KS4 Recommended Reading List

Accessible Reading

Parental Guidance. The book has themes that parents/carers may wish to discuss with their child before they read the book.

Similar in theme to An Inspector Calls:

***The Fishermen* by Chigozie Obioma (2015)**

Chigozie Obioma's marvelous debut The Fisherman is a powerful tale rooted in the African oral storytelling tradition. It follows four brothers in a small town in Nigeria who go fishing at a forbidden local river. While there, they meet a local madman who predicts that the oldest brother will be killed by a "fisherman" – who the brother takes to mean one of his other brothers; it's a whole mess. This Macbeth-like prophecy triggers a series of tragic events of almost mythic proportions.

Just like the Inspector's presence breeds paranoia among the privileged Birlings, the madman's prophecy sows seeds of paranoia and distrust in the brothers at the heart of The Fishermen, leading to tragedy.

***Fences & Ma Rainey's Black Bottom* by August Wilson**

Fences explores race relationsand follows a binman who wonders why he can't become a bin-truck driver and whose bitterness affects his loved ones, while Ma Rainey's Black Bottom is a searing account of racism in jazz-era America that sees the great blues singer Ma Rainey and her band gather at a recording studio in the presence of their white producers.

Like Priestley's An Inspector Calls, Wilson's work encompasses a range of themes including honour and duty and individualism versus collectivism. Speaking to the New Yorker Wilson says: "Community is the most valuable thing that you have in African-American culture. The individual good is always subverted to the good of the community."

***And the Stars Were Burning Brightly* by Danielle Jawando**

Alongside An Inspector Calls, which is set in the fictional industrial city of Brumley in the North Midlands, many of Priestley's other works are also set in the North of England, including The Good Companions and When We Are Married.

The novel tells the story of 15-year-old Nathan who discovers that his older brother Al has taken his own life. Convinced that his brother was in trouble, Nathan decides to retrace Al's footsteps. As he does, he meets Megan, Al's former classmate, who is as determined as Nathan to keep Al's memory alive.

Similar in theme to Frankenstein:

***The Last Man* by Mary Shelley (1826)**

Why not try another by Mary Shelley? Frankenstein wasn't Shelley's only foray into science fiction; The Last Man is a post-apocalyptic novel imagining a world ravaged by plague. The novel opens with the writer claiming to have found a series of prophetic writings on leaves while exploring outside Naples in 1818. She has edited the writings, which tell the story of Lionel Verney, a man living at the end of the 21st century.

***Doctor Faustus* by Christopher Marlowe (1592) *or Faust* by Johann Wolfgang von Goethe's Faust (1790/1831)**

Whichever version of the Faustian story you pick, there's much to connect to Mary Shelley's Frankenstein. The character of Faust has a long history in German myth, serving as a warning against hubris. Having learned all he can

and mastered all subjects, Faust makes a deal with the devil for additional knowledge and learns the consequences of his desire for power.

R.U.R. by Karel Capek (1921)

Ever wonder where the term “robot” comes from? Capek, a Czech writer, wrote a play in which “roboti” are made from organic materials in a factory. Capek’s story is the first to imagine mass-produced non-humans and also the first to imagine a world in which humans unintentionally engineer their own destruction.

***Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* by Phillip K. Dick (1968)**

Better known as the source material for the film Bladerunner, Dick’s work of science fiction explores many of the same themes as Frankenstein. Like Shelley’s novel, Dick asks us to consider whether the creatures that man has created – in this case, androids – are capable of feeling empathy. Is empathy what makes us human?

Oryx & Crake by Margaret Atwood (2003)

The first book of Margaret Atwood’s Maddaddam trilogy features a group of post-human Crakers, genetically engineered hybrids that contain all the best innovations nature has to offer. Their creator, Crake, is another study in the motivations of scientists, responsible innovation, and the limitations of the human.

***Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro (2005)**

Ishiguro’s genre-bending novel asks important questions of medical technologies, particularly cloning. In the future described by Ishiguro, readers are invited to contemplate agency, memory and whether or not dignity should be considered a human right.

