



ARENA
ACADEMY

Year 8 Reading Recommendations

Nineteenth Century Classics

The Coral Island by R.M Ballantyne
The Hound of the Baskervilles by Arthur Conan Doyle
King Solomon's Mines by H Rider Haggard
Dracula by Bram Stoker
Northanger Abbey by Jane Austen

Twentieth Century Classics

The Day of the Triffids by John Wyndham
The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams
A Kestrel for a Knave by Barry Hines
Lord of the Flies by William Goulding
The Woman in Black by Susan Hill

AWARD WINNERS

The Northern Lights Trilogy
by Philip Pullman

Life of Pi by Yann Martel

The Girl Who Drank the Moon by Kelly Barnhill

The Explorer by Katherine Rundell

The Bombs That Brought Us Together by Brian Conaghan

Harry Potter Series by J.K. Rowling

The Girl of Ink and Stars by Kiran Millwood Hargrave



MODERN NOVELS

Welcome to Nowhere by Elizabeth Laird
Silverfin by Charlie Higson
The Outsiders by S.E Hilton
Hatchet by Gary Paulsen
Face by Benjamin Zephaniah
The Wish List by Eoin Colfer
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon
How I Live Now by Meg Rosoff

BAME

To All the Boys I've Loved Before by Jenny Han
Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes
With Fire On High by Elizabeth Acevedo
The Black Flamingo by Dean Atta
A Million Pieces of Neena Gill by Emma Smith-Barton

Non Fiction

Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah
My Family and Other Animals by Gerald Durrell
I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai

LGBTQ+

The Art of Being Normal by Lisa Williamson
Strange Boy by Paul Magrs
Boy Meets Boy by David Levithan
The Red Scrolls of Magic by Cassandra Clare

A NOTE TO PARENTS AND READERS

These texts have been selected to challenge pupils and promote debate and discussion. Reading as many of these texts as possible will certainly help our students in their quest for the top grades in the subject. A wider depth and breadth of reading, and exposure to more complex vocabulary, forms and themes will benefit them not just in English but in all of their subjects. As you may expect from more difficult texts, some deal with adult themes. Here at Arena we feel our students have the maturity to cope with these concepts but please do get in touch if you would like to query any of the content before they begin reading them.

