosen a bad time to sort himself out: Brixton is angry, tempers are ready to burst, and Denise has just caught the eye of Nunchaks. This story is an account of a young man's attempt to do the right thing.
Terror Kid	Benjamin Zephaniah	The story focuses on a teenage boy called Rico Federico, who has a passion for computers. The book takes place in London, where dozens of riots are occurring as a result of unfair treatment by police
Felix Ever After	Kacen Callendar	Felix Love fears that being black, queer and transgender will prevent him from finding his happy ending. This young adult novel tells the story of a trans teen tumbling through love toward the realisation that the person who most deserves it is himself.
The Henna Wars	Adiba Jaigirdar	When henna business entrepreneur Nishat comes out to her family,

		they ask her to stay in the closet. So when Flavia, her charismatic and beautiful childhood friend, walks into her life again, she is left with a difficult decision
Looking for JJ	Anne Cassidy	Looking for JJ is a young adult thriller by Anne Cassidy about a British teen struggling to piece together her life despite a dark secret: As a child, she murdered another child.
Sister Outsider	Audre Lorde	Lorde through her essays explores the complexities of intersectional identity, while explicitly drawing from her personal experiences of oppression to include: sexism, heterosexism, racism, homophobia, classism, and ageism. The book examines a broad range of topics, including love, self-love, war, imperialism, police brutality, coalition building, violence against women, Black feminism, and movements towards equality that recognize and embrace differences as a vehicle for change.

Ambitious reads

What's the title?	Who's the author?	What's it about?
Native Son	Richard Wright	It tells the story of 20-year-old Bigger Thomas, a black youth living in utter poverty in a poor area on Chicago's South Side in the 1930s. While not apologizing for Bigger's crimes, Wright portrays a systemic causation behind them

Brixton Rock	Alex Wheatle	Set against the backdrop of the Brixton race riots in London in the 1980s, this novel tells a story of overcoming obstacles from a teen's perspective. Brenton Brown, a 16-year-old mixed-race youth, has lived in a children's home all his life and is haunted by the absence of his mother.
Oranges are Not the Only Fruit	Jeanette Winterson	Jeanette Winterson's first novel, published in 1985, is a semi-autobiographical coming-of-age story about a girl growing up in a Pentecostal family in England's industrial Midlands region. Winterson captures the weirdness of religious zealotry with the authority of someone who's lived in this environment, and her portrayal of the young woman's burgeoning lesbian sexuality.

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 students in the lower school Year 9+. 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:

16 before 16 shortlist

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

		<p>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.</p>
Things Fall Apart	Chinua Achebe	<p>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.</p>
The Outsiders	S.E. Hinton	<p>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.</p>
The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy	Douglas Adams	<p>One early morning, Arthur's friend, who's actually an alien, informs him of Earth's impending doom and</p>

		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.
Never Let Me Go	Kazuo Ishiguro	Friends Kathy, Tommy and Ruth grow up together at a seemingly idyllic boarding school in the English countryside. When they leave the school and the horrible truth of their true purpose is revealed to them, they must

		simultaneously confront deep-seated feelings of love, jealousy and betrayal that threaten to tear their friendship asunder.
The Help	Kathryn Stockett	The story is about African Americans working in white households in Jackson, Mississippi, during the early 1960s
1984	George Orwell	In George Orwell's 1984, Winston Smith wrestles with oppression in Oceania, a place where the Party scrutinizes human actions with ever-watchful Big Brother. Defying a ban on individuality, Winston dares to express his thoughts in a diary and pursues a relationship with Julia.
The Road	Cormac McCarthy	In a post-apocalyptic world, a father must protect his son from a group of cannibals who have menaced the streets. They plan to head south where there is a hospitable environment to live in.
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

		<p>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.</p>
The Handmaid's Tale	Margaret Atwood	<p>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.</p>
The Catcher in the Rye	J.D. Salinger	<p>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.</p>
The Secret History	Donna Tartt	<p>Under the influence of their charismatic classics professor, a group of</p>

		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 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, Educated is a singularly gripping work of nonfiction.