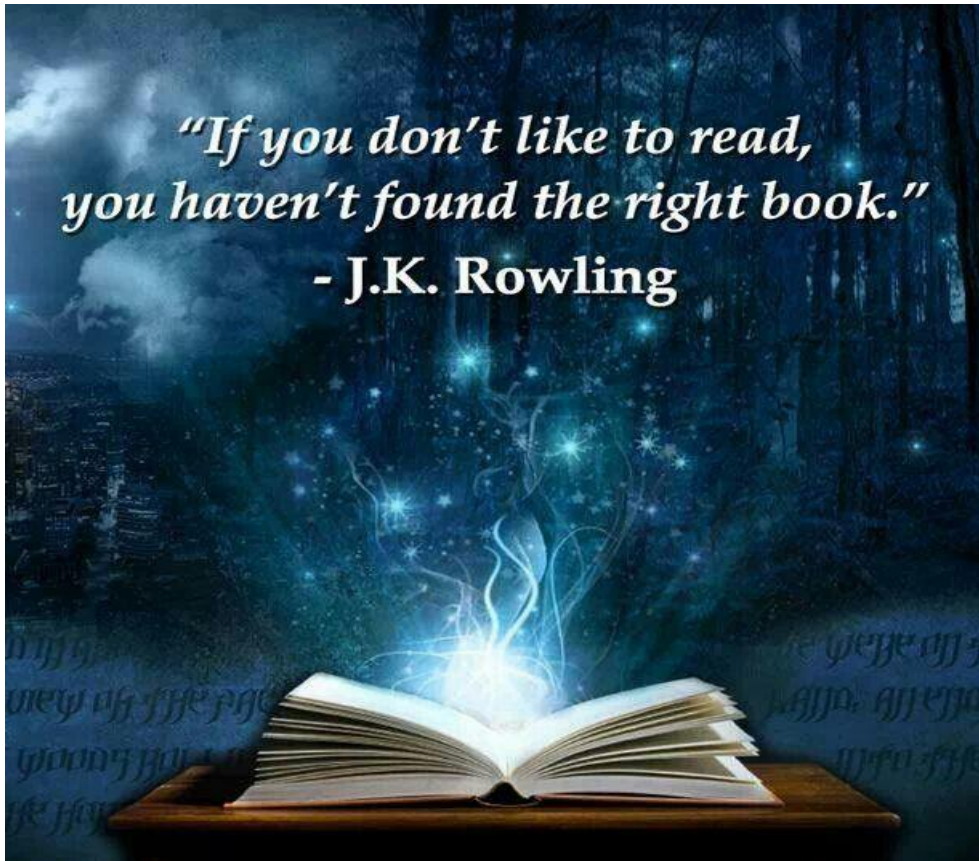


KSCS English

Year 8 Reading Suggestions



In Year 8, we study:

- ❖ *The Tempest* (William Shakespeare)
- ❖ *19th Century*: Charles Dickens
- ❖ *The Hunger Games* (Suzanne Collins)
- ❖ *Of Mice and Men* (John Steinbeck)

In this booklet are some recommendations that would assist the teaching of these topics, widen your understanding of the genres and deepen your love of literature!

Shakespeare plays to read at KS3:

1. A Midsummer Night's Dream
2. Much Ado About Nothing

19th Century texts:

1. *Oliver Twist* – Charles Dickens

Oliver Twist is a nine-year-old orphan boy who doesn't know who his parents were. He escapes from a workhouse to London where he meets the 'Artful Dodger', leader of the gang of the juvenile pickpockets.

2. *Black Beauty* – Anna Sewell

The story is narrated in the first person as an autobiographical memoir told by a horse named Black Beauty—beginning with his carefree days as a colt on an English farm with his mother, to his difficult life pulling cabs in London, to his happy retirement in the country.

3. *Frankenstein* – Mary Shelley

Frankenstein tells the story of gifted scientist Victor Frankenstein who succeeds in giving life to a being of his own creation. However, this is not the perfect specimen he imagines that it will be, but rather a hideous creature who is rejected by Victor and mankind in general.