Similar in theme to Romeo and Juliet:

Our Town

Our Town is an award-winning play by Thornton Wilder--it's an American play that's set in a small town. This famous work encourages us to appreciate the little things in life (since the present moment is all we have). Thornton Wilder once said, "Our claim, our hope, our despair are in the mind – not in things, not in 'scenery.'"

The Burial at Thebes (Antigone)

Seamus Heaney's translation of Sophocles' Antigone, in The Burial at Thebes, brings modern touches to the age-old tale of a young girl and the conflicts she faces--to fulfill all the demands of her family, her heart, and the law. Even when faced with certain death, she honors her brothers (paying them last rites). Ultimately, her final (and very tragic) end is similar to the culmination of Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet. Fate... fate...

Emma

Emma is often accredited as Jane Austin’s most flawless work. Emma Woodhouse, handsome, clever, and rich with a comfortable home and happy disposition, seemed to unite the best blessings of existence; and had lived nearly twenty-one years in the world with very little to distress or vex her. Beautiful, clever, rich - and single - Emma Woodhouse is perfectly content with her life and sees no need for either love or marriage.

Nothing, however, delights her more than interfering in the romantic lives of others. But when she ignores the warnings of her good friend Mr Knightley and attempts to arrange a suitable match for her protégée Harriet Smith, her carefully laid plans soon unravel and have consequences that she never expected.

Jane Eyre

Many have loved this novel, Jane Eyre, by Charlotte Bronte. Although the relationship between Jane and Mr. Rochester is not usually considered star-crossed, the couple must overcome incredible obstacles in their desire to be together. Ultimately, their shared happiness seems almost fated. Of course, their love (which seems to be a union of equals) is not without consequences.

The Sound of the Waves

The Sound of the Waves (1954) is a novella by Japanese writer Yukio Mishima (translated by Meredith Weatherby). The work centers around the coming-of-age (Bildungsroman) of Shinji, a young fisherman who is in love with Hatsue. The young man is tested--his courage and strength eventually win out, and he's allowed to marry the girl.

Wuthering Heights

Wuthering Heights is a famous Gothic novel by Emily Bronte. Orphaned as a young boy, Heathcliff is taken in by the Earnshaws and he falls in love with Catherine. When she chose to marry Edgar, passion turns dark and full of vengeance. Ultimately, the fall-out of their volatile relationship affects many others (reaching even beyond the grave to touch the lives of their children).

Short Stories

Lamb to the Slaughter by Roald Dahl

No author perfected the twist in the tale better than Roald Dahl. His stories – many of which were filmed as Tales of the Unexpected – take us into a world that is shocking, funny and always has a sinister edge. What if plants could feel pain? What kind of father would bet his daughter in a wager? And what is the secret behind that delicious lamb dinner…?

The Best Short Stories by Guy de Maupassant

Guy de Maupassant was a master of the short story. This collection displays his lively diversity, with tales that vary in theme and tone, ranging from tragedy and satire to comedy and farce. In a lucidly direct style, he provides unflinching realism and sceptical irony. He depicts the deceptions, hypocrisies and vanities at different levels of society. Prostitution is frankly described, while the harshness of war is deftly exposed.

His tales have been televised and have influenced films, operas and rock music. Unillusioned but humane, Maupassant remains our contemporary.

Stories Volume 1: The Best of His Sci-Fi and Fantasy Short Fiction Anthology

By Ray Bradbury

In this, the first volume of Ray Bradbury's short stories, some of the author's finest works are published together, among them ‘Homecoming’, ‘Veldt’, ‘A Sound of Thunder’ and ‘The Long Rain’.

Join an ill-fated crew of astronauts pushed to the brink of insanity by the incessant and highly corrosive rain on Venus, a high-tech virtual reality playroom that comes to life with terrible consequences, and a safari company offering tours for the wealthy back in time to the prehistoric era to stalk and kill dinosaurs, resulting in the present they return to being irrevocably altered.

This collection is a rare treasure trove of wonder; as apprehensive about technology and the fate of humanity as it is elegiac of its irrepressible progress. Each story presents an enlightening and poetic facet of Bradbury's writing, every one as relevant now as when it was first written.

