

GORDON'S SCHOOL KS4 FICTION READING LIST

Asimov, Isaac '*I, Robot*'

A collection of nine short stories that imagines the development of "positronic" (humanlike, with a form of artificial intelligence) robots and wrestles with the moral implications of the technology.

Austen, Jane '*Pride and Prejudice*'

The story follows the turbulent relationship between Elizabeth Bennet, the daughter of a country gentleman, and Fitzwilliam Darcy, a rich aristocratic landowner. They must overcome the sins of pride and prejudice in order to fall in love and marry.

Ballard, J G '*The Empire of the Sun*'

The classic, award-winning novel tells of a young boy's struggle to survive World War II in China.

Bronte, Charlotte '*Jane Eyre*'

Bildungsroman following the experiences of its eponymous heroine, including her growth to adulthood and her love for Mr. Rochester, the brooding master of Thornfield Hall.

Bronte, Emily '*Wuthering Heights*'

Perhaps the most haunting and tormented love story ever written, the novel tells the tale of the troubled orphan Heathcliff and his doomed love for Catherine Earnshaw. Disturbing Victorian masterpiece.

Buchan, John '*The Thirty Nine Steps*'

Published in 1915, Buchan's Scottish spy thriller is the exciting tale of Richard Hannay — an ordinary man on the run from dark forces.

Dickens, Charles '*Great Expectations*'

Victorian Bildungsroman depicting the education of an orphan nicknamed 'Pip'. Dickens' classic exploration of the themes of wealth and poverty, love and rejection, and the eventual triumph of good over evil.

Golding, William '*Lord of the Flies*'

The novel focuses on a group of British boys stranded on an uninhabited island and their disastrous attempt to govern themselves. Explores the tension between groupthink and individuality, between rational and emotional reactions, and between morality and immorality.

Hill, Susan '*The Woman in Black*'

1983 novel written in the style of a traditional Gothic horror novel. Disturbing tale of a mysterious spectre that haunts a small English town.

Hornby, Nick '*About a Boy*'

Late 20th century coming of age novel following the lives of two explicitly different characters and their unlikely convergence. We learn of Will Freeman, the thirty-something epitome of self sufficiency and selfish indulgence, and of twelve year-old Marcus, who is the human equivalent of a square peg in a round hole.

Hosseini, Khaled '*The Kite Runner*'

A highly anticipated and competitive local kite championship attracts Amir and Hassan, who are keen to win. Set in Afghanistan in 1975, this novel hinges on one event afterwards which will change Hassan's life forever, and one which years later he seeks to put right.

Joyce, James '*Dubliners*'

A collection of fifteen short stories published in 1914. The stories comprise a naturalistic depiction of Irish middle class life in and around Dublin in the early years of the 20th century.

Lee, Harper '*To Kill a Mockingbird*'

A lawyer's advice to his children as he defends the real mockingbird of this classic novel - a black man charged with the rape of a white girl. Through the young eyes of Scout and Jem Finch, Harper Lee explores with exuberant humour the irrationality of adult attitudes to race and class in the Deep South of the thirties. The conscience of a town steeped in prejudice, violence and hypocrisy is pricked by the stamina of one man's struggle for justice. But the weight of history will only tolerate so much.

Orwell, George '*1984*'

1949 dystopian social science fiction novel that offers Orwell's chilling prophesy about the future.

Salinger, J D '*The Catcher in the Rye*'

The hero-narrator of this 1951 novel is an ancient child of sixteen, a native New Yorker named Holden Caulfield. Through circumstances that tend to preclude adult, secondhand description, he leaves his prep school in Pennsylvania and goes underground in New York City for three days.

Schlink, Bernhard '*The Reader*'

For 15-year-old Michael Berg, a chance meeting with an older woman leads to far more than he ever imagined. The woman in question is Hanna, and before long they embark on a passionate, clandestine love affair which leaves Michael both euphoric and confused. For Hanna is not all she seems.

Shelley, Mary '*Frankenstein*'

1818 novel telling the story of Victor Frankenstein, a young scientist who creates a sapient creature in an unorthodox scientific experiment.

Stoker, Bram '*Dracula*'

1897 Gothic horror novel famous for introducing the character of the vampire Count Dracula; tells the story of Dracula's attempt to move from Transylvania to England so he may find new blood and spread the undead curse.

Walker, Alice '*The Color Purple*'

Pulitzer prize-winning novel set in the deep American South between the wars; the classic tale of Celie, a young black girl born into poverty and segregation.

Wells, H G '*The Time Machine*'

A timeless classic of science fiction and adventure. A short novel which explores man's impact on the world and the pointlessness of war.

Wyndham, John '*The Day of the Triffids*'

1951 post-apocalyptic novel science fiction; after most people in the world are blinded by an apparent meteor shower, an aggressive species of plant starts killing people.

Zusak, Markus '*The Book Thief*'

Narrated by Death, a male voice who over the course of the book proves to be morose yet caring. The plot follows book-loving, fostered child, Liesel Meminger, as she comes of age in Nazi Germany during World War II.

