

WIDER READING

Here are some recommendations compiled by Ms Cohen.

Do keep a reading journal in which you note down what you read and the author and a sentence or two on what you thought of it. It reminds you of what you know and helps you to make connections.

You will need to have set up accounts for **Massolit Lectures** and **Digital Theatre +** online to use some of the key links in this sheet. Info below:

Massolit

School has paid for us all to have access to this site. It contains really good lectures given by noted academics across a range of subjects. You can sign up here: https://www.massolit.io/users/sign_up . You need to select Camden School for Girls on the drop down list, pop your name in and *use your school email*. This will send a confirmation link to your school email. Once you've clicked through from this email link you will be able to access things.

Digital Theatre +

School has paid for us all to have access to this site. It contains a host of recordings of live theatre productions and information about theatre practitioners, genres and styles. You access it here: <https://www.digitaltheatreplus.com/education>. Your sign in info is as follows:

Login: **studentcsg**

Password: **English**

Drama Online - National Theatre Archive

To view these brilliant productions online, please sign in here <https://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com> with the following details - please note these passwords are not to be shared beyond CSG:

Username: **2Lp%1Ep#**

Password: **4Dd(2Gg@**

WIDER READING

Text / Topic	Brief Overview / opening lines	Who should read this?	Link to Text(s)	Tell Me More: Linked learning materials
<p><i>The Catcher in the Rye</i></p> <p>J. D. Salinger</p> <p>American novel written in 1951.</p>	<p>Disaffected adolescent Holden Caulfield narrates the story of a couple of days in his life just after he has been expelled from school. Interesting use of “teenage skaz” slang and lots of humour.</p> <p>"If you really want to hear about it, the first thing you'll probably want to know is where I was born and what my lousy childhood was like, and how my parents were occupied and all before they had me, and all that David Copperfield kind of crap, but I don't feel like going into it, if you want to know the truth. In the first place, that stuff bores me, and in the second place, my parents would have about two hemorrhages apiece if I told anything pretty personal about them."</p>	Y10-13	Free online PDF here .	Series of six lectures here
<p><i>I Capture the Castle</i></p> <p>Dodie Smith</p> <p>Novel written in 1959.</p>	<p>Seventeen-year-old Cassandra and her family live in not-so-genteel poverty in a ramshackle old English castle. She aims, over the course of six turbulent months, to hone her writing skills. J. K. Rowling (yup, Harry Potter) says “This book has one of the most charismatic narrators I've ever met.” Very funny, cheering, romantic stuff for these unsettling days.</p> <p>"I write this sitting in the kitchen sink. That is, my feet are in it; the rest of me is on the draining board, which I have padded with our dog's blanket and the tea-cosy. I can't say that I am really comfortable, and there is a depressing smell of carbolic soap, but this is the only part of the kitchen where there is any daylight left. And I have found that sitting in a place that you have never sat before can be inspiring - I wrote my best poem while sitting on the hen house. Though even that isn't a very good poem. I have decided that my poetry is so bad that I mustn't write any more of it."</p>	Y10-13	Free online PDF here .	Read a review here
<p><i>Tess of the D'Urbervilles</i></p> <p>Thomas Hardy</p>	<p>Hardy tells the sad and highly engaging story of Tess, a young woman from a humble background whose romantic struggles play out against the C19th background of strict social hierarchy, moral judgement and poverty.</p> <p>"On an evening in the latter part of May a middle-aged man was walking homeward</p>	Y10-13	Free online PDF here	Series of 8 lectures here . After you've read <i>Tess</i> ,

WIDER READING

<p>C19th novel.</p>	<p>from Shaston to the village of Marlott, in the adjoining Vale of Blakemore, or Blackmoor. The pair of legs that carried him were rickety, and there was a bias in his gait which inclined him somewhat to the left of a straight line. He occasionally gave a smart nod, as if in confirmation of some opinion, though he was not thinking of anything in particular. An empty egg-basket was slung upon his arm, the nap of his hat was ruffled, a patch being quite worn away at its brim where his thumb came in taking it off.”</p>			<p>watch this adaptation of Hardy’s <i>Far From the Madding Crowd</i> here.</p>
<p>Americanah Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie C21st novel.</p>	<p>This is just brilliant, folks. As teenagers in Lagos, Ifemelu and Obinze fall in love. Their Nigeria is under military dictatorship, and people are fleeing the country if they can. The self-assured Ifemelu departs for America. There she suffers defeats and triumphs, finds and loses relationships, all the while feeling the weight of something she never thought of back home: race. Obinze had hoped to join her, but post-9/11 America will not let him in, and he plunges into a dangerous, undocumented life in London. This novel spans three continents and about 15 years. It’s very gripping and thought-provoking. Highly recommended.</p> <p>“Princeton, in the summer, smelled of nothing, and although Ifemelu liked the tranquil greenness of the many trees, the clean streets and stately homes, the delicately overpriced shops, and the quiet, abiding air of earned grace, it was this, the lack of a smell, that most appealed to her, perhaps because the other American cities she knew well had all smelled distinctly. Philadelphia had the musty scent of history. New Haven smelled of neglect. Baltimore smelled of brine, and Brooklyn of sun-warmed garbage. But Princeton had no smell. She liked taking deep breaths here.”</p>	<p>Y10-13</p>	<p>Buy it online here</p>	<p>Interview with Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie here</p>
<p>The Scarlet Letter Nathaniel Hawthorne C19th American novel.</p>	<p>The novel is set in Massachusetts in the 1600s and tells the story of Hester Prynne who conceives a child outside of marriage and then struggles as an outsider in her Puritan community.</p> <p>“A THRONG of bearded men, in sad-colored garments, and gray, steeple-crowned hats, intermixed with women, some wearing hoods and others bareheaded, was assembled in front of a wooden edifice, the door of which was heavily timbered with oak, and studded with iron spikes.</p> <p>The founders of a new colony, whatever Utopia of human virtue and happiness they might originally project, have invariably recognized it among their earliest practical necessities to allot a portion of the virgin soil as a cemetery, and another portion as the</p>	<p>Y10-13</p>	<p>Link to free PDF of the text plus questions here - note that the novel itself starts at page 60 of the pdf</p>	<p>Series of 6 lectures online here</p> <p>Online audiobook to download for free here if you’d rather have it read to you.</p>

WIDER READING

	site of a prison.”			
<p>A Doll’s House</p> <p>Henrik Ibsen</p> <p>C19th Play.</p>	<p>Do try some plays and poetry as well as the novels in this list. Reading a play takes a couple of hours. I love Ibsen. Ibsen was a C19th Norwegian playwright who often focused on women’s experience, often with a strikingly modern approach. In this play, Ibsen explores the story of middle class mother Nora, who has fraudulently borrowed money to save her husband, but whose efforts to keep her family together go painfully awry one Christmas. This play has one of the most famous endings in theatre.</p> <p>Bear in mind the translation in the pdf will not be exactly the same as those referred to in the ‘tell me more’ column.</p>	Y10-13	<p>Free to read online here.</p> <p>or, if you’d like to buy a text, this is a good translation</p>	<p>Link to watch a really brilliant online production here. And a short film made by the team behind the production imagining the story in a modern context.</p> <p>Series of 6 lectures here.</p>
<p>Hedda Gabler</p> <p>Henrik Ibsen</p> <p>C19th Play.</p>	<p>If you enjoyed <i>A Doll’s House</i>, try <i>Hedda Gabler</i> too. This play explores the story of Hedda, who becomes increasingly frustrated with the limitations of her husband and the middle-class life he offers and sets out to challenge them, causing grave consequences.</p>	Y10-13	<p>Free here</p> <p>or, if you’d like to buy a text, this is a good translation</p>	<p>Link to Marina Warner’s production to watch online here</p>
<p>Jane Eyre</p> <p>Charlotte Brontë</p> <p>C19th Novel</p> <p>Wide Sargasso Sea</p>	<p>These two texts are really interesting read comparatively. I’m aware that many of you will have read <i>Jane Eyre</i> in Y9 at CSG. Great. If so, listen to the lectures on linked on the right to jog your memory. If you haven’t already read <i>Jane Eyre</i>, use the links to the audiobook or text online. This <i>bildungsroman</i> (coming of age novel) follows Jane from her childhood as an orphan, to her experience as a governess at Thornfield Hall, working for the unpredictable and charismatic Mr Rochester. Charlotte Brontë’s Gothic classic is an early exploration of women’s independence in the mid-19th century and the societal challenges women had to endure.</p>	Y10-13	<p>Free audiobook download for <i>Jane Eyre</i> here</p> <p>Online text for <i>Jane Eyre</i> here</p>	<p>Series of 12 lectures on <i>Jane Eyre</i> here.</p> <p>Amazing NT production to watch online here.</p>

