

## UPPER KS3/KS4 Recommended Reading

**July 2022**

The following offers some suggestions for reading for girls in Year 9 and above, bearing in mind that books at senior level will have been classified as such due to their reading age/interest and/or content. Books below, marked with a \* may have a more “contentious” content than some e.g., they might include some bad language, violence, or sexual references. However, they are all good examples of the best books currently available, both old and new (excluding standard classic titles which the girls should be reading additionally). All are available from the School Library and can be reserved on the library app or via an email to the librarian.

*Happy Reading! From the Library and the English department*

## **Sally Nicholls**

### *Things a Bright Girl Can Do*

Three young women join the fight for the vote. Evelyn is seventeen, rich and clever. Enraged that she is expected to marry her childhood sweetheart rather than be educated, she joins the Suffragettes, and vows to pay the ultimate price for women's freedom. May is fifteen, and already sworn to the cause, though she and her fellow Suffragists refuse violence. When she meets Nell, a girl who's grown up in hardship, she sees a kindred spirit. The girls dream of a world where all kinds of women have their place. But the fight for freedom will challenge Evelyn, May and Nell more than they ever could believe. As war looms, just how much are they willing to sacrifice?

## **Patrick Ness**

### *The Knife of Never Letting Go (Chaos Walking Trilogy – Book 1)\**

Imagine you're the only boy in a town of men. And you can hear everything they think. And they can hear everything you think. There is no privacy. To Todd – just one month away from the birthday that will make him a man – that is quite normal. But then he stumbles on a spot of complete silence. Which is impossible. It seems that the town has been keeping secrets from him. And Todd doesn't fit in with their plans. The secrets are going to force Todd to run ... along with his dog Manchee and Todd can hear his thoughts too, whether he wants to or not!

## **Sarah Govett**

### *India Smythe Stands Up*

Fourteen-year-old India Smythe has caught the eye of Ennis, the boy all the girls want to date. But nothing's ever easy when you're also dealing with teachers and expectations of work, the general highs and lows of school, a best friend who talks you into embarrassing makeovers to look good on Instagram and embarrassing parents. And does India even want Ennis? Or should she risk social relegation and seek out the orchestra geek she actually enjoys talking to? India learns that sometimes you have to take control and stand up for what's right.

## **C J Flood**

### *Infinite Sky\**

Iris watches a family of gypsies set up an illegal camp in the paddock by her house. The gypsy boy, Trick, is restless and warm and full of life – when he tells Iris he'll settle when he's in his grave, Iris feels as though she understands him completely. Yet as Iris's secret friendship with Trick blooms into something more, tensions run high between their families. Iris's father wants the travellers gone, and her brother Sam is impulsive and headed for trouble. As Iris struggles to find where her loyalties lie, all of the prejudice, vulnerability, and anger that surrounds her collides in tragedy. Over one long hot summer, this is the heart-breaking story of three lives turned upside-down.

## **Jenny Han**

### *To All the Boys I've Loved Before\**

Lara Jean keeps her love letters in a hatbox her mother gave her. But they aren't love letters that anyone wrote to her; these are letters that Lara Jean has written herself. One to every boy she's ever loved - five in all. When she writes, she pours out her heart and soul and says all the things she would never say in real life, because her letters are for her eyes only. Until the day her secret letters are sent out in the post... Lara Jean's love life suddenly goes from imaginary to out of control.

## **Elizabeth Wein**

### *Code Name Verity\**

Only in wartime could a working-class girl lass from Manchester rub shoulders with a Scottish aristocrat, one a pilot, the other a special operations executive. Yet whenever their paths cross, they complement each other perfectly. When a vital mission goes wrong one of the friends, Verity, has to bail out of a faulty plane over France. She is captured by the Gestapo and becomes a prisoner of war. The story begins in Verity's words, as she writes her account for her captors. Truth or lies? Honour or betrayal? Everything she has ever believed in is put to the test...

## **Lauren Oliver**

### *Delirium*

There was a time when love was the most important thing in the world. People would go to the end of the earth to find it. They would tell lies for it. Even kill for it. Then they found the cure. Now scientists are able to eradicate love, and the government demands that all citizens receive the cure upon turning eighteen. Lena Haloway is looking forward to that day as a life without love is a life without pain: safe, measured, predictable, and happy. But then, with only ninety-five days left until her treatment, Lena does the unthinkable...

## **Sally Gardner**

### *Maggot Moon\**

Maggot Moon is set in an alternative 1950s Britain where Standish and his grandfather live with the rest of the undesirables in Zone 7. Under this neo-Nazi regime, people (including Standish's parents) routinely disappear and nothing is quite as it seems. Violence, torture, hunger and enforced slavery are the norm although severely dyslexic Standish sees the world through different eyes to most. The regime is preoccupied with being the first country to land a man on the moon – or so it seems. When the authorities arrest their friends, Standish and his grandfather decide to go down fighting and do what they can to sabotage the Motherland's ambitions.

**Khaled Hosseini**

*A Thousand Splendid Suns*

Mariam is only fifteen when she is sent to Kabul in Afghanistan to marry Rasheed. Nearly two decades later, a friendship grows between Mariam and a local teenager, Laila, which forms a bond as strong as the ties between mother and daughter. When the Taliban take over, life becomes a desperate struggle against starvation, brutality and fear. Yet love can move a person to act in unexpected ways and lead them to overcome the most daunting obstacles with a startling heroism.

**Simon Mason**

*Running Girl\**

Meet Garvie Smith: Charming, brilliant and completely bone idle. If anything can get his attention, it might just be a murder. What sort of policeman is workaholic Detective Inspector Raminder Singh? Not the sort to rush his first murder investigation but when Chloe's body is pulled from a pond, the hunt is on for her killer and DI Singh has a chance to prove his worth. He doesn't need any "assistance" from notorious slacker Garvie, the boy with the highest IQ ever recorded at Marsh Academy, and the lowest ever grades. Or does he? Garvie might have insight – and Garvie is keen to help - Chloe was his ex-girlfriend...

**Gina Blaxill**

*Pretty Twisted\**

Jonathan and Ros meet online at a time when things are going sour for Jonathan. His stunning girlfriend, Freya, is away at college and they are growing apart. Ros is also experiencing problems - one of her friends is dating an older man whose strange behaviour gives Ros cause for concern. When Freya disappears and the local news reports some kidnappings of teenage girls, Jonathan enlists Ros's help in tracking Freya down. With danger lurking around every corner, their stories become inextricably linked in a way nobody could have predicted...

**Jenny Valentine**

*Broken Soup\**

When a good-looking boy with an American accent presses a photographic negative into Rowan's hand she's confused and sure it's a strange mistake...the boy's gone in a moment, lost in the crowd and Rowan can't afford to lose her place in the checkout queue. If she doesn't take the groceries home, nobody else will. Rowan has more responsibilities than most girls her age. She pretty much looks after her little sister single-handedly, which doesn't leave much time for friends or fun. So, when Bee from school says she saw the whole thing and offers to try and print the picture, Rowan happily accepts. A wise move or not? What will the picture show?