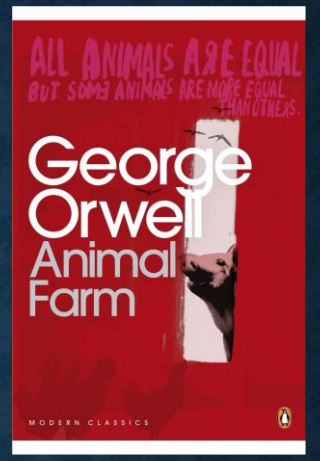
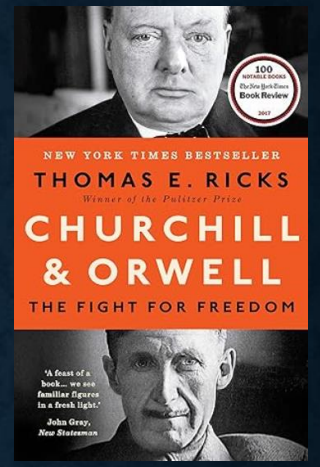
KS4 BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

"Books are a uniquely portable magic." - Stephen King

All books listed are available from the school library

CURRICULUM LINKS





Merchant of Venice

- Merchant of Venice: The State of Play by M. Lindsay Kaplan; Shakespeare's Language by Frank Kermode

Animal Farm

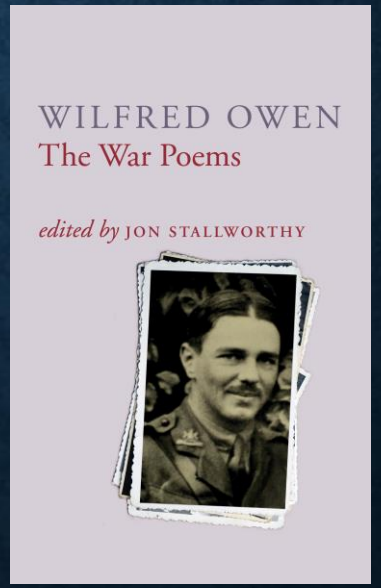
- 1984 by George Orwell; Orwell's Essays / Diaries; Churchill and Orwell by Thomas Ricks; Brave New World by Aldous Huxley

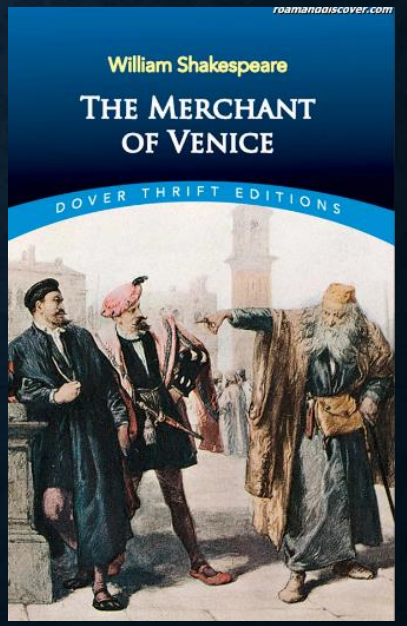
Jane Eyre

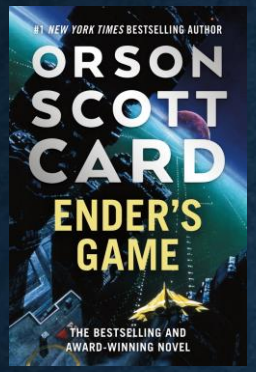
- Charlotte Bronte: A Life by Claire Harman

Conflict poetry

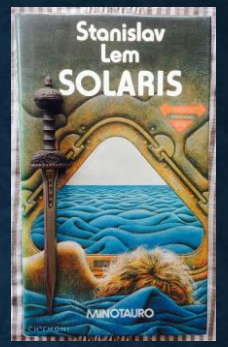
- The Penguin Book of First World War Poetry, ed. Georg Walter; The War Poems of Wilfred Owen, ed. John Stallworthy







SCI-FI AND FANTASY

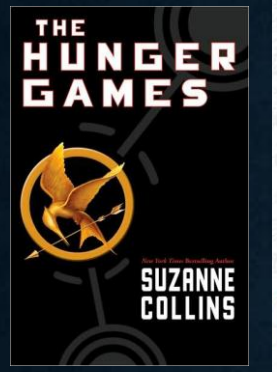


Young adult

- Ready Player One by Ernest Cline
- Dune (series) by Frank Herbert
- The Loop Trilogy by Ben Oliver
- Sanctuary Trilogy by Caryn Lix
- Light the Abyss series by London Shah
- Gone (series) by Michael Grant
- Ender's Game by Orson Scott Card