WIDER READING

<p>Jean Rhys C20th novel</p>	<p>When you've read <i>Jane Eyre</i> you could turn your attention to <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i>. This brilliant novel is Rhys' response to <i>Jane Eyre</i>, in which she imagines the story of the first Mrs Rochester... Then use the lecture series to further your grasp of the texts read together.</p>		<p>Buy <i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i> here</p>	<p>Series of 10 lectures connecting the two texts here.</p>
<p><i>The poetry of Wendy Cope</i> C20-21st poet</p>	<p>Do try some poetry. You might even find that writing some helps to keep you cheerful if you end up self-isolating for a while. I love Wendy Cope's writing. She has a wryly humorous take on life and is really very masterful with form - never tormenting the poetic line so that is scans or rhymes, but always deft.</p>	<p>Y10-13</p>	<p>Links to her work here. And here - with audio. Or buy a collection.</p>	<p>Interview with the poet here.</p>
<p><i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i> James Joyce C20th novel</p>	<p><i>A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man</i> is one of the first things that I remember reading that really made me aware of how authors could adapt their novel's form to create interesting effects for the reader. This <i>bildungsroman</i> follows Stephen Dedalus as he matures, and the prose style matures with him, from the very childish diction of the initial stream-of-consciousness to his more mature expression later. Joyce contrasts the rebellion and the experimentation of adolescence with the sombre influence of Stephen's Catholic education. For example, his startled enjoyment of a sexual experience in chapter two is followed by the famous 'Hellfire sermon' in chapter three which leaves him fearing for his soul.</p> <p>"Once upon a time and a very good time it was there was a moocow coming down along the road and this moocow that was coming down along the road met a nicens little boy named baby tuckoo... His father told him that story: his father looked at him through a glass: he had a hairy face."</p>	<p>Y11-13</p>	<p>Online text here</p>	<p>Introductory article on the BL website here.</p>
<p><i>The poetry of Carol Ann Duffy</i> C20-21st poet</p>	<p>Carol Ann Duffy's poetry is richly textured with allusions to myths, fairytales, bible stories. You might do well to read some of the Ancient Greek things on this list and then explore her work and see how much more you grasp when you've got a bit more cultural hinterland. <i>The World's Wife</i> is a brilliant, often very funny, collection in which she offers the woman's perspective on many male figures from history or myth e.g. Mrs Midas, Mrs Aesop. In <i>Rapture</i> she charts the progress of a love affair from its earliest moments until its close. Worth a look.</p>	<p>Y10-13</p>	<p>Listen to some of her work here. Buy The World's Wife or Rapture</p>	<p>Listen to a recording of an interview here.</p>

WIDER READING

<p><i>The Pursuit of Love and Love in a Cold Climate</i></p> <p>Nancy Mitford</p> <p>C20th novels</p>	<p>These are real favourites of mine. I reread them whenever I get a bug and need the reading equivalent of chocolate mousse. The Mitford family were aristocratic and numerous and lived a very unconventional life. Nancy Mitford draws heavily on her childhood in these novels, offering a hilarious portrait of upper class English society in the C20th. Highly recommended. I defy you not to laugh out loud as you read.</p> <p>“There is a photograph in existence of Aunt Sadie and her six children sitting round the tea-table at Alconleigh. The table is situated, as it was, is now, and ever shall be, in the hall, in front of a huge open fire of logs. Over the chimney-piece plainly visible in the photograph hangs an entrenching tool, with which, in 1915, Uncle Matthew had whacked to death eight Germans one by one as they crawled out of a dug-out. It is still covered with blood and hairs, an object of fascination to us as children. In the photograph Aunt Sadie's face, always beautiful, appears strangely round, her hair strangely fluffy, and her clothes strangely dowdy, but it is unmistakably she who sits there with Robin, in oceans of lace, lolling on her knee. She seems uncertain what to do with his head, and the presence of Nanny waiting to take him away is felt though not seen.”</p>	<p>Y10-13</p>	<p>Read <i>The Pursuit of Love</i> online here or buy it here. Read <i>Love in a Cold Climate</i> here or buy it here</p>	<p>Jessica Mitford's Hons and Rebels is a really engaging account of the Mitfords' unconventional childhoods.</p>
<p><i>The Yellow Wallpaper</i></p> <p>Charlotte Perkins Gilman</p> <p>Late C19th short story</p>	<p>This short story is fascinating stuff. Published in 1892, it feels hugely modern for its time in the way that it examines attitudes toward women's physical and mental health. Written as a collection of journal entries by a woman whose physician husband has confined her to her bedroom in the aftermath of the birth of their child, the story depicts the narrator's descent into psychosis as her confinement gradually erodes her sanity.</p> <p>“It is very seldom that mere ordinary people like John and myself secure ancestral halls for the summer. A colonial mansion, a hereditary estate, I would say a haunted house, and reach the height of romantic felicity—but that would be asking too much of fate! Still I will proudly declare that there is something queer about it. Else, why should it be let so cheaply? And why have stood so long untenanted?”</p> <p>John laughs at me, of course, but one expects that in marriage. John is practical in the extreme. He has no patience with faith, an intense horror of superstition, and he scoffs openly at any talk of things not to be felt and seen and put down in figures. John is a physician, and <i>perhaps</i> – (I would not say it to a living soul, of course, but this is dead paper and a great relief to my mind) – <i>perhaps</i> that is one reason I do not get well faster!”</p>	<p>Y11-13</p>	<p>Online text free here</p> <p>Free audiobook here</p>	<p>Article about 'rest cures' such as that forced upon the narrator in the story here.</p>

WIDER READING

<p><i>Girls Like That</i> Evan Placey C21st Play.</p>	<p>This play - interestingly written with no assigned characters - makes use of lots of choric speech and multi-role to explore what happens when one schoolgirl's private photograph is shared widely in her school. The unfolding horrors of this sexting cyber-bullying are explored in parallel with monologues from female characters at other points in history. An interesting read / watch.</p>	<p>Y10-11</p>	<p>Buy it online here.</p>	<p>Watch it online here for free.</p>
<p><i>How to Build a Girl and How to be Famous</i> Caitlin Moran C21st novels.</p>	<p>Caitlin Moran's very funny coming of age novels, based in part on her own childhood growing up on a tough council estate in Wolverhampton before coming to London as a teenager to try to make her way as a music journalist. Rather rude, highly engaging and very funny indeed.</p> <p>"My name's Johanna Morrigan. I'm fourteen, and I've just decided to kill myself.</p> <p>I don't really want to die, of course! I just need to kill Johanna, and build a new girl. Dolly Wilde will be everything I want to be, and more!"</p>	<p>Y11-13</p>	<p>Buy <i>How to Build a Girl</i> online here. Buy <i>How to be Famous</i> online here.</p>	<p>Interview with the author here. Or better still, read her feminist handbook How to Be a Woman.</p>
<p><i>Alice's Adventures in Wonderland</i> Lewis Carroll C19th novel</p>	<p>This is one of those texts that you really ought to have read, but may not have actually got around to reading. I urge you to give it a go. It is very odd indeed, and full of amazing images and ideas - nice to get lost in the strangeness of Wonderland when the world itself seems rather strange. Alice follows a talking rabbit down a rabbit hole into a world full of very strange creatures and experiences.</p> <p>"Alice was beginning to get very tired of sitting by her sister on the bank, and of having nothing to do: once or twice she had peeped into the book her sister was reading, but it had no pictures or conversations in it, 'and what is the use of a book,' thought Alice 'without pictures or conversation?' So she was considering in her own mind (as well as she could, for the hot day made her feel very sleepy and stupid), whether the pleasure of making a daisy-chain would be worth the trouble of getting up and picking the daisies, when suddenly a White Rabbit with pink eyes ran close by her. There was nothing so very remarkable in that; nor did Alice think it so very much out of the way to hear the Rabbit say to itself, 'Oh dear! Oh dear! I shall be late!' (when she thought it over afterwards, it occurred to her that she ought to have wondered at this, but at the time it all seemed quite natural); but when the Rabbit actually took a watch out of its waistcoat-pocket, and looked at it, and then hurried on, Alice started to her feet, for it flashed across her mind that she had never before seen a rabbit with either a waistcoat-pocket, or a watch to take out of it, and burning with curiosity, she ran across</p>	<p>Y10-13</p>	<p>Link to online text here</p>	<p>Interesting article from the BL website about Carroll's influences for this text here.</p>

