

# SUGGESTED READING

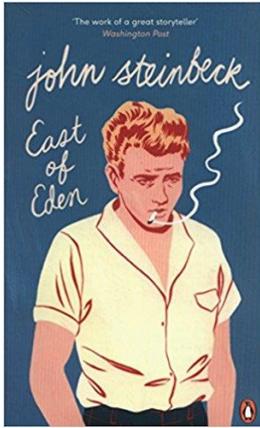
KS4: YEAR 9, 10 AND 11



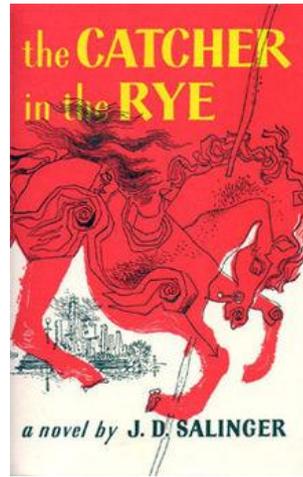
Suggested reading has been classified by genre to enable students to make more informed choices about any reading outside of the curriculum at WVC. Texts have been chosen because of their challenge, scope and quality of writing.

A brief synopsis for each text has been provided; however, it is strongly recommended that parents/carers research book choices prior to reading. Some texts may have distressing content.

Please note that in the 'Supplementary Studies' section most texts are applicable across KS4 year groups; however, some students are studying *An Inspector Calls* and others *Lord of the Flies*.



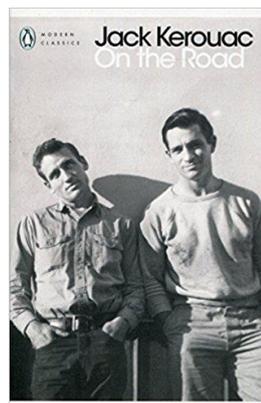
**East of Eden** (1952): California's fertile Salinas Valley is home to two families whose destinies are fruitfully, and fatally, intertwined. Over the generations, between the beginning of the twentieth century and the end of the First World War, the Trasks and the Hamiltons will helplessly replay the fall of Adam and Eve and the murderous rivalry of Cain and Abel.



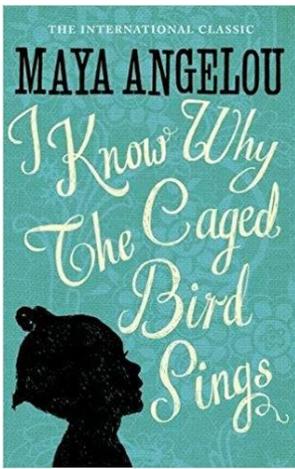
**The Catcher in the Rye** (1951): Holden Caulfield is a seventeen-year-old dropout who has just been kicked out of his fourth school. Navigating his way through the challenges of growing up, Holden dissects the 'phony' aspects of society, and the 'phonies' themselves: the headmaster whose affability depends on the wealth of the parents, his roommate who scores with girls using sickly-sweet affection.



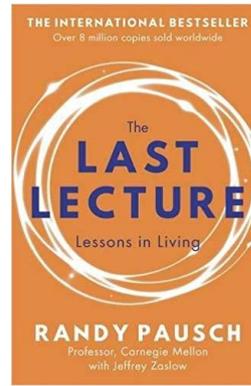
**Nineteen Eighty-Four** (1949): Set in the year 1984, most of the population have become victims of perpetual war, omnipresent government surveillance and public manipulation.



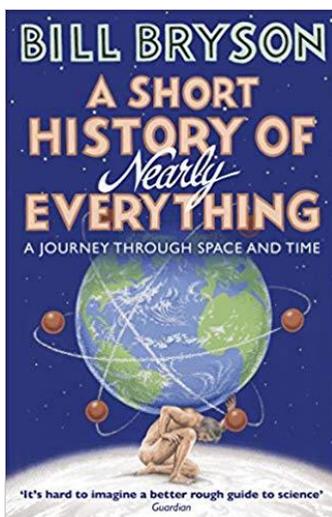
**On the Road** (1957): Sal Paradise, a young innocent, joins his hero Dean Moriarty, a traveller and mystic, the living epitome of Beat, on a breathless, exuberant ride back and forth across the United States. Their hedonistic search for release or fulfilment through drink, sex, drugs and jazz becomes an exploration of personal freedom, a test of the limits of the American dream.



