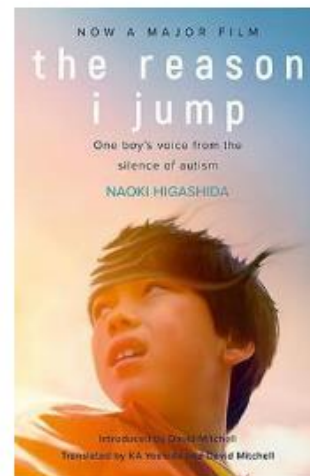


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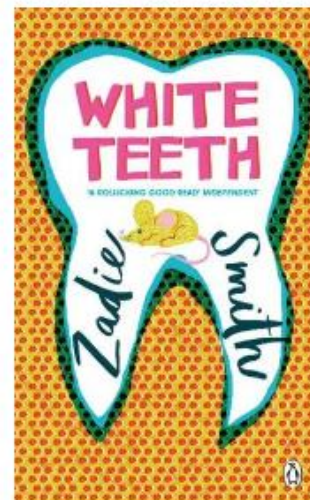
The Reason I Jump by Naoki Higashida

This eye-opening first-person autobiography reveals what it feels like to be autistic, and how a neuro-divergent person sees and experiences the world. Written when the author was 13, it offers teens a unique glimpse not just into non-verbal lives, but also into the many different ways events can be perceived, and all the different ways life can be lived. Recommended for students interested in abstract ideas, art and psychology.



White Teeth by Zadie Smith

Crossing multiple cultures, families and generations, this expansive contemporary novel explores London's rich multiracial tapestry from post-war, through the sixties, and towards the present day – through the lives and relationships of Archie, who marries Clara, a Jamaican lady half his age, and Samad whose marriage is arranged. A more advanced, yet rewarding, read for sixth-formers.



Chronicles from the Land of the Happiest People on Earth by Wole Soyinka

When Doctor Menka discovers body parts are being stolen from his hospital, he is horrified to find they are ending up in the hands of an unscrupulous opportunist looking to profit from their sale for use in West African religious rituals. But who is behind the scandal? This captivating and brilliantly written novel blends power, corruption and danger with a deliciously dark whodunit plot.



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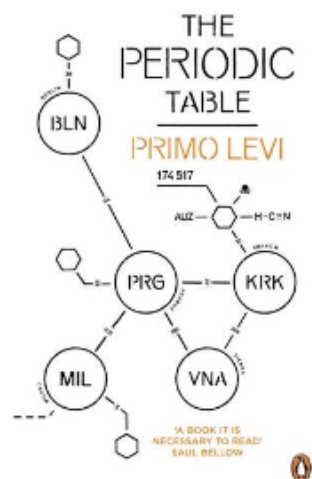
The Art of War by Sun-tzu

Not just a must-read for students interested in military careers, this classic is a surprisingly useful primer for how to traverse work politics, difficult people and planning a successful life.



The Periodic Table by Primo Levi

Primo Levi brings a scientist's precise thinking to this collection of 21 short stories about life and the human condition – drawn from his experiences in childhood, in Mussolini's fascist Italy, and as a survivor of Auschwitz. Each story is named after a chemical element, comparing its properties to situations, characters and places that he experienced. Unconventional, yet revealing, this is an unforgettable read.



Philomena by Martin Sixsmith

A heartbreaking true story about a mother's tenacious search for her son who was taken and sold by the Catholic church. Sent to a convent for fallen women as a teenage mother, Philomena Lee never gave up trying to find her son and in a twist of fate, her son never gave up trying to find her. The evil of the institutions and heartless, self-righteous bureaucrats that she faced will linger in the reader's memory. It's a highly worthwhile read for anyone considering a career in social care or religion, or for students thinking of working in a large and faceless organisation.