WIDER READING

	the field after it, and fortunately was just in time to see it pop down a large rabbit-hole under the hedge.”			
<p>Anna Karenina</p> <p>Leo Tolstoy</p> <p>C19th Russian novel</p>	<p>This is a big door stop of a C19th novel, and one for more ambitious readers, but it is an important one. The novel explores the lives of several members of prominent society families in C19th Russia, looking at the impact of betrayal, children, class and religion on their interconnected lives. And of course, the novel starts with one of literature’s most famous opening lines:</p> <p>“Happy families are all alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way. Everything was in confusion in the Oblonskys’ house. The wife had discovered that the husband was carrying on an intrigue with a French girl, who had been a governess in their family, and she had announced to her husband that she could not go on living in the same house with him. This position of affairs had now lasted three days, and not only the husband and wife themselves, but all the members of their family and household, were painfully conscious of it.”</p>	Y11-13	Link to online text here :	Interesting article about the experience of reading it here .
<p>Orlando</p> <p>Virginia Woolf</p> <p>C20th novel</p>	<p>This is an interesting one. The text begins following Orlando, an Elizabethan nobleman, and Woolf takes us on a dizzying journey as we follow this character from the 17th to the 20th Century, across several continents, and from male to female. Along the way we meet several historical figures. Woolf was inspired by the exciting family history of her aristocratic lover, Vita Sackville-West in writing this novel. Dazzling stuff.</p> <p>“He - for there could be no doubt of his sex, though the fashion of the time did something to disguise it - was in the act of slicing at the head of a Moor which swung from the rafters. It was the colour of an old football, and more or less the shape of one, save for the sunken cheeks and a strand or two of coarse, dry hair, like the hair on a cocoanut. Orlando's father, or perhaps his grandfather, had struck it from the shoulders of a vast Pagan who had started up under the moon in the barbarian fields of Africa; and now it swung, gently, perpetually, in the breeze which never ceased blowing through the attic rooms of the gigantic house of the lord who had slain him.”</p>	Y11-13	Link to online text here	Link to online documentary about the author’s life here
<p>Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit</p>	<p>In this hilarious, sad, brilliant novel Jeanette Winterson uses her own experience as the adopted child of Pentecostal parents to create a fictionalised account of her childhood and adolescence. Her mother is less than impressed when she chooses as a teenager</p>	Y11-13	Link to buy text online here	Article by John Mullan on how the

WIDER READING

<p>Jeanette Winterson C20th novel</p>	<p>to leave her home and her church to be with the woman she loves.</p> <p>“Like most people I lived for a long time with my mother and father. My father liked to watch the wrestling, my mother liked to wrestle; it didn't matter what. She was in the white corner and that was that.</p> <p>She hung out the largest sheets on the windiest days. She wanted the Mormons to knock on the door. At election time in a Labour mill town she put a picture of the Conservative candidate in the window.</p> <p>She had never heard of mixed feelings. There were friends and there were enemies.</p> <p>Enemies were: The Devil (in his many forms), Next Door, Sex (in its many forms), Slugs</p> <p>Friends were: God, Our dog, Auntie Madge, The Novels of Charlotte Brontë, Slug pellets, and me, at first, I had been brought in to join her in a tag match against the Rest of the World.”</p>		<p>Or read the first chapter or so online here to see if you like it first.</p>	<p>novel uses aspects of the Bible here.</p>
<p>Emma Jane Austen C19th novel</p>	<p>Ms Cohen's favourite novel! The plot of this may be loosely familiar from <i>Clueless</i> (required 90s throwback viewing). This one is even better than <i>Pride and Prej</i> to my mind. This is a novel about matchmaking and falling in love - Emma is an inveterate meddler in the romantic affairs of others, and singularly incompetent when it comes to matters of her own heart. The novel's form and narrative perspective are really clever - Austen deftly handles things so that we are initially very limited by the partial grasp that Emma has on her own situation, and by her own tendency to deceive herself in flattering ways. A second - or third - reading is a must in showing you how masterful Austen is here, and how entirely differently we respond when we have the overview that she makes us wait so long for, following as we do Emma's meandering journey to self-knowledge. The novel also contains some biting social criticism and some of the funniest scenes in any book I've read. Read it, and then read everything else by Austen you can get your hands on!</p> <p>'Emma Woodhouse, handsome, clever, and rich, with a comfortable home and happy disposition, seemed to unite some of the best blessings of existence; and had lived nearly twenty-one years in the world with very little to distress or vex her.'</p>	<p>Y10-13</p>	<p>Link to free online text here</p>	<p>John Mullan on why <i>Emma</i> changed the face of fiction here.</p>
<p>The Poetry of</p>	<p>Hardy is a really interesting figure - he's a C19th novelist and a C20th poet. He wrote a</p>	<p>Y11-13</p>	<p>See main</p>	<p>Series of 18</p>

WIDER READING

<p>Thomas Hardy C20th poet</p>	<p>lot of brilliant but highly depressing novels that were heavily critical of aspects of the unequal society in which he lived, got some shocking reviews for <i>Jude the Obscure</i> and chucked in novels in favour of poetry. He really is the master of form and experiments with a huge variety of poetic meters with enormous skill. There is a series of lectures linked in on the right and I've put links to the poems for the lectures that I recommend you listen to below. Do also check out the excellent documentary in the column on the right.</p> <p>The Ruined Maid poem Drummer Hodge poem The Darkling Thrush poem The Oxen poem The Convergence of the Twain poem At Castle Boterel poem The Voice poem The Haunter poem Your Last Drive poem Afterwards poem</p>		column	lectures, each on individual poems here Documentary about Hardy to watch here
<p>A Little History of the World E. H. Gombrich C20th non-fiction</p>	<p>Time for a bit of non-fiction. Audible has just made this free for you to download. Good to get a bit of a narrative overview of history to hang your new-found knowledge of literature in! In 40 concise chapters, Gombrich tells the story of humanity from the Stone Age to the atomic bomb. In between emerges a colorful picture of wars and conquests, grand works of art, and the spread and limitations of science. The product of a generous and humane sensibility, this timeless account makes intelligible the full span of human history.</p>	Y10-13	Link to free audiobook here	
<p>The Story of Art E. H. Gombrich C20th non fiction</p>	<p>Finding that audiobook by Gombrich has got me thinking that you really should get to grips with some art. This is the best book I know of in terms of giving you a sweeping introduction to the History of Art. It really is fascinating stuff.</p> <p>When reading the book, look at which galleries / museums own the works that you find particularly intriguing and use their websites to see high resolution images and discover more.</p>	Y10-13	Buy it online here - note cheaper second hand	Follow this series of lectures on the chapters of the book - or watch them if you can't buy the book
<p>The Life of Pi</p>	<p>After the tragic sinking of a ship, a solitary lifeboat remains bobbing on the wild, blue</p>	Y10-13	Link to buy	Article on