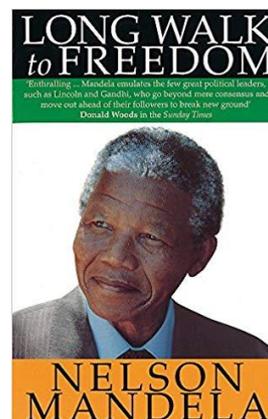
**I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings** (1969): Maya Angelou's seven volumes of autobiography are a testament to the talents and resilience of this extraordinary writer. Loving the world, she also knows its cruelty. As a Black woman she has known discrimination and extreme poverty, but also hope, joy, achievement and celebration.



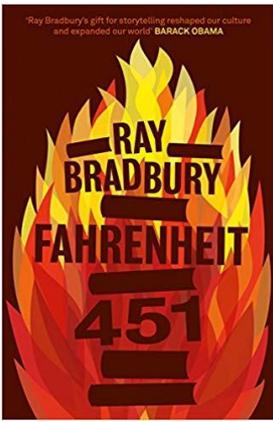
**The Last Lecture: Really Achieving Your Childhood Dreams - Lessons in Living** (2008): When Randy Pausch, a computer science professor, was asked to give 'a last lecture' lecture, he didn't have to imagine it as his last, since he had recently been diagnosed with terminal cancer. The lecture he gave wasn't about dying. It was about the importance of overcoming obstacles, of enabling the dreams of others, of seizing every moment (because time is all you have and you may find one day that you have less than you think).



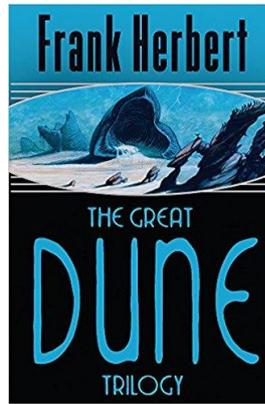
**A Short History of Nearly Everything** (2016): A quest to understand everything that has happened from the Big Bang to the rise of civilization - how we got from there, being nothing at all, to here, being us. Bill Bryson's challenge is to take subjects that normally bore the pants off most of us, like geology, chemistry and particle physics, and see if there isn't some way to render them comprehensible to people who have never thought they could be interested in science.



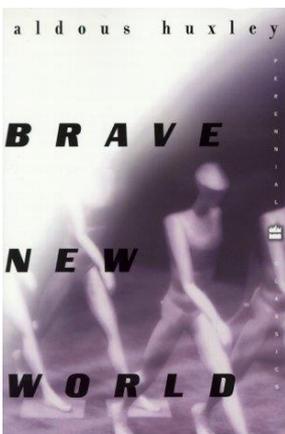
**Long Walk To Freedom: The Autobiography of Nelson Mandela** (1994): The riveting memoirs of the outstanding moral and political leader of our time, A Long Walk to Freedom brilliantly re-creates the drama of the experiences that helped shape Nelson Mandela's destiny. Emotive, compelling and uplifting.



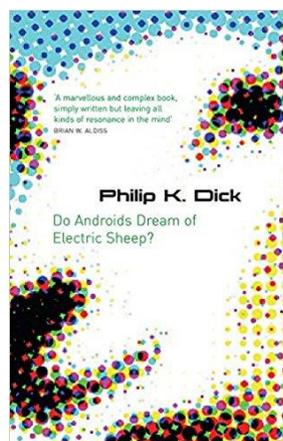
**Fahrenheit 451 (1953):** Guy Montag is a fireman. His job is to burn books, which are forbidden, being the source of all discord and unhappiness. Are books hidden in his house? The Mechanical Hound of the Fire Department, armed with a lethal hypodermic, escorted by helicopters, is ready to track down those dissidents who defy society to preserve and read books.