Adult

- Solaris by Stanislaw Lem (1961)
- The Left Hand of Darkness, by Ursula K. Le Guin (1969)
- Kindred, by Octavia E. Butler (1979)
- Consider Phlebas, by Iain Banks (1987)
- Under The Skin, by Michel Faber (2000)



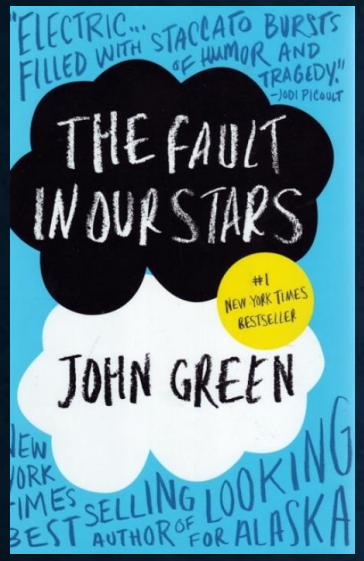
DYSTOPIAN FICTION

Young adult

- The Hunger Games by Suzanne Collins
- Divergent series by Veronica Roth
- Uglies series by Scott Westerfield
- The Knife of Never Letting Go by Patrick Ness

Adult

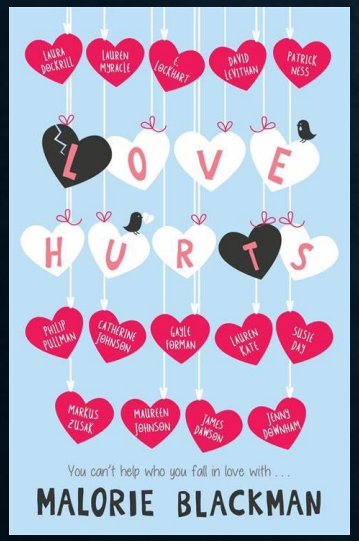
- The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood
- 1984 by George Orwell
- The Road by Cormac McCarthy
- Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro
- Brave New World by Aldous Huxley

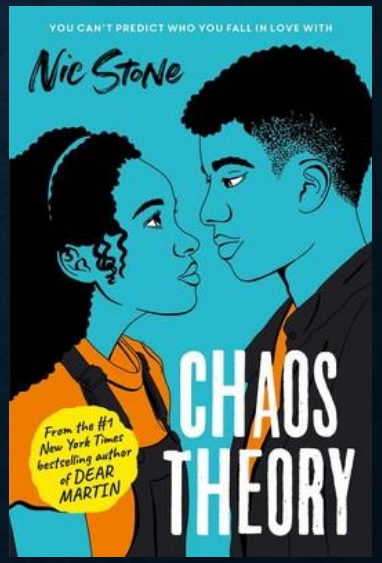


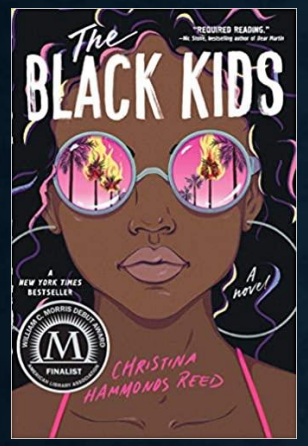
RELATIONSHIPS

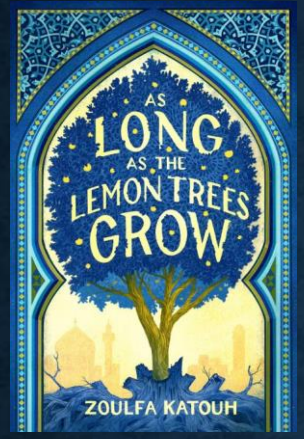
Young Adult

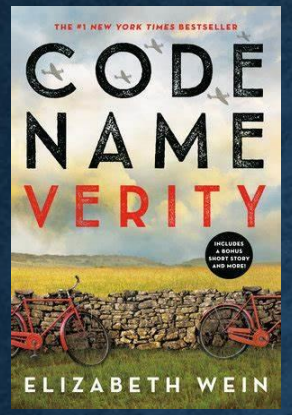
- The Fault in our Stars by John Green
- The Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephen Chbosky
- Clap When You Land by Elizabeth Acevedo
- Chaos Theory by Nic Stone
- Highly Suspicious and Unfairly Cute by Talia Hibbert
- Love Hurts, a short story anthology edited by Malorie Blackman