WIDER READING

<p>Yann Martel C21st novel</p>	<p>Pacific. The only survivors from the wreck are a sixteen-year-old boy named Pi, a hyena, a zebra (with a broken leg), a female orangutan - and a 450-pound Royal Bengal tiger. How will Pi stay safe in his journey on the high seas? This is a really gripping novel with some fascinating twists.</p>		<p>the text here</p>	<p>belief and magic realism in relation to the novel here</p>
<p>Great Expectations Charles Dickens C19th novel</p>	<p>You really should get to grips with some Dickens. This is probably the best one to start with. It tells the story of Pip, raised by his sister, tormented by Miss Havisham and the disdainful Estella, raised unexpectedly to a life of promise and financial ease and then horrified by the discoveries that he makes about himself and his good fortune. Very gripping. Dickens is really good at outrageous supporting characters, and Miss Havisham is the best of all - an aged spinster, jilted on her wedding day, who wears the decaying bridal gown that she put on all those years before. Just brilliant!</p> <p>"My father's family name being Pirrip, and my Christian name Philip, my infant tongue could make of both names nothing longer or more explicit than Pip. So, I called myself Pip, and came to be called Pip."</p>	<p>Y11-13</p>	<p>Link to free online text here</p>	<p>Watch the classic 1946 David Lean film here.</p> <p>Read John Mullan on crime in the novel here</p> <p>Read John Bowen on the gothic in the novel here</p>
<p>A Room with a View E. M. Forster C20th novel</p>	<p>Forster is really very good indeed, and currently somewhat overlooked. I had a binge last year, read them all and recommend him highly. He is a humane, truthful sort of writer and his stories aren't full of high octane twists and turns, but they do make you think about life is and how people are, and why they are the way they are. This novel follows the character of Lucy, a young woman on a tour of Italy, who meets several engaging - and some romantically intriguing - characters, and follows her back to England. We see her torn between two possible romances and wait to see which of two plausibly-drawn chaps she will choose.</p> <p>"The Signora had no business to do it," said Miss Bartlett, "no business at all. She promised us south rooms with a view close together, instead of which here are north rooms, looking into a courtyard, and a long way apart. Oh, Lucy!"</p> <p>"And a Cockney, besides!" said Lucy, who had been further saddened by the Signora's unexpected accent. "It might be London." She looked at the two rows of English people who were sitting at the table; at the row of white bottles of water and red bottles of wine that ran between the English people; at the portraits of the late Queen and the late</p>	<p>Y11-13</p>	<p>Download here for free to read online or on kindle or use this link for apple books</p>	<p>Series of 5 lectures here</p> <p>If you liked this, try Forster's <i>Howard's End</i> - download here for free or use this link for apple books formatted text</p>

WIDER READING

	<p>Poet Laureate that hung behind the English people, heavily framed; at the notice of the English church (Rev. Cuthbert Eager, M. A. Oxon.), that was the only other decoration of the wall. "Charlotte, don't you feel, too, that we might be in London? I can hardly believe that all kinds of other things are just outside. I suppose it is one's being so tired."</p>			
<p>Resistance Owen Sheers C21st novel</p>	<p>This is great. Probably the best work of counterfactual fiction I have read. The premise is that, during WW2, German forces crush the Normandy landings and do invade England with devastating speed and force in 1944. The novel follows the impact of this occupation on the women of a remote rural community. The men have left, presumably to join the resistance, and the women remain, struggling with the brutal realities of occupation and the trials of winter in a farming community that has lost its men. The way that they navigate relationships with the occupying Germans is very well rendered. Thought-provoking, moving and highly engaging.</p> <p>"In the months afterwards all of the women, at some point, said they'd known the men were leaving the valley. Just as William Jones used to forecast the weather by studying the sky or the formations of migrating birds, so the women said they'd been able to forecast the men's sudden departure. After all, they were their men, their husbands. No one could read them like they could. So no surprise if they should see what was coming. That's what the women said in the long silence afterwards.</p> <p>But in truth none of them saw any change in the men's behaviour. None of them knew the men were leaving and in many ways this was the hardest part of what happened. Their husbands left in the night. Just days after news of the invasion came crackling through on Maggie's wireless, propped on a Bible on her kitchen table, the men, lit by a hunter's moon, met at William's milking shed and slipped out of the valley. Moving in single file they walked through the higher fields and up over the Hatterall ridge; an ellipsis of seven dark shapes decreasing over the hill's shoulder, shortening to a last full stop and then nothing, just the blank page of the empty slope. The women, meanwhile, slept soundly in their beds. It was only in the morning when a weak September sun shone into the valley that they realised what had happened."</p>	Y11-13	<p>Buy it online here Or read an excerpt here to see if you like it first.</p>	<p>Questions and reading guide here. Review here.</p>
<p>Northern Lights Philip Pullman</p>	<p>If you haven't read Pullman's <i>His Dark Materials</i> yet, I urge you to do so. The trilogy is an absolute stunner. One can see the mark of Milton and Blake pretty clearly, indeed the trilogy's name is drawn straight from <i>Paradise Lost</i>, and it weaves in and out of</p>	Y10-13	<p>Buy it online here</p>	<p>Watch the bbc adaptation here</p>

WIDER READING

<p>C20th novel</p>	<p>different worlds connecting our own with ones of richly-textured fantasy. Lots of interesting thinking points on philosophy, free will, religion - worth a look!</p> <p>“Lyra and her dæmon moved through the darkening Hall, taking care to keep to one side, out of sight of the kitchen. The three great tables that ran the length of the Hall were laid already, the silver and the glass catching what little light there was, and the long benches were pulled out ready for the guests. Portraits of former Masters hung high up in the gloom along the walls. Lyra reached the dais and looked back at the open kitchen door and, seeing no one, stepped up beside the high table. The places here were laid with gold, not silver, and the fourteen seats were not oak benches but mahogany chairs with velvet cushions.</p> <p>Lyra stopped beside the Master’s chair and flicked the biggest glass gently with a fingernail. The sound rang clearly through the Hall.</p> <p>“You’re not taking this seriously,” whispered her dæmon. “Behave yourself.”</p> <p>Her dæmon’s name was Pantalaimon, and he was currently in the form of a moth, a dark brown one so as not to show up in the darkness of the Hall.”</p>		<p>Read the first chapter here to see if you like it</p>	<p>Review here.</p>
<p>Three Sisters Anton Chekhov C19th play</p>	<p>Chekhov really is required reading for anyone interested in drama or the history of theatre. He worked at the Moscow Arts Theatre, alongside Stanislavski, the father of naturalism. Together they were pioneering in dismantling the formal and staid performance and writing styles that had been prevalent in the C19th until their work. <i>Three Sister</i> tells the story of Olga, Masha and Irina, three orphaned adult sisters on their large estate which is becoming too expensive to run. They are desperate to escape their circumstances, whether through work, creativity, romance or simply by getting away from their rural backwater and off to Moscow - their driving urge across the play. Sad, funny, deeply human stuff. Check it out.</p>	<p>Y11-13</p>	<p>Free to read online here</p> <p>Or buy this good translation here</p>	<p>Helpful notes on themes and characters here.</p>
<p>Regeneration Pat Barker C20th novel</p>	<p>This is a real modern classic - I studied this for my A Levels and it is certainly worth a read. This novel is set at Craiglockhart, a hospital for soldiers who are suffering from shell shock and other psychological trauma as a result of their combat experience in the trenches in WW1. Three of the novel’s central characters - Rivers, the main doctor, and Siegfried Sassoon and Wilfred Owen two poets, are real people, and the author movingly explores the influence of Sassoon on the less experienced Owen. Other</p>	<p>Y11-13</p>	<p>Buy it online here</p>	<p>Series of 15 lectures here</p> <p>Article on integrating real people into historical</p>