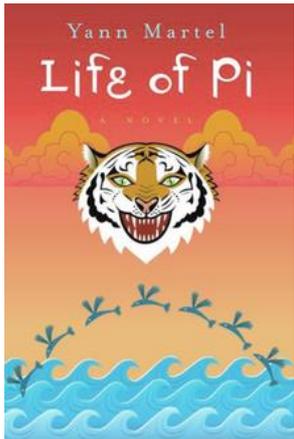
**Dune (1965):** Arrakis is the focus for a complex political and military struggle with galaxy-wide repercussions. It is the source of spice, a mind-enhancing drug which makes interstellar travel possible; it is the most valuable substance in the galaxy. When Duke Atreides and his family take up court there, they fall into a trap set by the Duke's bitter rival. The Duke is poisoned, but his wife and her son Paul escape to the vast and arid deserts.



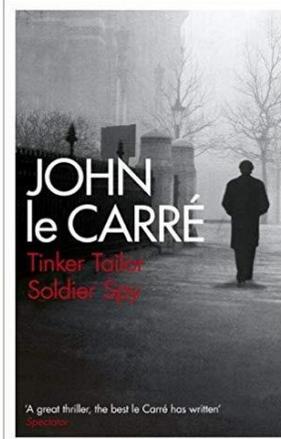
**Brave New World (1931):** Largely set in a futuristic World State of genetically modified citizens and an intelligence-based social hierarchy, the novel anticipates huge scientific developments in reproductive technology, sleep-learning, psychological manipulation, and classical conditioning that are combined to make a utopian society that is challenged only by a single outsider.



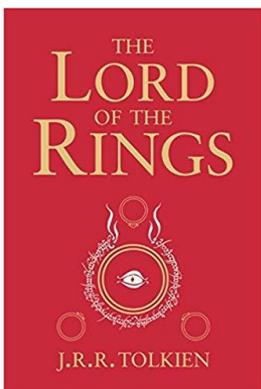
**Do Androids Dream Of Electric Sheep? (1968):** World War Terminus had left the Earth devastated. Through its ruins, bounty hunter Rick Deckard stalked, in search of his prey. When he wasn't 'retiring' them with his laser weapon, he dreamed of owning a live animal - the ultimate status symbol in a world all but bereft of animal life. Then Rick got his chance: the assignment to kill six Nexus-6 targets, for a huge reward. But in Deckard's world things were never that simple, and his assignment quickly turned into a nightmare.



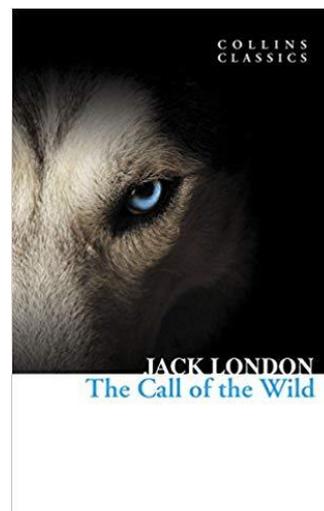
**Life of Pi (2001):** Piscine Molitor "Pi" Patel, an Indian boy from Pondicherry explores issues of spirituality and practicality from an early age. He survives 227 days after a shipwreck while stranded on a lifeboat in the Pacific Ocean with a Bengal tiger named Richard Parker.



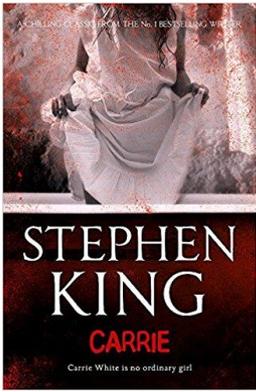
**Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy (1975):** George Smiley, who is a troubled man of infinite compassion, is also a single-mindedly ruthless adversary as a spy. The scene which he enters is a Cold War landscape of moles and lamplighters, scalp-hunters and pavement artists, where men are turned, burned or bought for stock. Smiley's mission is to catch a Moscow Centre mole burrowed thirty years deep into the Circus itself.