Novels:

Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck

Drifters in search of work, George and his childlike friend Lennie, have nothing in the world except the clothes on their back - and a dream that one day they will have some land of their own. Eventually they find work on a ranch in California's Salinas Valley, but their hopes are dashed as Lennie - struggling against extreme cruelty, misunderstanding and feelings of jealousy - becomes a victim of his own strength. Tackling universal themes of friendship and shared vision, and giving a voice to America's lonely and dispossessed, *Of Mice and Men* remains Steinbeck's most popular work, achieving success as a novel, Broadway play and three acclaimed films.

Animal Farm by George Orwell

All animals are equal - but some are more equal than others.

When the downtrodden animals of Manor Farm overthrow their master Mr Jones and take over the farm themselves, they imagine it is the beginning of a life of freedom and equality. But gradually a cunning, ruthless elite among them, masterminded by the pigs Napoleon and Snowball, starts to take control.

Soon the other animals discover that they are not all as equal as they thought, and find themselves hopelessly ensnared as one form of tyranny is replaced with another.

'It is the history of a revolution that went wrong - and of the excellent excuses that were forthcoming at every step for the perversion of the original doctrine,' wrote Orwell for the first edition of *Animal Farm* in 1945.

Orwell wrote the novel at the end of 1943, but it almost remained unpublished; its savage attack on Stalin, at that time Britain's ally, led to the book being refused by publisher after publisher. Orwell's simple, tragic fable has since become a world-famous classic.

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time is a murder mystery novel like no other.

The detective, and narrator, is Christopher Boone. Christopher is fifteen and has Asperger's Syndrome. He knows a very great deal about maths and very little about human beings. He loves lists, patterns and the truth. He hates the colours yellow and brown and being touched. He has never gone further than the end of the road on his own, but when he finds a neighbour's dog murdered he sets out on a terrifying journey which will turn his whole world upside down.

Ghost by Jason Reynolds

Running. That's all Ghost (real name Castle Cranshaw) has ever known.

But Ghost has been running for the wrong reasons -until he meets Coach, an ex-Olympic Medallist who sees something in Ghost: crazy natural talent. If Ghost can stay on track, literally and figuratively, he could be the best sprinter in the city. Can Ghost harness his raw talent for speed, or will his past finally catch up to him?

Read the Run series: Ghost. Lu. Patina. Sunny. Four kids from wildly different backgrounds with personalities that are explosive when they clash. But they are also four kids chosen for an elite middle school running team-a team

that could qualify them for the Junior Olympics if they can get their acts together. They all have a lot to lose and a lot to prove. Not only to each other, but to themselves.

Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds

After Will's brother is shot in a gang crime, he knows the next steps. Don't cry. Don't snitch. Get revenge. So he gets in the lift with Shawn's gun, determined to follow The Rules. Only when the lift door opens, Buck walks in, Will's friend who died years ago. And Dani, who was shot years before that. As more people from his past arrive, Will has to ask himself if he really knows what he's doing.

This haunting, lyrical, powerful verse novel will blow you away.

Life of Pi by Yann Martel

One boy, one boat, one tiger . . .

After the tragic sinking of a cargo ship, a solitary lifeboat remains bobbing on the wild, blue 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 orang-utan - and a 450-pound Royal Bengal tiger. The scene is set for one of the most extraordinary and best-loved works of fiction in recent years.

Lord of the Flies by William Golding

Through the haunting story of a group of schoolboys stranded on an island, Golding's ever-relevant tale of survival and power explores the fragility of moral and social codes, illuminating both the darkest corners of the human mind and its infinite aptitude for hope and compassion.

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas

Inspired by the Black Lives Matter movement, this is a powerful, gripping and piercingly relevant YA novel about inequality, police violence, 21st century prejudice and one girl's struggle for justice.
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.

Dark Matter by Michelle Paver

January1937. Clouds of war are gathering over a fogbound London. Twenty-eight year old Jack is poor, lonely and desperate to change his life. So when he's offered the chance to join an Arctic expedition, he jumps at it. Spirits are high as the ship leaves Norway: five men and eight huskies, crossing the Barents Sea by the light of the midnight sun. At last they reach the remote, uninhabited bay where they will camp for the next year. Gruhuken.