WIDER READING

	<p>fictional characters add depth and detail. Really strong stuff.</p> <p>I also recommend <i>The Silence of the Girls</i> by this author - her response to <i>The Iliad</i> that explores events from the perspective of a largely overlooked female character in that text.</p>			fiction here .
<p>1984</p> <p>George Orwell</p> <p>C20th novel</p>	<p>Orwell really set the bar for dystopian fiction in this masterful novel. Our hero, Winston, lives a drab and highly surveilled life in an authoritarian state that is perpetually at war. He has a telescreen in his flat which watches his every movement (echoes of Alexa?). One day, he decides to rebel against the constraints imposed by the regime - by starting a diary.</p> <p>“It was a bright cold day in April, and the clocks were striking thirteen. Winston Smith, his chin nuzzled into his breast in an effort to escape the vile wind, slipped quickly through the glass doors of Victory Mansions, though not quickly enough to prevent a swirl of gritty dust from entering along with him.”</p>	Y10-13	Online text here for free.	Article on 1984 and the politics of dystopia here
<p>The Playmaker</p> <p>Thomas Keneally</p> <p>C20th novel</p>	<p>This is a really good one for learning about something completely new. At the end of the C18th, England sent a fleet of convicts to Australia, as a response to the massive overcrowding in jails at the time and in order to help support their colonial ambitions. The journey was hard and life was even worse when they arrived, with harsh justice being meted out for even small crimes. Food was scarce. Even worse suffering ensued for the aboriginal people who were not immune to diseases that arrived with the first fleet. Extraordinarily, it was decided that a play should be put on, directed by a young officer called Ralph Clark, and performed by the convicts. This play was a comedy by Farquhar, called <i>The Recruiting Officer</i>. The novel tells the story of this unexpected theatrical enterprise. Very thought-provoking stuff that will get you exploring new things. Recommended. And there is some really interesting reading on stuff to explore in the column on the right.</p>	Y11-13	Buy the text here	<p>Now try this amazing play by Timberlake Wertenbaker which is based on the novel.</p> <p>Also check out <i>The Recruiting Officer</i> here.</p>
<p>The Iliad</p> <p>Homer</p> <p>Ancient Greek epic poem</p>	<p>This is one of those central texts that you need to have under your belt to understand many other texts, because these texts are part of our core, shared literary and cultural imagination and have been so for hundreds and hundreds of years. <i>The Iliad</i> is an epic poem detailing the Greeks’ war with the Trojans. We get to know the details of the lives of several key characters, particularly Achilles, whose moods and fighting prowess are at the heart of the poem. Powerful stuff. Just look at the first word: RAGE!</p>	Y10-13	The Fagles translation is good, and is available	<p>Helpful videos on sections of the book here.</p> <p>Lectures</p>

WIDER READING

	<p>“Rage - Goddess: sing the rage of Peleus' son Achilles, murderous, doomed, that cost the Achaeans countless losses, hurling down to the House of Death so many sturdy souls, great fighters' souls, but made their bodies carrion, feasts for the dogs and birds, and the will of Zeus was moving toward its end Begin, Muse, when the two first broke and clashed, Agamemnon lord of men and brilliant Achilles.”</p>		<p>to read here. Note that there is a long intro - the text itself starts on p93.</p>	<p>here. Use these sign in details for classics courses as we only have a free trial Username: jcs009@jcsonlineresources.org Password: JCSFoundation</p>
<p><i>The Odyssey</i> Homer Ancient Greek epic poem</p>	<p>This is another of those core texts that are part of our shared cultural heritage and have really shaped the literary imagination. Another epic poem, this one deals with the arduous journey home from the Trojan war of Odysseus. Poor chap. He spends ten years fighting a war to get somebody else’s wife back, and then another ten years getting home. Along the way he meets a host of monsters and magical creatures and faces enormous danger. Less fighty than <i>The Iliad</i> and more fantastical. Note how the beginnings of both of these epics begin with an invocation (request) to the Muse of poetry to help the poet tell the story:</p> <p>“Sing to me of the man, Muse, the man of twists and turns ... driven time and again off course, once he had plundered the hallowed heights of Troy. Many cities of men he saw and learned their minds, many pains he suffered, heartsick on the open sea, fighting to save his life and bring his comrades home. But he could not save them from disaster, hard as he strove—the recklessness of their own ways destroyed them all, the blind fools, they devoured the cattle of the Sun and the Sungod blotted out the day of their return. Launch out on his story, Muse, daughter of Zeus,</p>	<p>Y10-13</p>	<p>Again, I like the Fagles translation here.</p>	<p>Crash course intro vid here. Thinking questions here. Lectures here and here. Use these sign in details for classics courses as we only have a free trial Username: jcs009@jcsonlineresources.org</p>

WIDER READING

	<p>start from where you will—sing for our time too.”</p> <p>If you’ve read either or both of <i>The Iliad</i> and <i>The Odyssey</i> you might like to check out these lectures on the characterisation of female characters in these texts. Use these sign in details for classics courses as we only have a free trial</p> <p>Username: jcs009@jconlineresources.org</p> <p>Password: JCSFoundation</p>			<p>Password: JCSFoundati on</p>
<p><i>Metamorphoses</i></p> <p>Ovid</p> <p>Ancient Greek poetry</p>	<p>This is another one of those key texts that has completely shaped the literary imagination of later writers. Ovid’s poetry is a brilliant introduction to lots of important Ancient Greek myths and is focused, predictably enough, on metamorphosis or change and transformation. It is broken down into easy to digest chunks detailing the stories of different individuals who undergo change. Examples are the stories of Narcissus and Echo (wonder why we call echoes echoes? Read on!) and of Orpheus, who misses his dead wife so much that he seeks her out in the Underworld. Mind-expanding reading!</p>	<p>Y10-13</p>	<p>Read for free here, or buy this very good translation or buy Ted Hughes’ great, more loose translation</p>	<p>Helpful article from the BL on how Ovid reverberates in the cultural imagination here.</p>
<p><i>Circe</i></p> <p><i>Madeleine Miller</i></p> <p>C21st novel</p>	<p>Read Homer’s <i>Odyssey</i> first. Then this treasure trove awaits. I think this was my favourite read of the last year. Miller picks one character that Odysseus meets on his meandering journey home - Circe - and gives us her whole history. The blurb of the book does a pretty nifty job of introducing the text so here it is:</p> <p>In the house of Helios, god of the sun and mightiest of the Titans, a daughter is born. Circe is a strange child - not powerful and terrible, like her father, nor gorgeous and mercenary like her mother. Scorned and rejected, Circe grows up in the shadows, at home in neither the world of gods or mortals. But Circe has a dark power of her own: witchcraft. When her gift threatens the gods, she is banished to the island of Aiaia where she hones her occult craft, casting spells, gathering strange herbs and taming wild beasts. Yet a woman who stands alone will never be left in peace for long - and among her island's guests is an unexpected visitor: the mortal Odysseus, for whom Circe will risk everything. So Circe sets forth her tale, a vivid, mesmerizing epic of family rivalry, love and loss - the defiant, inextinguishable song of woman burning hot and bright through the darkness of a man's world.</p>	<p>Y11-13</p>	<p>Buy it here.</p>	<p>Interview with the author here.</p>