4. *Silas Marner* – George Eliot

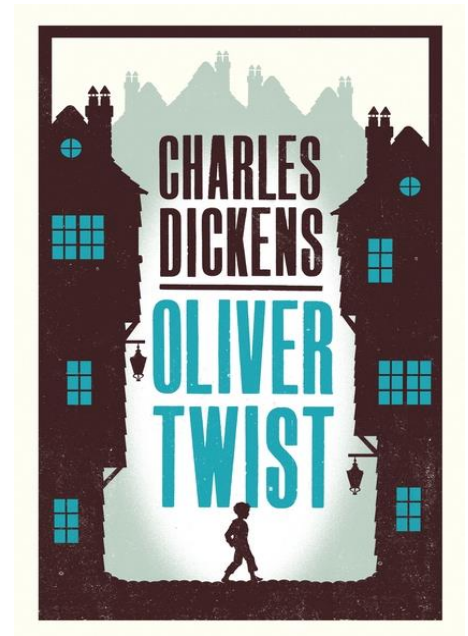
Silas Marner is a respected member of the small 19th Century rural religious community of Lantern Yard, but his world is shaken when he is wrongfully accused of a theft and expelled as a pariah. He settles anonymously in the town of Raveloe in a hermit-like existence in an isolated cottage.

5. *Dracula* – Bram Stoker

Count Dracula, a 15th-century prince, is condemned to live off the blood of the living for eternity. Young lawyer Jonathan Harker is sent to Dracula's castle to finalise a land deal, but when the Count sees a photo of Harker's fiancée, Mina, the spitting image of his dead wife, he imprisons him and sets off for London to track her down.

6. *Great Expectations* – Charles Dickens

Great Expectations follows the childhood and young adult years of Pip a blacksmith's apprentice in a country village. He suddenly comes into a large fortune (his great expectations) from a mysterious benefactor and moves to London where he enters high society.



7. *The Hound of the Baskervilles* – Arthur Conan Doyle

Sherlock Holmes is intrigued by a centuries-old legend in which every generation of the wealthy Baskerville family is eventually killed by a monstrous hound. Suspecting there is more to the story than meets the eye, he sends Dr. Watson to the estate to investigate. When a crazed convict escapes and footprints from a beast are found, Baskerville wonders if Watson will be enough.

8. *Jane Eyre* – Charlotte Bronte

As an orphaned child, Jane Eyre is first cruelly abused by her aunt, then cast out and sent to a charity school. Though she meets with further abuse, she receives an education, and eventually takes a job as a governess at the estate of Edward Rochester. Jane and Rochester begin to bond, but his dark moods trouble her and she soon uncovers the terrible secret Rochester has been hiding.

9. *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* – Arthur Conan Doyle

Dr Jekyll is a kind, well-respected and intelligent scientist who meddles with the darker side of science, as he wants to bring out his 'second' nature. He does this through transforming himself into Mr Hyde - his evil alter ego who doesn't repent or accept responsibility for his evil crimes and ways.

10. *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* – Arthur Conan Doyle

Sherlock Holmes is a private detective who has keen powers of observation. He lives at 221b Baker Street in London. He notices things that others simply don't and then he draws accurate conclusions about what he sees. He experiences strong mood swings, plays the violin, and is a master of deductive reasoning.

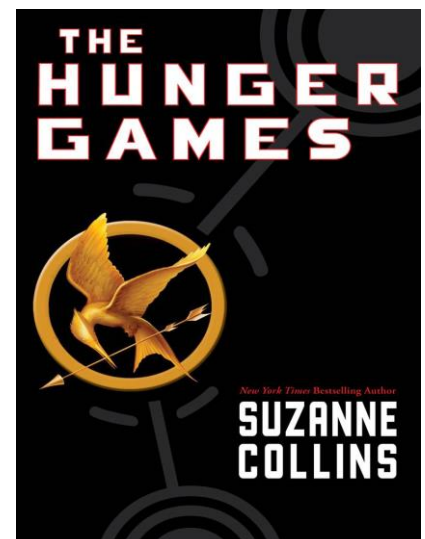
Fantasy fiction like *The Hunger Games*:

