

KS4 SUGGESTED READING LIST: SPRING TERM

Below are a range of fictional books selected to suit all readings abilities at Hurstmere School. It is recommended that your child reads for 30 minutes a day to support with developing their reading skills. Please note, it is the responsibility of the parent to determine the suitability of a text for their child. It is worth being mindful of your child's reading ability vs the appropriate content and themes within the book.

Science fiction

Author	Title	Plot Summary	Reading Age / Interest Age
Kazuo Ishiguro	Never Let me Go	A dystopian science fiction novel which looks what happens when scientific experimentation does not consider moral implications. Mix in love and friendship and you have the recipe for an addictive read.	13+ / 15+
Cormac McCarthy	The Road	A post-apocalyptic novel which follows a father and son through burnt America. Bleak, depressing and utterly devoid of hope. The sun never shines, humanity is near extinction and cannibalism becomes the norm.	14+ / 15+

Funny books

Author	Title	Plot Summary	Reading Age / Interest Age
Susin Nielsen	We Are All Made Of Molecules	A girl tries to be popular, but how can she when her dad is gay	12+ / 12+
M.T Anderson	Burger Wuss	Anthony has never been able to stand up for himself, that is until he finds his girlfriend in someone else's arms.	14+ / 14+

		Revenge and fast food. Will he prove he is not a wuss?	
Joe Dunthorne	Submarine	Oliver Tate is 15. He is convinced that his father is depressed and that his mother is having an affair. He is obsessed with losing his virginity before his next birthday	15+ /15+

Horrors and Thrillers

Author	Title	Plot Summary	Reading Age / Interest Age
Henry James	The Turn Of The Screw	A young governess goes to a house to look after two young children. She soon becomes obsessed that something is stalking the children	13+ / 14+
Iain Banks	The Wasp Factory	A cult classic! A child psychopath who determines how he will murder people based on how his wasps die. This book is not for the faint hearted.	14+ / 16+
Ellen Raskin	The Westing Game	Sam Westing selects 16 strangers to attend the reading of his will. No-one knows why they have been selected, let alone the selection of a potential murderer. Solve the mystery to become a millionaire.	8+ / 13+

Action and adventure

Author	Title	Plot Summary	Reading Age / Interest Age
Jenifer A Nielsen	A Night Divided	Gerta finds her family divided between East and West Berlin. Her mother and one of her brothers live on the Soviet side. Her Dad and another brother are trapped in a tunnel under the wall. The consequences are deadly.	8+ / 13+
Joe Duce	The Rig	Drake has made a career of breaking out of prisons, but his capture and placing in a juvenile detention centre in the middle of the arctic circle lead him to discovering the secrets of The Rig..	10+ / 10+
Ellen Raskin	The Westing Game	Sam Westing selects 16 strangers to attend the reading of his will. No-one knows why they have been selected, let alone the selection of a potential murderer. Solve the mystery to become a millionaire.	8+ / 13+
Wilkie Collins	The Moonstone	One of the first English Detective novels and considered to be one of the finest detective novels ever written.	15+ / 16+

Classics

Author	Title	Plot Summary	Reading Age / Interest Age
Mary Shelley	Frankenstein	A mad scientist and a 'monster'. Knowledge, nature, monstrosity and secrecy are at the heart of this book.	14+ / 14+
Harper Lee	To Kill A Mockingbird	A young girls coming of age story which looks at the consequences of racism and prejudice.	14+ / 16+
Ray Bradbury	Fahrenheit 451	A future world where TV dominates and books are banned. Firefighters start fires rather than put them out	15+ / 15+
Daniel Keys	Flowers For Algernon	Charlie is considered to be mentally disabled. All he wants in life is to be a genius. Can you change the hand you are dealt with?	13+ / 15+

You can find links to further suggested reading at <https://schoolreadinglist.co.uk/>