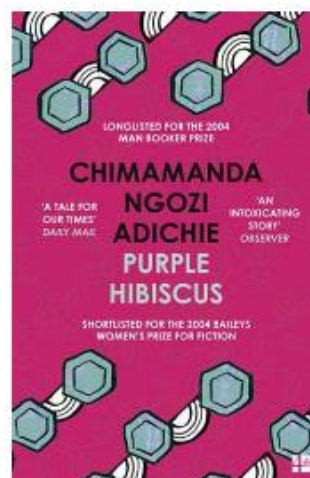


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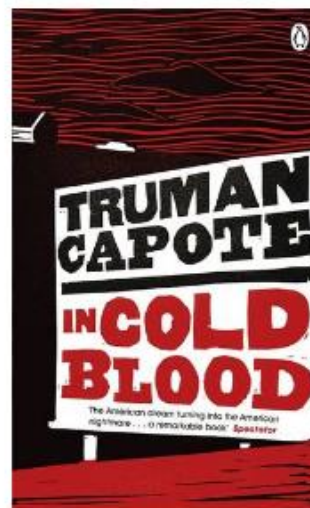
Purple Hibiscus by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

A fresh and mesmerising story about religious intolerance and a young woman finding herself and flourishing despite a dark past. Set in a richly realised post-colonial Nigerian setting, the writing is vibrant and uplifting. It's a terrific read and a great novel to discuss in sixth-form book clubs.



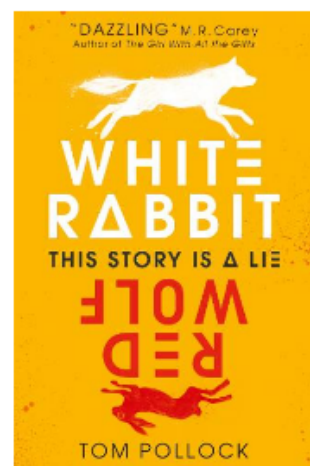
In Cold Blood by Truman Capote

This classic true-crime narrative is both chilling in the terse prose presentation and the nature of the subject matter. The crime, the scene, the investigation and the emotional aftermath are clinically examined in forensic detail. It's not a book recommended for everyone, but it will be a compelling read for post-A level students who are fans of true crime podcasts, journalism, criminology and human psychology.



White Rabbit, Red Wolf by Tom Pollock

Peter Blankman is a 17-year-old with prodigious maths ability, a gift that he uses as a sanctuary from a world he finds too complicated, stressful and frightening. When his mother is attacked and his sister vanishes into thin air, Peter uses his gift to find the truth. A cracking thriller for fans of maths and logic.

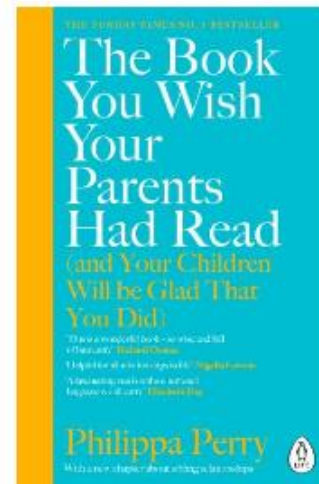


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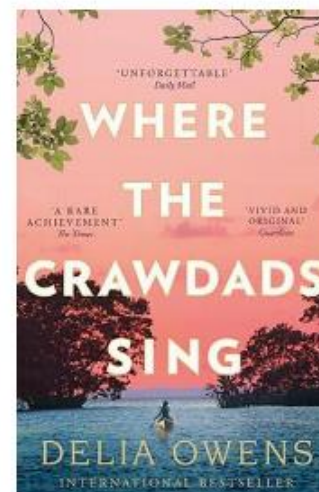
The Book You Wish Your Parents Had Read by Philippa Perry

A self-help style guide to parent-child relationships, and, in particular, what to avoid. Exploring how our own upbringing can affect the way we treat others, it provides valuable tips on how to communicate effectively – illustrated with real-life examples. Although this book is essentially a guide to adult-child relationships and a compendium of parenting skills, it's a text that teens about to leave childhood will find compelling to read. Also, psychotherapist Philippa Perry's precise, well-informed and rational advice might be much easier to absorb, and prescient, than later-life advice from parents or friends.