WIDER READING

	I would also recommend her novel <i>The Song of Achilles</i> , which is based on <i>The Iliad</i> and gives us Patroclus' take on events. Evidently you should read Homer's text first.			
<p>Wuthering Heights</p> <p>Emily Brontë</p> <p>C19th novel</p>	<p>Another Brontë sister for you to explore. This is the heady and romantic tale of Heathcliff, a young orphaned gypsy boy, who is brought to the windswept moors of Yorkshire by Mr Earnshaw, the master of Wuthering Heights. Heathcliff's childhood there is full of bullying and humiliation, but the master's daughter, the precocious and untameable Cathy, becomes his ally, and a childhood fondness for one another grows to a great passion. Things go wrong, and the characters' desire for revenge becomes self-destructive across several generations. Passionate stuff!</p> <p>"1801. I have just returned from a visit to my landlord the solitary neighbour that I shall be troubled with. This is certainly a beautiful country! In all England, I do not believe that I could have fixed on a situation so completely removed from the stir of society. A perfect misanthropist's heaven: and Mr. Heathcliff and I are such a suitable pair to divide the desolation between us. A capital fellow! He little imagined how my heart warmed towards him when I beheld his black eyes withdraw so suspiciously under their brows, as I rode up, and when his fingers sheltered themselves, with a jealous resolution, still further in his waistcoat, as I announced my name.</p> <p>'Mr. Heathcliff?' I said. A nod was the answer."</p>	Y11-13	<p>Audiobook to download for free - useful here what with the accents</p> <p>Or online text here.</p>	Series of 13 lectures here .
<p>We Have Always Lived at the Castle</p> <p>Shirley Jackson</p> <p>C20th American novel</p>	<p>This is a hoot. A very creepy hoot. It would be a good jumping off point for some gothic creative writing of your own. Merricat Blackwood and her sister are the last surviving members of their family. I guarantee you will want to keep reading once you've read the first chapter. The narrator is just brilliant. Here is the opening paragraphs:</p> <p>"My name is Mary Katherine Blackwood. I am eighteen years old, and I live with my sister Constance. I have often thought that with any luck at all I could have been born a werewolf, because the two middle fingers on both my hands are the same length, but I have had to be content with what I had. I dislike washing myself, and dogs, and noise. I like my sister Constance, and Richard Plantagenet, and Amanita phalloides, the death-cup mushroom. Everyone else in my family is dead."</p>	Y11-13	Buy it here	<p>Article on the brilliance of the opening paragraph here</p> <p>Overview of the novel's strengths here.</p>
<p>Frankenstein</p>	Classic gothic novel - the young student Victor Frankenstein aims to create a man and		Online	Series of 6

WIDER READING

<p>Mary Shelley C19th novel</p>	<p>in so doing unleashes forces beyond his control, setting into motion a long and tragic chain of events. How he tries to destroy his creation, as it destroys everything Victor loves, is a powerful story of love, friendship, scientific hubris, and horror.</p> <p>“To Mrs. Saville, England St. Petersburg, Dec. 11th, 17— You will rejoice to hear that no disaster has accompanied the commencement of an enterprise which you have regarded with such evil forebodings. I arrived here yesterday, and my first task is to assure my dear sister of my welfare and increasing confidence in the success of my undertaking...”</p>		<p>audiobook to download for free here</p> <p>Link here to online text</p>	<p>lectures here</p> <p>The NT did a simply breathtaking production of this. The actors playing Dr F and the Monster swapped roles on alternate nights - amazing. You can watch both versions here and here.</p>
<p><i>Of Mice and Men</i> John Steinbeck C20th novel</p>	<p>This is a real American classic, and quite short too, for those of you who are unsure about beginning some of the more doorstoppy ones on this list. Steinbeck’s tale is set during the Great Depression in America, when the stock market crash and a series of agricultural mishaps rendered many people homeless and in insecure employment. This novel tells the story of George and Lennie, who travel looking for farm work and of the characters they meet at the ranch where they settle. This novel offers a fascinating window onto a period in history with sharp portrayals of the attitude at the time to race, disability and to women. Be prepared for troubling language - the N word features - but note that this is used by characters that we are not meant to respond to positively, rather than by the narrator. Steinbeck’s writing is moving and very beautiful. He tends to bookend chapters with rich descriptions of setting and then pile in the dialogue in the middle.</p> <p>“A few miles south of Soledad, the Salinas River drops in close to the hillside bank and runs deep and green. The water is warm too, for it has slipped twinkling over the yellow sands in the sunlight before reaching the narrow pool. On one side of the river the golden foothill slopes curve up to the strong and rocky Gabilan Mountains, but on the</p>	<p>Y10-13</p>	<p>Buy it here</p>	<p>Series of 10 lectures here</p>

WIDER READING

	<p>valley side the water is lined with trees- willows fresh and green with every spring, carrying in their lower leaf junctures the debris of the winter's flooding; and sycamores with mottled, white, recumbent limbs and branches that arch over the pool. On the sandy bank under the trees the leaves lie deep and so crisp that a lizard makes a great skittering if he runs among them. Rabbits come out of the brush to sit on the sand in the evening, and the damp flats are covered with the night tracks of 'coons, and with the spread pads of dogs from the ranches, and with the split-wedge tracks of deer that come to drink in the dark.</p> <p>There is a path through the willows and among the sycamores, a path beaten hard by boys coming down from the ranches to swim in the deep pool, and beaten hard by tramps who come wearily down from the highway in the evening to jungle-up near water. In front of the low horizontal limb of a giant sycamore there is an ash pile made by many fires; the limb is worn smooth by men who have sat on it."</p>			
<p><i>The Great Gatsby</i> F. Scott Fitzgerald C20th American novel</p>	<p>One of Ms Cohen's top five novels!</p> <p>This is just beautifully written folks. Fitzgerald tells the story of the enigmatic, charismatic Jay Gatsby and his wild and alluring lifestyle during America's Jazz Age. Our narrator, Nick, is highly unreliable, giving us a very partial and biased take on events that becomes increasingly fascinating as it continues to frustrate. Nick is swept along in the wake of his powerful and rich neighbour, Gatsby, a romantic, fantasist and party powerhouse. This is a concise, wonderful novel. Read it!</p> <p>In my younger and more vulnerable years my father gave me some advice that I've been turning over in my mind ever since. 'Whenever you feel like criticizing any one,' he told me, 'just remember that all the people in this world haven't had the advantages that you've had.'</p>	Y10-13	Link to online text here	Series of 10 lectures -easy to use as structured as one per chapter plus an intro here : And a further five lectures here
<p><i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> Oscar Wilde C19th play</p>	<p>Wilde's comedy of manners is a very jolly bit of escapism for these strange times. Two London dandies pursue two women and tell a lot of half truths along the way. Everybody gets increasingly confused and hilarity ensues. Really very funny. There is a link to a Broadway production on the right.</p>	Y10-13	Text for apple books online here . Or here for kindle or	Link to watch online production here

WIDER READING

			read online	
<p><i>The Bloody Chamber</i></p> <p>Angela Carter</p> <p>C20th short stories</p>	<p>This is another one of my top five. Angela Carter is really interested in fairytales and has written a couple of books of them. This is something different - a collection of short stories in which she takes fairytales and gives them different twists, which often have a feminist angle. The title story is a reworking of Bluebeard, and there are two versions of Beauty and the Beast and three of Little Red Riding Hood. Some of these are rather rude - content alert - but all are just wonderfully written, full of rich language and imagery and hugely thought-provoking. Isn't this an amazing first line to <i>The Tiger's Bride</i>?</p> <p>"My father lost me to the Beast at cards."</p>	Y11-13	Buy it online here	<p>Series of 7 lectures here</p> <p>And five further lectures here</p> <p>These two lectures series cover different stories to an extent</p>
<p><i>The Lord of the Flies</i></p> <p>William Golding</p> <p>C20th novel</p>	<p>This bleakly brilliant novel invites us onto a deserted island, on which a plan carrying unaccompanied boys has crash landed. We watch them try to build and maintain a civilised society, and feel the horror of this project failing. This is full of memorable moments and makes me very glad to work in a girls' school...</p> <p>"The boy with fair hair lowered himself down the last few feet of rock and began to pick his way toward the lagoon. Though he had taken off his school sweater and trailed it now from one hand, his grey shirt stuck to him and his hair was plastered to his forehead. All round him the long scar smashed into the jungle was a bath of heat. He was clambering heavily among the creepers and broken trunks when a bird, a vision of red and yellow, flashed upwards with a witch-like cry; and this cry was echoed by another.</p> <p>"Hi!" it said. "Wait a minute!"</p> <p>The undergrowth at the side of the scar was shaken and a multitude of raindrops fell pattering.</p> <p>"Wait a minute," the voice said. "I got caught up." The fair boy stopped and jerked his stockings with an automatic gesture that made the jungle seem for a moment like the Home Counties."</p>	Y10-13	Buy it online here	Series of 9 lectures here