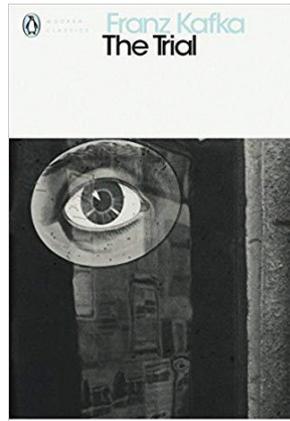
**The Lord of The Rings (1954):** Sauron, the Dark Lord, has gathered to him all the Rings of Power – the means to rule Middle-earth. All he lacks is the One Ring – the ring that rules them all – which has fallen into the hands of the hobbit, Bilbo Baggins. In a sleepy village in the Shire, young Frodo Baggins finds himself faced with an immense task, as the Ring is entrusted to him. He must leave his home and make a perilous journey across the realms of Middle-earth to destroy the Ring forever and foil the Dark Lord in his evil purpose.



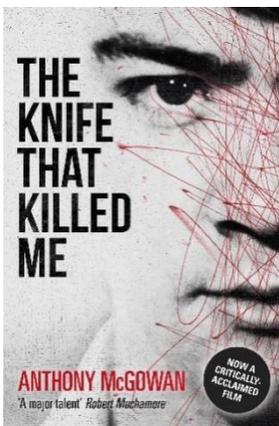
**The Call of the Wild (1903):** Half St. Bernard, half sheepdog, Buck is stolen away from his comfortable life as a pet in California and sold to dog traders. He soon finds himself aboard a ship, on its way to Northern Canada. Surrounded by cruelty, Buck's natural instincts and behaviour begin to emerge.



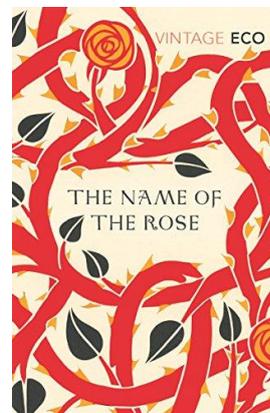
**Carrie (2011):** Carrie White is no ordinary girl. She has the gift of telekinesis. To be invited to Prom Night by Tommy Ross is a dream come true for Carrie - the first step towards social acceptance by her high school colleagues. However, events will take a decidedly macabre turn on that horrifying and endless night as she is forced to exercise her terrible gift on the town that mocks and loathes her.



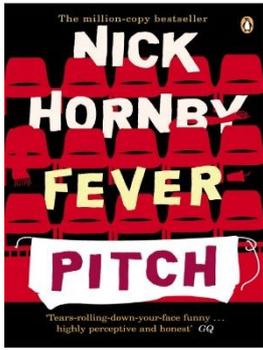
**The Trial (1925):** A terrifying psychological trip into the life of one Joseph K., an ordinary man who wakes up one day to find himself accused of a crime he did not commit, a crime whose nature is never revealed to him. Once arrested, he is released, but must report to court on a regular basis - an event that proves maddening, as nothing is ever resolved.



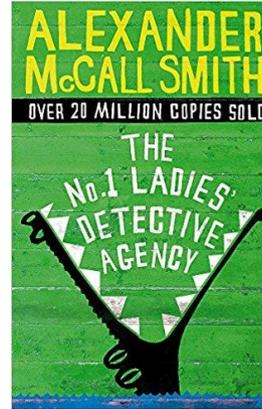
**The Knife that Killed Me (2008):** Follows a teenager, Paul Varderman, as he tries to fit in with a group in his school. At the beginning of the book, Paul is a loner, looking into the groups from the outside. A series of events gets him embroiled with a group known as "The Freaks". "The Freaks" are different from the other groups as they do not live under the rule of the school thug, Roth.



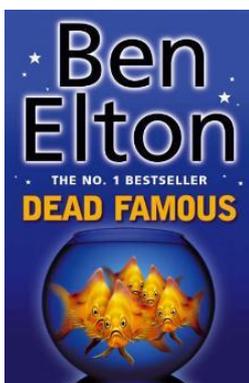
**The Name of the Rose (1983):** The year is 1327. Franciscans in a wealthy Italian abbey are suspected of heresy, and Brother William of Baskerville arrives to investigate. When his delicate mission is suddenly overshadowed by seven bizarre deaths, Brother William turns detective. He collects evidence, deciphers secret symbols and coded manuscripts, and digs into the eerie labyrinth of the abbey where extraordinary things are happening under the cover of night.