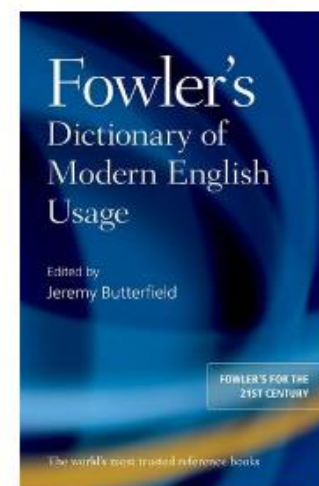
Where the Crawdads Sing by Delia Owens

With rich descriptions of rural North Carolina life in the 1960s, and vividly drawn characters, the reader is thrust into Kya Clark's world. Living an abandoned and off-grid life of solitude and nature, she is immediately branded an outcast and viewed with deep suspicion when a popular ex-high-school football star is found dead. A highly original and readable novel.



Fowler's Dictionary of Modern English Usage by Jeremy Butterfield

Not just a must-have style guide that's suitable for essay writing, reports and presentations, this updated edition of Fowler's is a highly readable and interesting collection of examples, explanations and answers to burning grammar and word usage questions.

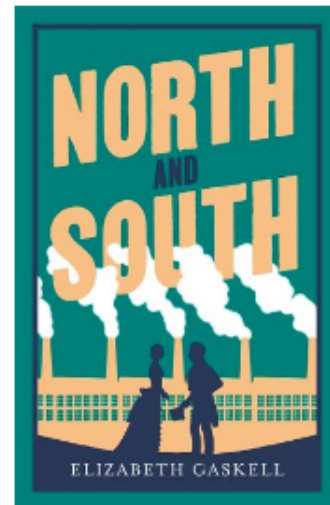


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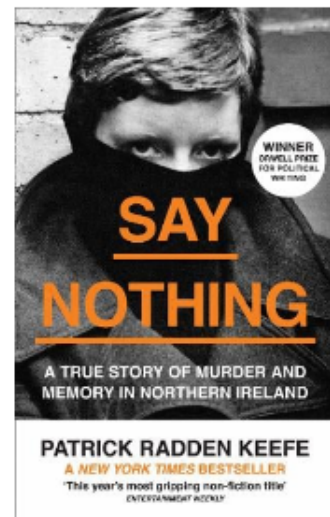
North and South by Elizabeth Gaskell

A classic Victorian drama of class clashes, disparity of wealth and prejudice. When Margaret is rudely uprooted from her comfortable middle-class home after her father decides to move up north, she is shocked and revolted by her new surroundings in Milton. Will the hardship and poverty she sees change her for the better? This is a great book for social studies and history students to discuss and debate.



Say Nothing: A True Story of Murder and Memory in Northern Ireland by Patrick Radden Keefe

The Troubles are chronicled through the lens of the abduction of Jean McConville from her home and the devastating effects on her family. Radicalisation, religion, extremism and injustice are revealed in this detailed and gripping account. 'Say Nothing' explores an important aspect in this county's history that all students should be aware of, and with the recent impact of Brexit, a fragile Good Friday peace accord that all generations should be encouraged to safeguard.



Why Most Things Fail by Paul Ormerod

A lively and at times light-hearted non-fiction look at economics and why some strategies work, and why others don't. Using parallels with science, game theory, systems and logic, Ormerod breathes life into economic theories and practices and with real-life business and corporate examples. It's interesting reading for potential entrepreneurs, PPE students or business school applicants.

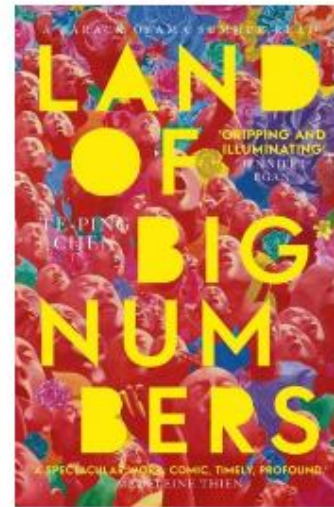


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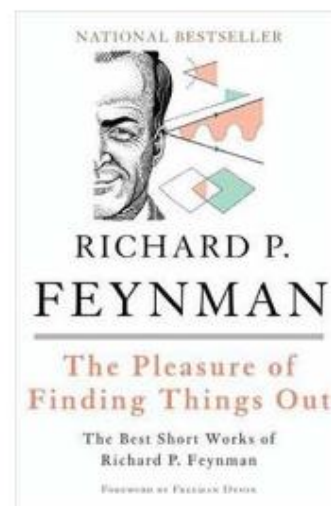
Land of Big Numbers by Te-Ping Chen