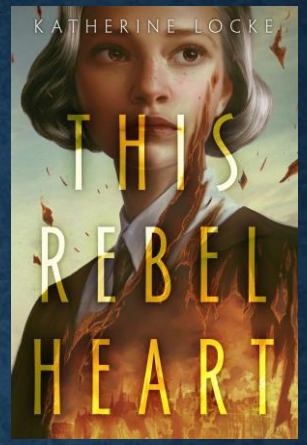


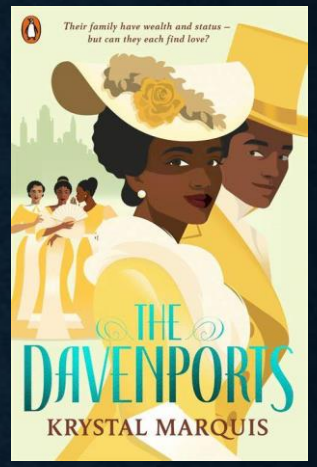






HISTORICAL





Young adult

- The Book Thief by Markus Zusak (WW2)
- The Black Kids by Christina Hammonds Reed (1990s)
- This Rebel Heart by Katherine Locke (1956, Hungarian Uprising)
- As Long as the Lemon Trees Grow by Zoulfa Katouh (2011, Syrian Revolution)
- The Davenports by Krystal Marquis (1910, The Gilded Age)
- Code Name Verity by Elizabeth Wein (WW2)

- **Adult**
- Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel (Tudors)
- The Luminaries by Eleanor Catton (19th century)
- Midnight's Children by Salman Rushdie (Indian Partition of 1945)

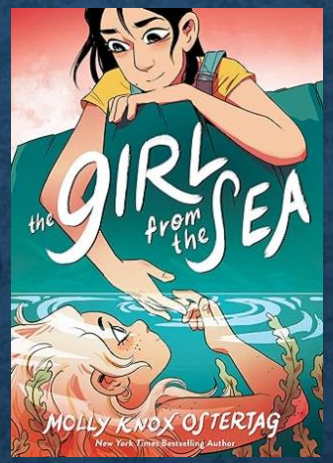
GRAPHIC NOVELS

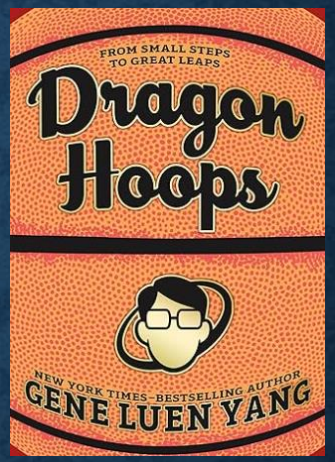
Young Adult

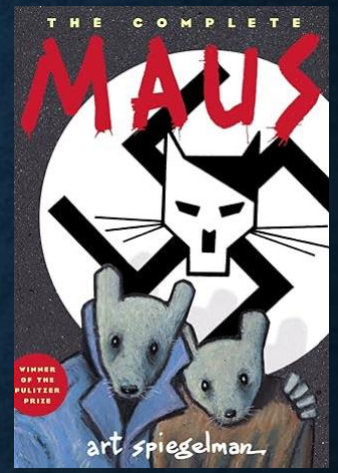
- Maus by Art Spiegelman (history)
- Dragon Hoops by Gene Luen Yang (non-fiction)
- In Waves by AJ Dungo (memoir)

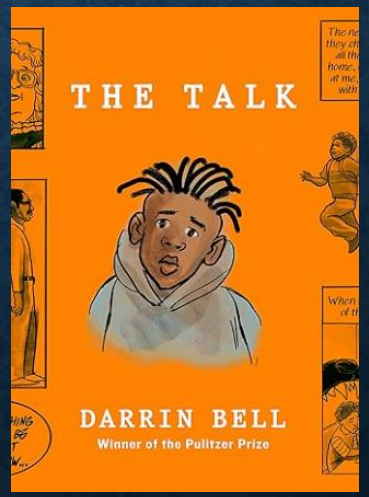
Adult

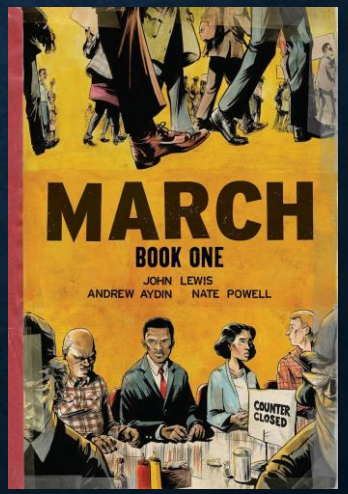
- Pyongyang by Guy Delisle (travel, non-fiction)
- Palestine by Joe Sacco (reportage, non-fiction)
- The Talk by Darrin Bell (memoir)
- March by John Lewis (Civil Rights history)