But the Arctic summer is brief. As night returns to claim the land, Jack feels a creeping unease. One by one, his companions are forced to leave. He faces a stark choice. Stay or go. Soon he will see the last of the sun, as the polar night engulfs the camp in months of darkness. Soon he will reach the point of no return - when the sea will freeze, making escape impossible.

And Gruhuken is not uninhabited. Jack is not alone. Something walks there in the dark...

Memoirs of a Geisha by Arthur Golden

A young peasant girl is sold as servant and apprentice to a renowned geisha house. Many years later she tells her story from a hotel in New York, opening a window into an extraordinary half-hidden world of eroticism and enchantment, exploitation and degradation and summoning up a quarter of a century of Japan's dramatic history.

Poor by Caleb Femi

What is it like to grow up in a place where the same police officer who told your primary school class they were special stops and searches you at 13 because 'you fit the description of a man' - and where it is possible to walk two and a half miles through an estate of 1,444 homes without ever touching the ground?

In *Poor*, Caleb Femi combines poetry and original photography to explore the trials, tribulations, dreams and joys of young Black boys in twenty-first century Peckham. He contemplates the ways in which they are informed by the built environment of concrete walls and gentrifying neighbourhoods that form their stage, writes a coded, near-mythical history of the personalities and sagas of his South London youth, and pays tribute to the rappers and artists who spoke to their lives.

Flowers for Algernon by Daniel Keyes

Charlie Gordon, IQ 68, is a floor sweeper and the gentle butt of everyone's jokes - until an experiment in the enhancement of human intelligence turns him into a genius.

But then Algernon, the mouse whose triumphal experimental transformation preceded his, fades and dies, and Charlie has to face the possibility that his salvation was only temporary.

Winner of the 1960 Hugo Award for Best Short Story, and subsequently expanded into a Hugo-nominated novel, Flowers for Algernon *earned Daniel Keyes the honour of SFWA Author Emeritus in 2000 for his contribution to Science Fiction and Fantasy.*

The Catch in the Rye by J.D Salinger

It's Christmas and Holden Caulfield has just been expelled from yet another school. Fleeing the crooks at Pencey Prep, he pinballs around New York City seeking solace in fleeting encounters - shooting the bull with strangers in dive hotels, wandering alone round Central Park, getting beaten up by pimps and cut down by erstwhile girlfriends.

The city is beautiful and terrible, in all its neon loneliness and seedy glamour, its mingled sense of possibility and emptiness. Holden passes through it like a ghost, thinking always of his kid sister Phoebe, the only person who really understands him, and his determination to escape the phonies and find a life of true meaning.

Anita and Me by Meera Syal

The debut novel from the award-winning screenwriter of Bhaji on the Beach. The story of nine-year-old Meena, growing up in the only Punjabi family in the Black Country mining village of Tollington.

It’s 1972. Meena is nine years old and lives in the village of Tollington, ‘the jewel of the Black Country’. She is the daughter of Indian parents who have come to England to give her a better life. As one of the few Punjabi inhabitants of her village, her daily struggle for independence is different from most. She wants fishfingers and chips, not chapati and dhal; she wants an English Christmas, not the usual interminable Punjabi festivities – but more than anything, she wants to roam the backyards of working-class Tollington with feisty Anita Rutter and her gang.

Blonde, cool, aloof, outrageous and sassy, Anita is everything Meena thinks she wants to be. Meena wheedles her way into Anita's life, but the arrival of a baby brother, teenage hormones, impending entrance exams for the posh grammar school and a motorcycling rebel without a future, threaten to turn Anita's salad days sour.

Anita and Me paints a comic, poignant, compassionate and colourful portrait of village life in the era of flares, power cuts, glam rock, decimalisation and Ted Heath. It is a unique vision of a British childhood in the Seventies, a childhood caught between two cultures, each on the brink of change.

Station Eleven by Emily St. John Mandel

What was lost in the collapse: almost everything, almost everyone, but there is still such beauty. One snowy night in Toronto famous actor Arthur Leander dies on stage whilst performing the role of a lifetime. That same evening a deadly virus touches down in North America. The world will never be the same again.