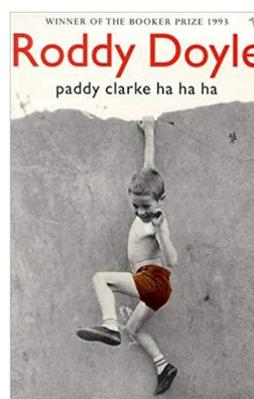
**Fever Pitch** (1992): A number-one bestseller that explores childhood, adolescence and adulthood through the ups and downs of football. 'Brimming with wit and honesty, Fever Pitch catches perfectly what it really means to be a football fan – and in doing so, what it means to be a man'.



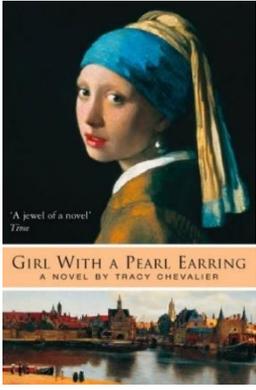
**The No. 1 Ladies' Detective Agency** (1998): Wayward daughters. Missing Husbands. Philandering partners. Curious conmen. If you've got a problem, and no one else can help you, then pay a visit to Precious Ramotswe, Botswana's only - and finest - female private detective. Her methods may not be conventional, and her manner not exactly Miss Marple, but she's got warmth, wit and canny intuition on her side.



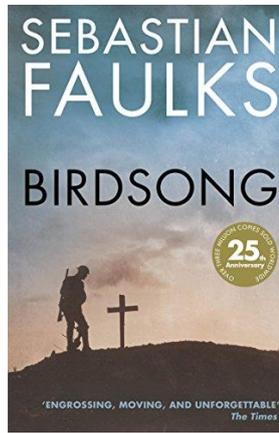
**Dead Famous** (2001): ratings for a reality TV show rocket when a housemate is murdered. Unlike a typical whodunit, we're not certain about the identity of the victim until around halfway into the book.



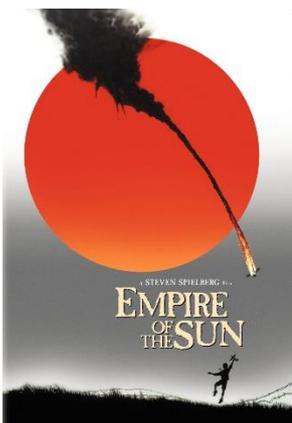
**Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha** (1993): Roddy Doyle's Booker Prize-winning novel describes the world of ten-year-old Paddy Clarke, growing up in Barrytown, north Dublin. From fun and adventure on the streets, boredom in the classroom to increasing isolation at home, Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha is the story of a boy who sees everything but understands less and less.



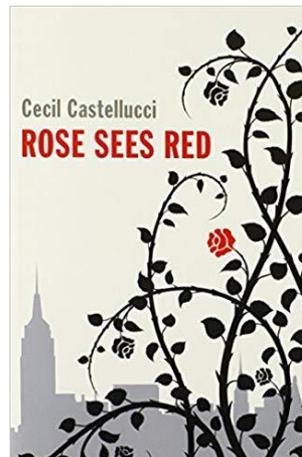
**Girl with a Pearl Earring** (1999): Set in 17th century Delft, Holland, the novel was inspired by local painter Johannes Vermeer's 'Girl with a Pearl Earring'. Chevalier presents a fictional account of Vermeer, the model and the painting.



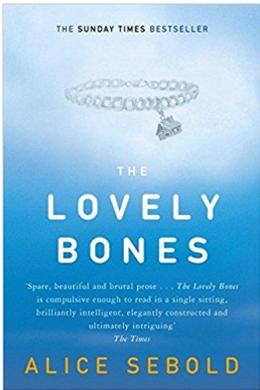
**Birdsong** (1993): 1910 - Amiens, Northern France. Stephen Wraysford, a young Englishman, arrives in the French city to stay with the Azaire family. He falls in love with unhappily married Isabelle and the two enter a tempestuous love affair. But, with the world on the brink of war, the relationship falters. Stephen volunteers to fight on the Western Front and enters the unimaginable dark world beneath the trenches of No Man's Land.