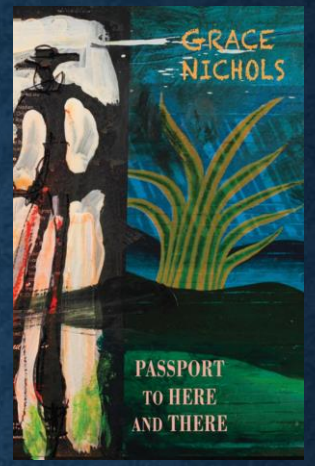


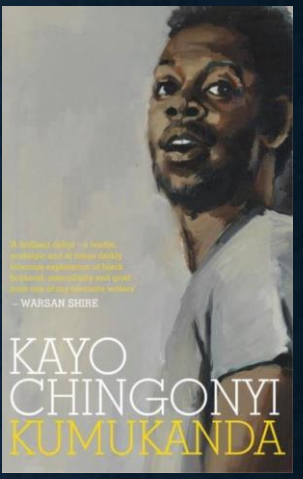


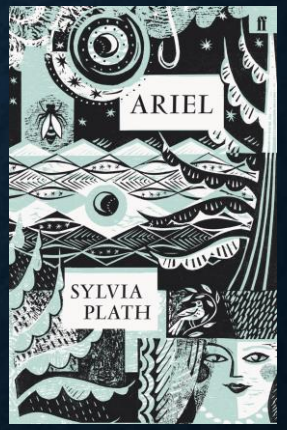


POETRY

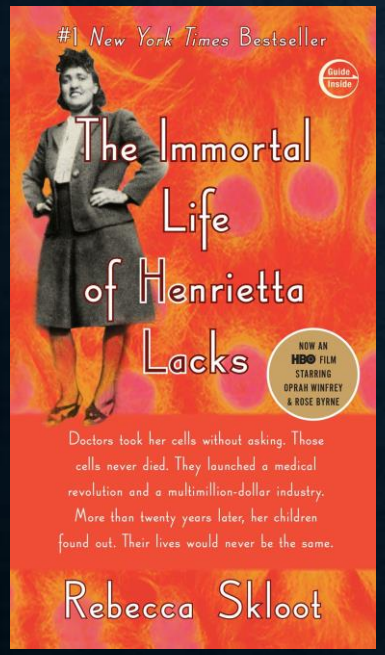
- Kumukanda by Kayo Chingonyi
- Loop of Jade by Sarah Hall
- Passport from Here to Nowhere by Grace Nichols
- Over the Moon by Imtiaz Dharkar
- Death of a Naturalist by Seamus Heaney
- Ariel by Sylvia Plath
- Poor by Caleb Femi
- Paper Aeroplane: Selected Poems by Simon Armitage







BIOGRAPHY & MEMOIR



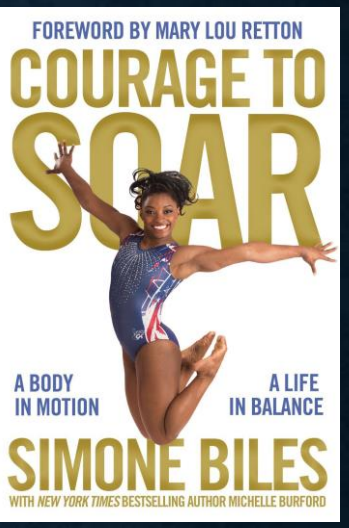
Memoir

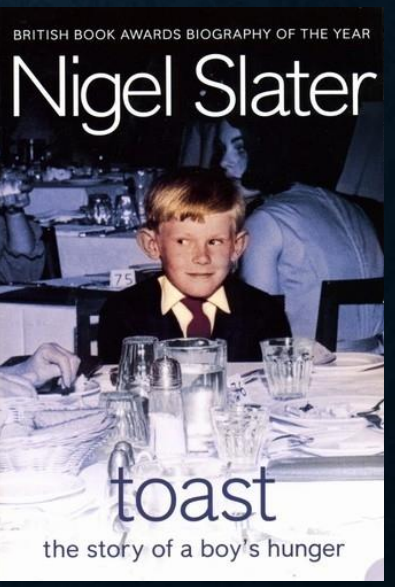
A Promised Land by Barack Obama (former US President)