1. *The Maze Runner* – James Dashner

Thomas, a teenager, arrives in a glade at the centre of a giant labyrinth. Like the other youths dumped there before him, he has no memory of his previous life. Thomas quickly becomes part of the group and soon after demonstrates a unique perspective that scores him a promotion to Runner status -- those who patrol the always-changing maze to find an escape route. Together with Teresa, the only female, Thomas tries to convince his cohorts that he knows a way out.

2. *Divergent* – Veronica Roth

Tris Prior lives in a futuristic world in which society is divided into five factions. As each person enters adulthood, he or she must choose a faction and commit to it for life. Tris chooses Dauntless -- those who pursue bravery above all else. However, her initiation leads to the discovery that she is a Divergent and will never be able to fit into just one faction. Warned that she must conceal her status, Tris uncovers a looming war which threatens everyone she loves.



3. *Brave New World* – Aldous Huxley

The novel examines a futuristic society, called the World State, that revolves around science and efficiency. In this society, emotions and individuality are conditioned out of children at a young age, and there are no lasting relationships because “everyone belongs to everyone else”.

4. *The City of Ember* – Jeanne Duprav

The story is about Ember, a post-apocalyptic underground city threatened by aging infrastructure and corruption. The young protagonist, Lina Mayfleet, and her friend, Doon Harrow (the second protagonist), follow clues left behind by the original builders of the City of Ember, to safety in the outside world.

5. *Unwind* – Neal Shusterman

Unwind imagines a future in which parents can elect to have their children “unwound,” or disassembled so that their body parts can be transplanted. Unwinding replaced the now outlawed practice of abortion and is viewed as more humane since donors can allegedly live on through their parts.

6. *Nineteen Eighty-Four* – Aldous Huxley

A man loses his identity while living under a repressive regime. Winston Smith is a government employee whose job involves the rewriting of history in a manner that casts his fictional country's leaders in a charitable light. In this closely monitored society, there is no escape from Big Brother.

7. *Graceling* – Kristin Cashore

Graceling is the story of Katsa, a young warrior and her journey to self-discovery. Throughout the Seven Kingdoms some people are born with what is known as a Grace. Those who are Graced are exceptionally skilled but each unique and specialised; some can swim like a fish while others can run faster than anyone else.

8. *The Dark Rising* – Susan Cooper

On the day he turns eleven, Will Stanton discovers that he’s no ordinary boy, but an “Old One” destined to go up against the powers of The Dark. Which is — you guessed it — rising.

9. *The Kane Chronicles* – Rick Riordan

Speaking of adolescent chosen ones: Carter and Sadie Kane are descended from Egyptian magicians and pharaohs, but they only find out when their egyptologist father is taken by the god of mischief, Set. Now the siblings must harness powers they didn’t even know they had to rescue their father, and indeed all North America, before Set annihilates them.

10. *Percy Jackson and the Olympians* – Rick Riordan

Another fantastical series from the mind of Rick Riordan, Percy Jackson and the Olympians begins with *The Lightning Thief*, in which the eponymous Percy becomes aware of his true roots — namely, that he is the son of Poseidon. Percy begins attending “Camp Half Blood” for young demigods, and soon enough he and his friends (including a daughter of Athena and a satyr) must embark on a quest to prevent an all-out war among those deities they call Mom and Dad.

Other recommendations:

1. Holes – Louis Sachar
2. Wonder – R. J Palacio
3. Boy – Roald Dahl
4. Lord of the Rings - J.R.R. Tolkien
5. The Time Machine – H.G. Wells
6. Watership Down – Richard Adams
7. The Goldfish Boy – Lisa Thompson
8. Tug of War – Catherine Forde
9. Pig Heart Boy – Malorie Blackman
10. Noughts and Crosses – Malorie Blackman
11. The Host – Stephanie Meyer