This startling collection of short stories will immerse students into the lifestyles, atmospheres and motivations of characters from modern China. A captivating glimpse into the contemporary communist culture, the deft characterizations and precise prose sparkle throughout.



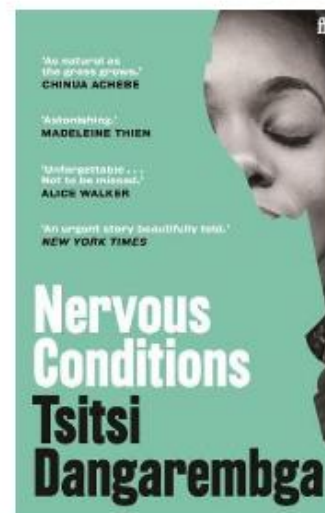
The Pleasure of Finding Things Out by Richard Feynman

This collection of essays and articles is a great book to keep older teenagers interested in science, reasoning, analytical thinking and using evidence to inform opinions and rise above a 2020s media-driven world of fake news and hyperbole.



Nervous Conditions by Tsitsi Dangarembga

This gripping coming-of-age story sees the 13-year-old protagonist encounter oppression, imperialism, and subjugation set in Zimbabwe's slow journey towards independence and majority rule. With verve and wit, the story is told with a startlingly vibrant voice. A modern classic.

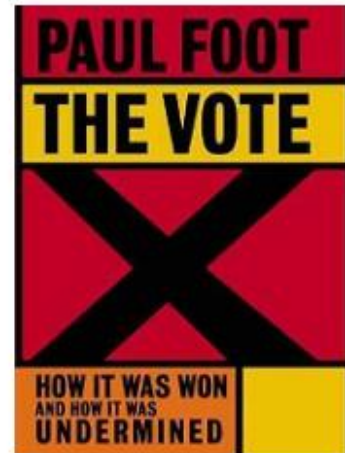


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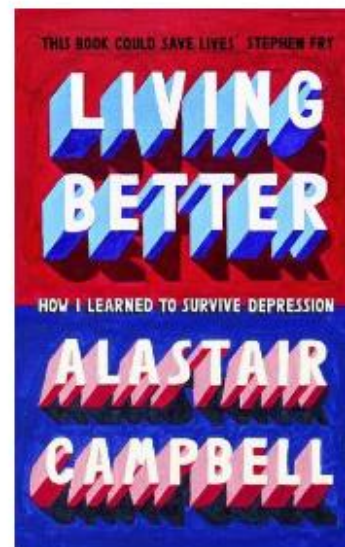
The Vote: How it was won, and how it was undermined by Paul Foot

A compelling exposition of democracy, the fight for the right to vote, the historical narrative of power since the Civil War, and why it is so important to resist the erosion of hard-won rights in the UK. This book will appeal to students interested in politics, economics and social history.



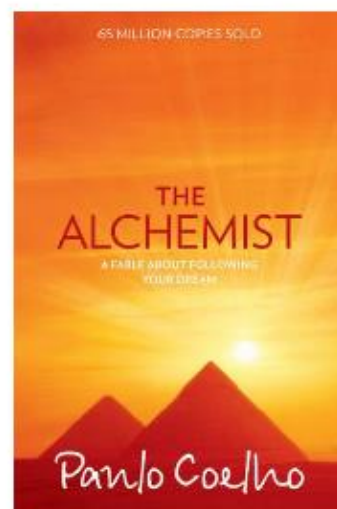
Living Better: How I Learned to Survive Depression by Alastair Campbell

A must-read for teens before they leave home, start university, or enter the workplace, Living Better explores depression, what causes it, how it affects people, how to live with it, and how to use it. This frank, honest and eye-opening autobiographical account offers hope and encourages readers to talk about their feelings. Through discussion of real-life events, it offers fascinating and useful life skills. Highly recommended.