Twenty years later Kirsten, an actress in the Travelling Symphony, performs Shakespeare in the settlements that have grown up since the collapse. But then her newly hopeful world is threatened. If civilization was lost, what would you preserve? And how far would you go to protect it?

Birdsong by Sebastian Faulks

In the heat of the French summer of 1910, young Englishman Stephen Wraysford arrives in Amiens to stay with the Azaire family. But soon a secret passion emerges that threatens to destroy the household. Six years later, Stephen finds himself on the Western Front with civilization itself in the balance.
And in a maze of tunnels under the trenches he will fight for everything he has known and loved. An epic of love, death and redemption, *Birdsong* has moved millions of readers all over the world to become a contemporary classic.

Non-Fiction

Touching the Void by Joe Simpson

Touching the Void is the heart-stopping account of Joe Simpson's terrifying adventure in the Peruvian Andes. He and his climbing partner, Simon, reached the the summit of the remote Siula Grande in June 1995. A few days later, Simon staggered into Base Camp, exhausted and frost-bitten, with news that that Joe was dead.
What happened to Joe, and how the pair dealt with the psychological traumas that resulted when Simon was forced into the appalling decision to cut the rope, makes not only an epic of survival but a compelling testament of friendship.

Shoe Dog by Phil Knight

In 1962, fresh out of business school, Phil Knight borrowed $50 from his father and created a company with a simple mission: import high-quality, low-cost athletic shoes from Japan. Selling the shoes from the boot of his Plymouth, Knight grossed $8000 in his first year. Today, Nike's annual sales top $30 billion. In an age of start-ups, Nike is the ne plus ultra of all start-ups, and the swoosh has become one of the most ubiquitous and recognisable symbols in the world today.
For the first time, Phil Knight spells out the complete story behind that success, peeling back the gloss of a global multinational to reveal the pitfalls and glories of founding – and building – Nike. From the almost accidental nature of the company logo to the vast complexities of a leading edge business split around the globe, *Shoe Dog* is very much a business bible for the 21st century.

Toast by Nigel Slater

Nigel Slater's bestselling memoir of a childhood remembered through food, featuring a new introduction from Elizabeth Day, photographs and an additional final chapter.
Whether relating his mother's ritual burning of the toast, his father's dreaded Boxing Day stew or such culinary highlights of the day as Arctic Roll and Grilled Grapefruit (then considered something of a status symbol in Wolverhampton), this incredibly moving and deliciously evocative memoir of childhood, adolescence and sexual awakening vividly recreates daily life in sixties and seventies suburban England.

The Boy Who Harnessed the Wind by William Kamkwamba

When William Kamkwamba was just 14 years old, his family told him that he must leave school and come home to work on the farm – they could no longer afford his fees. This is his story of how he found a way to make a difference, how he bought light to his family and village, and hope to his nation.
Malawi is a country battling AIDS, drought and famine, and in 2002, a season of floods, followed by the most severe famine in fifty years, brought it to its knees. Like the majority of the population, William's family were farmers. They were totally reliant on the maize crop. By the end of 2001, after many lean and difficult years, there was no more crop. They were running out of food – had nothing to sell – and had months until they would be able to harvest their crop again.
Forced to leave school at 14 years old, with no hope of raising the funds to go again, William resorted to borrowing books from the small local library to continue his education. One day, browsing the titles, he picked up a book about energy, with a picture of a wind turbine on the front cover. Fascinated by science and electricity, but knowing little more about the technology, William decided to build his own. Ridiculed by those around him, and exhausted from his work in the fields every day, and using nothing more than bits of scrap metal, old bicycle parts and wood from the blue gum tree, he slowly built his very own windmill.
This windmill has changed the world in which William and his family live. Only 2 per cent of Malawi has electricity; William's windmill now powers the lightbulbs and radio for his compound. He has since built more windmills for his school and his village.
When news of William's invention spread, people from across the globe offered to help him. Soon he was re-enrolled in college and travelling to America to visit wind farms. This is his incredible story.
William's dream is that other African's will learn to help themselves – one windmill and one light bulb at a time – and that maybe one day they will be able to power their own computers, and use the internet, and see for themselves how his life has changed after picking up that book in the library.