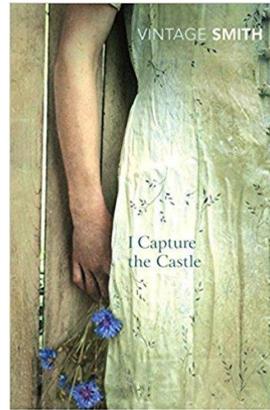
**Empire of the Sun** (1984): Recounts the story of a young British boy, Jamie Graham, who lives with his parents in Shanghai. After the Pearl Harbour attack, Japan occupies the Shanghai International Settlement, and in the following chaos Jim becomes separated from his parents. Awarded the James Tait Black Memorial Prize and was shortlisted for the Man Booker Prize.



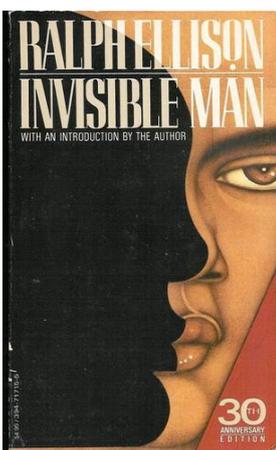
**Rose Sees Red** (2010): Set in New York in the 1980s, this story of two ballet dancers (one American, one Russian) recounts the unforgettable night they spend in the city, and celebrates the friendship they form despite their cultural and political differences.



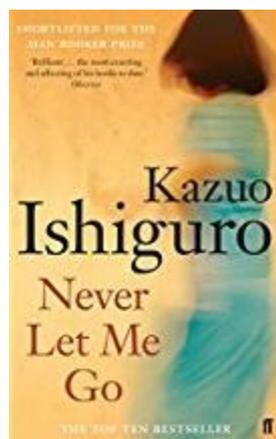
**The Lovely Bones (2002):** In heaven, Susie Salmon can have whatever she wishes for - except what she most wants, which is to be back with the people she loved on earth. In the wake of her murder, Susie watches as her happy suburban family is torn apart by grief; as her friends grow up, fall in love, and do all the things she never had the chance to do herself. But as Susie will come to realize, even in death, life is not quite out of reach.



**I Capture the Castle (1949):** Cassandra Mortmain lives with her bohemian and impoverished family in a crumbling castle in the middle of nowhere. Her journal records her life. However, everything is turned upside down when the American heirs to the castle arrive and Cassandra finds herself falling in love.



**Invisible Man (1952):** Addresses many of the social and intellectual issues facing African Americans early in the twentieth century, including black nationalism, the relationship between black identity and Marxism, and the reformist racial policies of Booker T. Washington, as well as issues of individuality and personal identity.

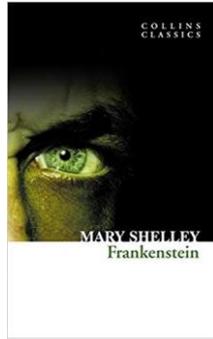


**Never Let Me Go (2005):** A group of students growing up in a darkly skewed version of contemporary England. Narrated by Kathy, now thirty-one, the novel dramatises her attempts to come to terms with her childhood at the seemingly idyllic Hailsham School and with the fate that has always awaited her and her closest friends in the wider world.

**Year 9**

**Orlando** (1928): As his tale begins, Orlando is a passionate young nobleman whose days are spent in rowdy revelry, filled with the colourful delights of Queen Elizabeth's court. By the close, he will have transformed into a modern, 36-year-old woman and three centuries will have passed.