WIDER READING

<p><i>The Elements of Eloquence</i></p> <p>Mark Forsyth</p> <p>C21st non-fiction</p>	<p>Lots of you like to have the proper words for literary and rhetorical devices. This book takes you through all the key ones, chapter by chapter, with excellent examples for famous literature and speeches.</p>	<p>Y10-13</p>	<p>Buy it here</p>	
<p><i>The Handmaid's Tale</i></p> <p>Margaret Atwood</p> <p>C20th novel</p>	<p>This is an important one, from an important writer. Offred lives in a repressive dystopian version of the USA called Gilead in which the birthrate has plummeted and fertile women are forced into slavery as 'handmaids' to powerful men in the oppressive religious regime. Their names are obliterated as they become the property of the men they serve - Offred's name tells us that she is the property of Fred, her commander. Atwood gives us a chilling portrayal of a theocratic society in this modern classic as we see Gilead through the words of Offred, which is an act of rebellion in itself, as women are not allowed to read or write.</p> <p>"We slept in what had once been the gymnasium. The floor was of varnished wood, with stripes and circles painted on it, for the games that were formerly played there; the hoops for the basketball nets were still in place, though the nets were gone. A balcony ran around the room, for the spectators, and I thought I could smell, faintly like an afterimage, the pungent scent of sweat, shot through with the sweet taint of chewing gum and perfume from the watching girls, felt-skirted as I knew from pictures, later in mini-skirts, then pants, then in one earring, spiky green-streaked hair. Dances would have been held there; the music lingered, a palimpsest of unheard sound, style upon style, an undercurrent of drums, a forlorn wail, garlands made of tissue-paper flowers, cardboard devils, a revolving ball of mirrors, powdering the dancers with a snow of light."</p>	<p>Y11-13</p>	<p>Buy it here or read an extract here first.</p>	<p>Series of 10 lectures here</p>
<p><i>My Last Duchess</i></p> <p>Robert Browning</p> <p>C19th poem</p>	<p>Try some poetry. This is just one poem here - a thumping good dramatic monologue by Robert Browning about a murderously jealous Italian duke. Good, if rather chilling, fun.</p> <p>That's my last Duchess painted on the wall, Looking as if she were alive. I call That piece a wonder, now; Fra Pandolf's hands Worked busily a day, and there she stands.</p>	<p>Y10-13</p>	<p>Read it here</p>	<p>Series of 6 lectures here</p>
<p><i>Antigone</i></p>	<p>This is a stonkingly powerful tragedy. And rather short - Ancient Greek plays tend to be</p>	<p>Y10-13</p>	<p>Buy the</p>	<p>Link to watch</p>

WIDER READING

<p>Sophocles</p> <p>Ancient Greek tragedy</p>	<p>much more brief than the works of Shakespeare, say. Antigone's father Oedipus had been the king of Thebes. When things started to go wrong, an oracle revealed that Oedipus was being punished because he had unwittingly murdered his father and married his mother (long story - read <i>Oedipus Rex</i> if intrigued). Lots of war, pain and death ensues, and bad outcomes for the four children of Oedipus and (eugh) his mum. The two boys wrangle for kingship and end up killing each other in a civil war. The two daughters, Antigone and Ismene are left to pick up the pieces. Their uncle Creon seizes the role of King and makes the decree that only one of the dead brothers will be buried honourably. Antigone decides to defy this decree and honour the gods and her dead brother by performing the due burial rites. The punishment is death... This is a really good introduction to Ancient Greek Drama.</p>		<p>excellent Don Taylor translation here</p> <p>Or read an alternative version for free here</p>	<p>online production here</p> <p>Choose the <i>Antigone</i> lecture here. Use these alternative sign in details for classics courses on as we only have a free trial of these: Username: jcs009@jcsonlineresources.org Password: JCSFoundation</p>
<p>Home Fire</p> <p>Kamilia Shamsie</p> <p>C21st novel</p>	<p>Once you're read <i>Antigone</i>, have a bash at this contemporary reimagining of the narrative in novel form. It is very well written and highly gripping. Here is the blurb:</p> <p>Isma is free. After years spent raising her twin siblings in the wake of their mother's death, she is finally studying in America, resuming a dream long deferred. But she can't stop worrying about Aneeka, her beautiful, headstrong sister back in London – or their brother, Parvaiz, who's disappeared in pursuit of his own dream: to prove himself to the dark legacy of the jihadist father he never knew.</p> <p>Then Eamonn enters the sisters' lives. Handsome and privileged, he inhabits a London worlds away from theirs. As the son of a powerful British Muslim politician, Eamonn has his own birthright to live up to – or defy. Is he to be a chance at love? The means of Parvaiz's salvation? Two families' fates are inextricably, devastatingly entwined in</p>	<p>Y11-13</p>	<p>Buy it here</p>	<p>Watch an interview with the author here</p>

WIDER READING

	this searing novel that asks: what sacrifices will we make in the name of love?			
<p>Atonement</p> <p>Ian McEwan</p> <p>C21st novel</p>	<p>This is moving, beautiful writing that experiments thoughtfully with narrative form. In a dreamy, hot summer's day in 1935, 13 year old Briony Tallis sees her sister Cecilia strip off her clothes and plunge into the fountain in the garden of their country house.</p> <p>Watching her too is Robbie Turner who, like Cecilia, has recently come down from Cambridge. By the end of that day, the lives of all three will have been changed for ever, as Briony commits a crime for which she will spend the rest of her life trying to atone. The novel follows the central characters into the turmoil of WW2 and beyond, as we see the impact on Briony of that one day in 1935. Complex, stunning stuff.</p> <p>"The play - for which Briony had designed the posters, programmes and tickets, constructed the sales booth out of a folding screen tipped on its side, and lined the collection box in red crepe paper - was written by her in a two-day tempest of composition, causing her to miss a breakfast and a lunch. When the preparations were complete, she had nothing to do but contemplate her finished draft and wait for the appearance of her cousins from the distant north. There would be time for only one day of rehearsal before her brother arrived. At some moments chilling, at others desperately sad, the play told a tale of the heart whose message, conveyed in a rhyming prologue, was that love which did not build a foundation on good sense was doomed."</p>	Y11-13	Buy it here	Series of 7 lectures here
<p>Dr Faustus</p> <p>Christopher Marlowe</p> <p>C16th play</p>	<p>Marlowe was a key contemporary of Shakespeare and evidently a real influence on his writing. This is a sinister and engaging tale of a man who sells his soul to the devil in order to buy an excellent life - but as he nears the end of the life of luxury he has purchased, the price begins to feel terrifying. This is one for readers who managed the Shakespeare that we have read fairly confidently and are up for a challenge.</p>	Y11-13	Online text here	Series of 6 lectures here
<p>Private Lives</p> <p>Noel Coward</p> <p>C20th play</p>	<p>Noel Coward's hilarious comedy of manners throws its protagonists into an impossible situation: two couples are unexpectedly honeymooning in adjacent hotel rooms. Lovely! But horrors: The woman from one couple and the man from the other used to be married to one another and there is evidently unfinished business between them. Much silly business ensues.</p>	Y10-13	Read it here	Link to online production to watch here