Hidden Figures by Margot Lee Shetterly

Set amid the civil rights movement, the never-before-told true story of NASA's African-American female mathematicians who played a crucial role in America's space program.
Before Neil Armstrong walked on the moon, a group of professionals worked as 'Human Computers', calculating the flight paths that would enable these historic achievements. Among these were a coterie of bright, talented African-American women. Segregated from their white counterparts, these 'colored computers' used pencil and paper to write the equations that would launch rockets, and astronauts, into space.
Moving from World War II through NASA's golden age, touching on the civil rights era, the Space Race, the Cold War, and the women's rights movement, Hidden Figures interweaves a rich history of mankind's greatest adventure with the intimate stories of five courageous women whose work forever changed the world.

Endurance by Alfred Lansing

Adventure, shipwreck, storms and survival on the high seas.
Endurance is the story of one of the most astonishing feats of exploration and human courage ever recorded. In 1914 Sir Ernest Shackleton and a crew of 27 men set sail for the South Atlantic on board a ship called the Endurance. The object of the expedition was to cross the Antarctic overland. In October 1915, still half a continent away from their intended base, the ship was trapped, then crushed in ice.
For five months Shackleton and his men, drifting on ice packs, were castaways on one of the most savage regions of the world. This utterly gripping book, based on first-hand accounts of crew members and interviews with survivors, describes how the men survived, how they lived together in camps on the ice for 17 months until they reached land, how they were attacked by sea leopards, the diseases which they developed, and the indefatigability of the men and their lasting civility towards one another in the most adverse conditions conceivable.

That Will Never Work by Marc Randolph

Now with over 182 million subscribers, Netflix's triumph feels inevitable but the twenty-first century's most disruptive start-up began with few believers and calamity at every turn. Marc Randolph's transformational journey exemplifies how anyone with grit and determination can change the world - even with an idea that many think will never work.
What emerges, however, isn't just the inside story of one of the world's most iconic companies. Full of counter-intuitive concepts and written in binge-worthy prose, it answers some of our most fundamental questions about taking that leap of faith in life: How do you begin? How do you weather disappointment and failure? What *is* success?

The Code Book by Simon Singh

The Science of Secrecy from Ancient Egypt to Quantum Cryptography
From the best-selling author of Fermat's Last Theorem, The Code Book is a history of man's urge to uncover the secrets of codes, from Egyptian puzzles to modern day computer encryptions.
As in Fermat's Last Theorem, Simon Singh brings life to an anstonishing story of puzzles, codes, languages and riddles that reveals man's continual pursuit to disguise and uncover, and to work out the secret languages of others.
Codes have influenced events throughout history, both in the stories of those who make them and those who break them. The betrayal of Mary Queen of Scots and the cracking of the enigma code that helped the Allies in World War II are major episodes in a continuing history of cryptography. In addition to stories of intrigue and warfare, Simon Singh also investigates other codes, the unravelling of genes and the rediscovery of ancient languages and most tantalisingly, the Beale ciphers, an unbroken code that could hold the key to a $20 million treasure.

You Are a Champion by Marcus Rashford

Tear up the rule book. Find your own lane. You are only in competition with yourself.
Marcus Rashford MBE is recognised worldwide for his journey both on and-off the pitch – but how did a boy from the South of Manchester become not only an International footballer but also one of the leading activist voices in the UK? In this inspiring, positive and practical guide, Marcus gives YOU the tools you need to reach your full potential and will show you that your possibilities really can be endless.

In *You Are a Champion: Unlock Your Potential, Find Your Voice and Be the BEST You Can Be*, Marcus Rashford MBE draws on stories from his own life to show you that success is all about the mindset. You'll find out how positive thinking can change your life, build mental resilience, learn how to navigate adversity and discover the unstoppable power of your own voice. You already have the tools you need to achieve your dreams; you just might not know it yet.

Full of practical advice and engaging illustrations and infographics, this is the empowering and life changing first children's book from Marcus Rashford MBE, written in collaboration with journalist Carl Anka and featuring top tips from performance psychologist Katie Warriner.