- Becoming by Michelle Obama (attorney, author)
- Toast by Nigel Slater (food writer)
- Courage to Soar by Simone Biles (Olympic gymnast)
- Coming up for Air by Tom Daley (Olympic swimmer)
- The Diary of a Young Naturalist by Dara McAnulty (nature writer)

Biography

- The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks by Rebecca Skloot
- Augusta Savage: The Shape of a Sculptor's Life by Marilyn Nelson
- The 57 Bus: A True Story of Two Teenagers and the Crime That Changed Their Lives by Dashka Slater





NON-FICTION

Sociology

- The Psychopath Test by Jon Ronson

Politics / Geography

- Prisoners of Geography by Tim Marshall

Money

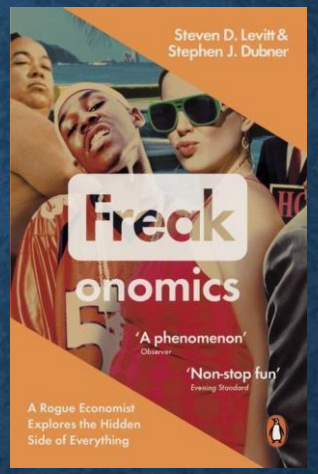
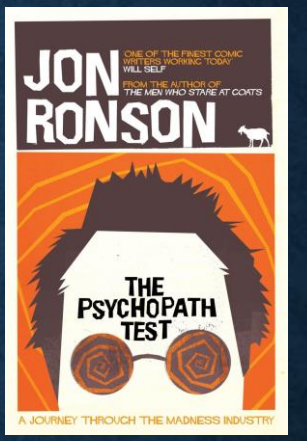
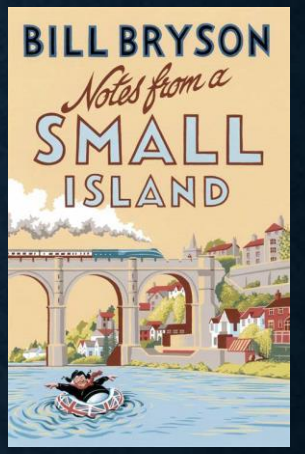
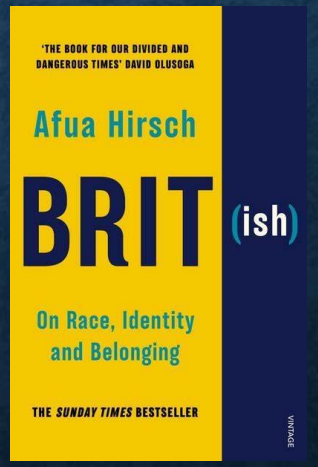
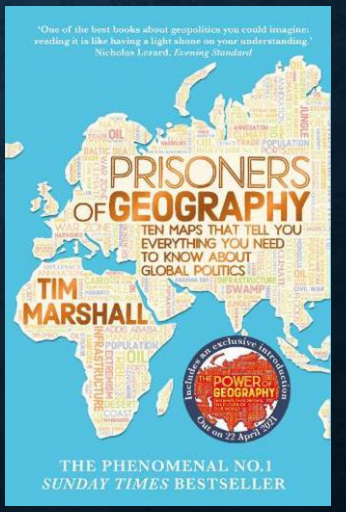
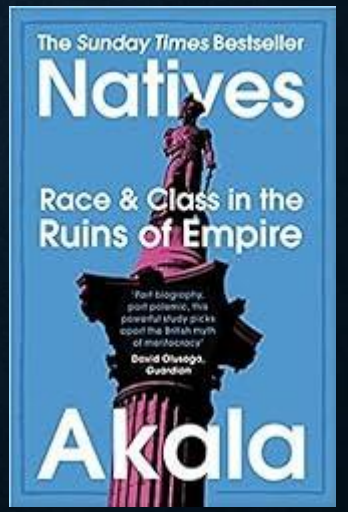
- Freakonomics by Steven D. Levitt

Travel

- Notes from a Small Island by Bill Bryson

Race & identity

- Natives by Akala
- Brit(ish) by Afua Hirsch

Gender and sexuality

- This Book is Gay by Juno Dawson
- Here and Queer by Rowan Ellis (illustrated)