WIDER READING

<p><i>The Mill on the Floss</i></p> <p>George Eliot</p> <p>C19th novel</p>	<p>George Eliot, was the pen name of Mary Ann Evans, a C19th English novelist. This novel centres around the experience of Maggie Tulliver and follows her as she matures from an amusingly headstrong child into a lovestruck adult. Bit of a sob story with a frustrating, if interesting ending. The book is at its strongest in the portrayal of childhood.</p> <p><i>A wide plain, where the broadening Floss hurries on between its green banks to the sea, and the loving tide, rushing to meet it, checks its passage with an impetuous embrace. On this mighty tide the black ships—laden with the fresh-scented fir-planks, with rounded sacks of oil-bearing seed, or with the dark glitter of coal—are borne along to the town of St Ogg’s, which shows its aged, fluted red roofs and the broad gables of its wharves between the low wooded hill and the river-brink, tingeing the water with a soft purple hue under the transient glance of this February sun. Far away on each hand stretch the rich pastures, and the patches of dark earth made ready for the seed of broad-leaved green crops, or touched already with the tint of the tender-bladed autumn-sown corn. There is a remnant still of last year’s golden clusters of beehive-ricks rising at intervals beyond the hedgerows; and everywhere the hedgerows are studded with trees; the distant ships seem to be lifting their masts and stretching their red-brown sails close among the branches of the spreading ash. Just by the red-roofed town the tributary Ripple flows with a lively current into the Floss. How lovely the little river is, with its dark changing wavelets! It seems to me like a living companion while I wander along the bank, and listen to its low, placid voice, as to the voice of one who is deaf and loving. I remember those large dipping willows. I remember the stone bridge.</i></p> <p>Or try Eliot’s Middlemarch, which really is her masterpiece.</p>	<p>Y10-13</p>	<p>Read it online here</p>	<p>Series here of 5 lectures - given by my university tutor!</p>
<p><i>Little Brother and Homeland</i></p> <p>Cory Doctorow</p> <p>C21st novels</p>	<p>These two books are about living in a highly surveilled society. They are really gripping and exciting and free to download. Here is the blurb to the first in the series, <i>Little Brother</i> (note the allusion to 1984?)</p> <p>Marcus, a.k.a “w1n5t0n”, is only seventeen years old, but he figures he already knows how the system works—and how to work the system. Smart, fast, and wise to the ways of the networked world, he has no trouble outwitting his high school’s intrusive but clumsy surveillance systems. But his whole world changes when he and his friends find themselves caught in the aftermath of a major terrorist attack on San Francisco. In</p>	<p>Y10-13</p>	<p>Cory Doctorow has made his books free to download from his website here</p>	

WIDER READING

	<p>the wrong place at the wrong time, Marcus and his crew are apprehended by the Department of Homeland Security and whisked away to a secret prison where they're mercilessly interrogated for days. When the DHS finally releases them, Marcus discovers that his city has become a police state where every citizen is treated like a potential terrorist. He knows that no one will believe his story, which leaves him only one option: to take down the DHS himself.</p> <p>I'm a senior at Cesar Chavez high in San Francisco's sunny Mission district, and that makes me one of the most surveilled people in the world. My name is Marcus Yallow, but back when this story starts, I was going by w1n5t0n. Pronounced "Winston." Not pronounced "Doubleyouoneennfivetezeroenn" unless you're a clueless disciplinary officer who's far enough behind the curve that you still call the Internet "the information superhighway."</p> <p>I know just such a clueless person, and his name is Fred Benson, one of three vice principals at Cesar Chavez. He's a sucking chest wound of a human being. But if you're going to have a jailer, better a clueless one than one who's really on the ball.</p>			
<p><i>Never Let Me Go</i> Kazuo Ishiguro C21st novel</p>	<p>Hard to know where to start with this without ruining the central premise of the plot, which is unfolded so cleverly and so slowly that it would be a shame to heave it out here. This is the blurb:</p> <p>Kazuo Ishiguro imagines the lives of a group of students growing up in a darkly skewed version of contemporary England. Narrated by Kathy, now thirty-one, <i>Never Let Me Go</i> dramatises her attempts to come to terms with her childhood at the seemingly idyllic Hailsham School and with the fate that has always awaited her and her closest friends in the wider world. A story of love, friendship and memory, <i>Never Let Me Go</i> is charged throughout with a sense of the fragility of life.</p> <p>"My name is Kathy H. I'm thirty-one years old, and I've been a carer now for over eleven years. That sounds long enough, I know, but actually they want me to go on for another eight months, until the end of this year. That'll make it almost exactly twelve years. Now I know my being a carer so long isn't necessarily because they think I'm fantastic at what I do. There are some really good carers who've been told to stop after just two or three years. And I can think of one carer at least who went on for all of fourteen years despite being a complete waste of space. So I'm not trying to boast. But</p>	<p>Y10-13</p>	<p>Read the first chapter here and Buy the novel here</p>	<p>Series of 6 lectures here</p>

WIDER READING

	<p>then I do know for a fact they've been pleased with my work, and by and large, I have too. My donors have always tended to do much better than expected. Their recovery times have been impressive, and hardly any of them have been classified as "agitated," even before fourth donation. Okay, maybe I am boasting now. But it means a lot to me, being able to do my work well, especially that bit about my donors staying "calm." I've developed a kind of instinct around donors. I know when to hang around and comfort them, when to leave them to themselves; when to listen to everything they have to say, and when just to shrug and tell them to snap out of it."</p>			
<p><i>The Crucible</i> Arthur Miller C20th play</p>	<p>This is a wonderful play, focused around the Salem witch trials. Young women of the town have been dancing in the woods and, when they are discovered, the power that they find at their fingertips in accusing others to get themselves out of trouble leads to devastating consequences. One of the most powerful modern plays I know. Do watch the acclaimed production of it, linked through on the right, even if you've already studied this text.</p>	Y10-13	Buy it here	<p>Online production to watch here, directed by Yael Farber.</p> <p>Afterwards, try Howard Davies' production of another of Miller's plays <i>All My Sons</i> here.</p>
<p><i>Vanity Fair</i> William Makepiece Thackeray C19th novel</p>	<p>This is a big block of a novel, but very rewarding and amazingly deft in its movement between funny and bleak moods. We follow Becky Sharp who is determined to make her way in society, even by devious means, as the Napoleonic Wars unfold around her. She is a brilliant creation, but so are all of the other central figures in this cruel, funny, interesting novel. It is daring stuff too - Thackeray kills off a main character <i>in a subclause</i>. Pretty stylish.</p> <p>"While the present century was in its teens, and on one sunshiny morning in June, there drove up to the great iron gate of Miss Pinkerton's academy for young ladies, on Chiswick Mall, a large family coach, with two fat horses in blazing harness, driven by a fat coachman in a three-cornered hat and wig, at the rate of four miles an hour."</p>	Y11-13	Online text here	Read a review from 1865 here!

WIDER READING

<p><i>The Hate U Give</i></p> <p>Angie Thomas</p> <p>C21st novel</p>	<p>This is a really engaging tale with an interesting narrative voice. Here is the blurb:</p> <p>Sixteen-year-old Starr lives in two worlds: the poor neighbourhood where she was born and raised and her posh high school in the suburbs. The uneasy balance between them is shattered when Starr is the only witness to the fatal shooting of her unarmed best friend, Khalil, by a police officer. Now what Starr says could destroy her community. It could also get her killed.</p> <p>Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, this is a powerful and gripping YA novel about one girl's struggle for justice.</p> <p>"I shouldn't have come to this party. I'm not even sure I belong at this party. That's not on some bougie shit, either. There are just some places where it's not enough to be me. Neither version of me. Big D's spring break party is one of those places.</p> <p>I squeeze through sweaty bodies and follow Kenya, her curls bouncing past her shoulders. A haze lingers over the room, smelling like weed, and music rattles the floor. Some rapper calls out for everybody to Nae-Nae, followed by a bunch of "Heys" as people launch into their own versions. Kenya holds up her cup and dances her way through the crowd. Between the headache from the loud-ass music and the nausea from the weed odor, I'll be amazed if I cross the room without spilling my drink."</p>	<p>Y10-11</p>	<p>Buy it here</p>	<p>Read an interview with the author here</p>
<p><i>Women and Power</i></p> <p>Mary Beard</p> <p>C21st feminist non-fiction</p>	<p>Mary Beard is a noted classicist and has written this brief feminist manifesto largely using examples from classical texts. This is eye-opening stuff, written in very engaging language and offering many avenues into other things to read and explore. Go for it! If you don't want to buy the book right now, watch her lecture, which covers a lot of the same ground.</p>	<p>Y10-13</p>	<p>Buy it here</p>	<p>Beard lecturing on the same topic here</p>

And if this isn't enough to keep you going, check out the hundred of free classic books available to download [here](#). This website also has some out of copyright films and documentaries. Or if you'd like to read some more short stories, try [this](#)! There are good links [here](#) for virtual museum and art gallery tours too.