The Alchemist: a fable about following your dream by Paulo Coelho

When poor shepherd boy Santiago dreams of a better life, he embarks on an unforgettable quest which reveals there is more wealth in knowledge and experience than money. A spectacular novel that spans cultures, lands and generations, it's one that might inspire dreams and change the perspectives of those who read it. The ultimate follow your dreams fable.

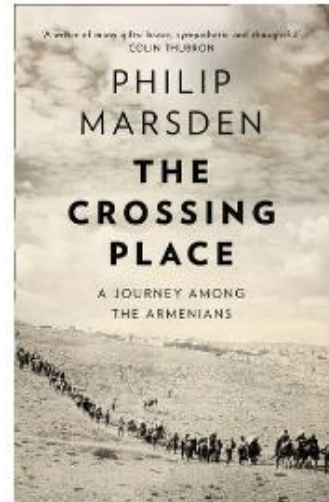


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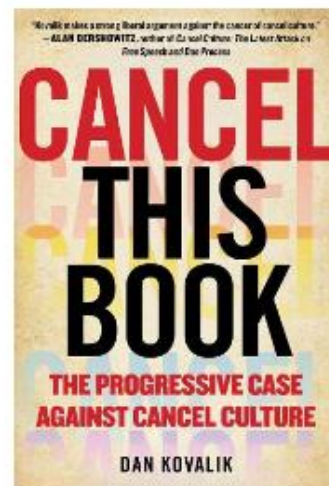
The Crossing Place: A Journey among the Armenians by Philip Marsden

An unflinching account of opposing ideologies and persecution, and how one group of people has survived in spite of adverse history and politics. This illuminating book takes the reader on a compelling journey through the geography, history, and culture of Armenia. A must-read for social studies students, this is a good counterpoint for pupils learning about Afghanistan, Yugoslavia, the Uyghurs and the Holocaust.



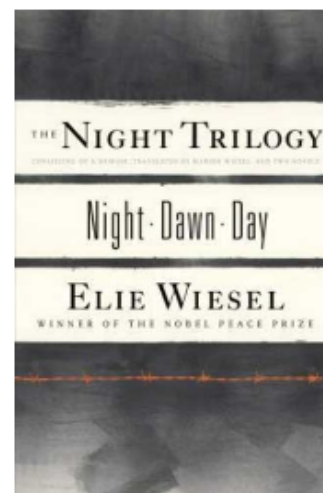
Cancel This Book: The Progressive Case Against Cancel Culture by Dan Kovalik

In an era of social media, fake news, conspiracy theories and the cult of celebrity, this book will prove a provocative point of discussion for sixth-formers. Arguing squarely for free speech and natural justice, Dan Kovalik deftly espouses why cancel culture is a risk to democratic values and rational discussion and reasoned judgement. A great book for debating in book clubs and discussing in academic interviews.



The Night Trilogy: Night, Dawn, Day by Elie Wiesel

Elie Wiesel's autobiographical account of a teenage boy navigating the horrors of the Auschwitz concentration camp with his father is a demanding but life-changing read. The trilogy spans 'Night' – which chronicles the writer's recollection of Holocaust cruelties that challenge every fibre of his faith in God; 'Dawn' a story which follows a survivor who settles in the Holy Land with a deathly mission; and 'Day' – a moving story which examines the difficulties of remaining positive and moving forward despite the psychological trauma of survival.



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On the Beach by Nevil Shute

Never more prescient, Nevil Shute's classic novel *On the Beach* is ideal for KS4 & KS5 book clubs to discuss the Domesday Clock, world peace, aggression by superpowers, the futile aftermath of a World War & the prospect of being 'The Last of Us'.