*Links to Literature of the 1920s*

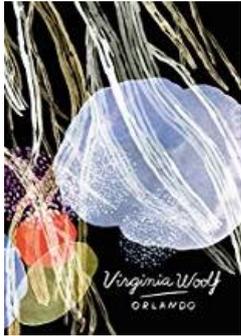
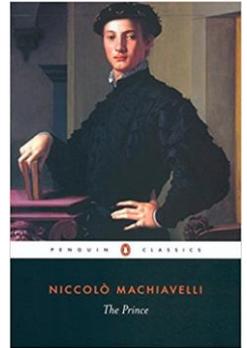


**The Prince** (1532): This treatise shocked Europe on publication with its ruthless tactics for gaining absolute power and its abandonment of conventional morality. Machiavelli came to be regarded as some by an agent of the Devil.

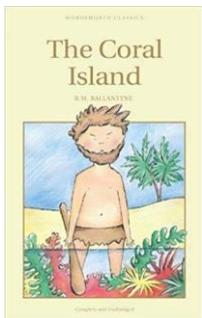
*Links to Macbeth*

**Frankenstein** (1818): Victor Frankenstein's monster is stitched together from the limbs of the dead, taken from 'the dissecting room and the slaughter-house'. The result is a grotesque being who, rejected by his maker and starved of human companionship, sets out on a journey to seek his revenge.

*Links to Gothic Fiction*



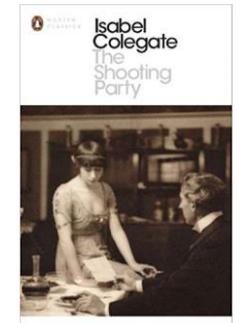
**Year 10**



**The Coral Island** (1857): Opens with the of the young friends Ralph Rover and Jack Martin and Peterkin Gray are shipwrecked on a Pacific Island. Their lives are placed in serious peril from which only courage and determined pluck can save them.

*Links to Lord of the Flies*

**Supplementary Studies**

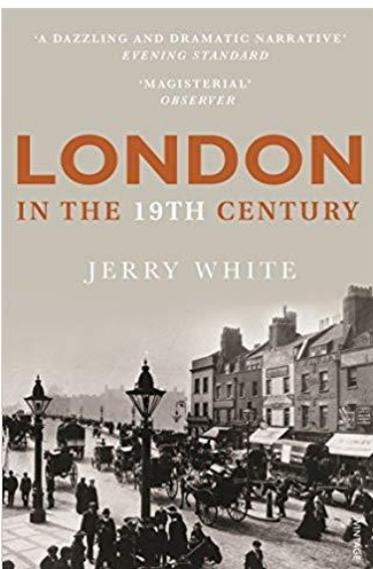


**The Shooting Party** (1980): It is 1913 - just prior to England's entry into World War I - and Edwardian England is about to vanish into history. A group of men and women gather at Sir Randolph Nettleby's estate for a shooting party.

*Links to An Inspector Calls*



**Year 11**

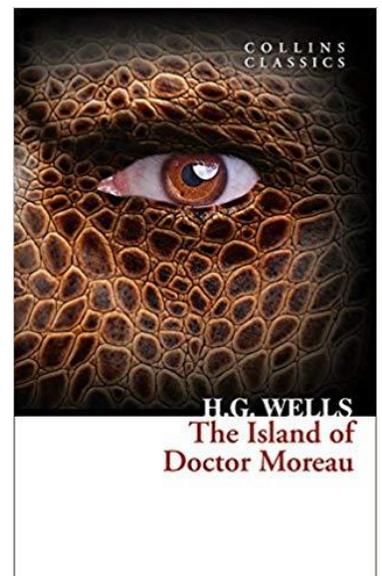


**London In the Nineteenth Century** (2008): London in the nineteenth century was the greatest city mankind had ever seen. Its wealth was dazzling. Its horrors shocked the world. As William Blake put it, London was 'a Human awful wonder of God'.

*Links to Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*

**The Island of Doctor Moreau** (1896): Edward Prendick, the sole survivor of a shipwreck in the South Pacific, is set ashore on an island where he meets the mysterious Doctor Moreau. Horrified by the discovery that Moreau is performing vivisection on animals to form monstrous human hybrids, Prendick flees into the jungle only to realise it is populated with Moreau's terrible creations.

*Links to Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*



# SUGGESTIONS?

Let your English teacher know and we'll update our list.

