



Wider Reading in English at SARCHS

In addition to the texts pupils study as part of the English curriculum, the following initiatives aim to encourage wider reading:

- In their first year at SARCHS, all students receive a book of their choice, as a gift from the English Department, chosen from the Book Buzz scheme. We also host the Scholastic Book Fair for all students on a yearly basis.
- Reading Schemes in KS3 (Years 7-9) allows all pupils to read widely and develop their linguistic repertoires.
- The use of a class reader for all classes in Years 7-9 means that, on average, pupils read two additional books a year in class under the guidance of their teacher.
- Wider reading articles are embedded within all schemes of learning to ensure challenge at both key stages and a continued exposure to academic language.
- Spring term includes the launch of a Reading home learning booklet for all classes in key stage 3, allowing students to read and respond to texts that they might not ordinarily experience.
- All KS3 classes have scheduled library visits in which they can borrow books and engage in library-based activities.
- The library hosts regular 'book clubs' and reading competitions, for students of all ages and interests, as well as organising regular author visits to help inspire our young readers.
- Our well-stocked library caters for all students' needs. We have an impressive selection of large-print and braille books, as well as a selection of bi-lingual books; updated on a regular basis. We also provide access to graphic novels, non-fiction texts and magazine subscriptions. Finally, there is a special section of the library called "Shelf-Help", providing literature on inclusivity, diversity and mental-health support.
- All KS3 pupils have fortnightly VAR (vocab and reading) lessons in which they read a selection of short stories and at least one novel in the year.
- The English department has created a bank of resources at Key Stage 4, which includes extracts from our favourite novels. This is a way of giving pupils a flavour of additional seminal literature that is not part of their GCSE Literature course and encouraging them to read the books in their entirety.
- In addition, and in line with our curriculum, the texts outlined on the following pages are delivered at KS3, with class readers for each year group chosen from this selection, ensuring all learners have access to enjoyable and topical novels.

Class readers in Year 7

	<p>The book is a retelling of a poem written in Ancient Greece more than two thousand years ago. The journey home from Troy to Ithaca takes Odysseus ten years. Along the way he is met with huge storms and shipwrecks, a one-eyed giant, a witch who turns men into pigs and a six-headed sea monster. Links to the Origins of Literature unit.</p>
	<p>Young protagonist Subhi (Yaamin Chowdhury) is a “limbo kid”, born in an Australian detention centre. He and his family are Rohingya Muslims, being held indefinitely after fleeing violence and persecution. Subhi endures this bleak environment by escaping into his imagination. Links to the Origins of Literature unit.</p>
	<p>Conor is visited by a monster who tells him three stories. These stories help Conor to understand the complicated feelings he has about his mother's death. The book explores the themes of isolation, acceptance and the importance of storytelling. Links to the Origins of Literature unit and the Gothic unit.</p>
	<p>Ten-year-old Jamie Mathews moves to the Lake District from London with his 15-year-old sister Jasmine and alcoholic father after their mother has an affair and leaves them. Jasmine's twin sister, Rose, was killed on September 9 in the London Bombings five years earlier - her ashes remain in an urn on the mantelpiece. A text which explores the themes of identity and perspective explored in Year 7 as well as linking to the Conflict Poetry unit.</p>
	<p>Brothers Damian and Anthony didn't mean to get caught up in a botched train robbery. But what would you do if a massive bag of cash dropped from the sky and you had only a few days to spend it before it became worthless? Buy a million pizzas? End world poverty? Clear links to Identity as well as perspectives.</p>

	<p>Holes is a novel by Louis Sachar that tells the story of Stanley Yelnats, a boy who is sent to a juvenile detention centre where the boys are forced to dig holes. As Stanley uncovers the truth about the camp's dark history, he also discovers his own family's hidden secrets. Links to the Origins of Literature unit as well as Identity.</p>
	<p>Treasure Island is a tale of pirates and villains, maps, treasure and a shipwreck, and is perhaps the best adventure story ever written. When young Jim Hawkins finds a packet in Captain Flint's sea chest, he could not know that the map inside it would lead him to unimaginable treasure. Links to the Coming of Age unit.</p>
	<p>Twelfth Night: a love triangle. Orsino is in love with Olivia, but she's mourning for her dead brother, so has rejected all his advances so far. He sends Cesario (who is really Viola) with love letters to woo Olivia on his behalf. Unfortunately for the Duke, Olivia is taken in by Cesario's disguise and falls in love with him. Links to a Summer of Shakespeare unit.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">VAR book choice for Year 7</p> <p>Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, he observes the devastation that's been unleashed on his family and community in the wake of what they see as an unjust and brutal killing. Links to the Coming of Age unit.</p>

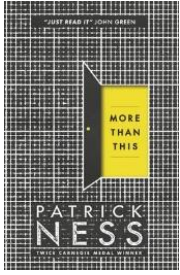
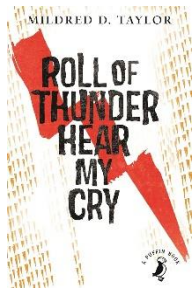
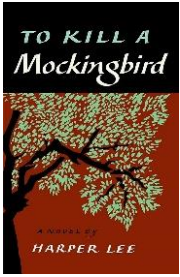
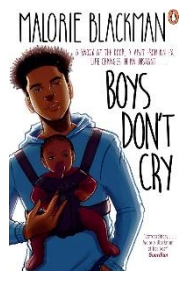
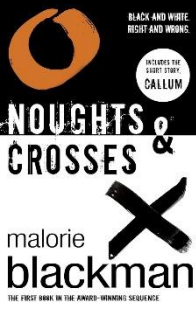
Year 8 Class Readers

	<p>The story revolves around Coraline and the strange experiences she has after she and her parents move into an apartment in an old house. Coraline must save herself and her parents from the evil forces that threaten them. Links to Gothic unit.</p>
	<p>Albert (Jeremy Irvine) and his beloved horse, Joey, live on a farm in the British countryside. At the outbreak of World War I, Albert and Joey are forcibly parted when Albert's father sells the horse to the British cavalry. Against the backdrop of the Great War, Joey begins an odyssey full of danger, joy and sorrow, and he transforms everyone he meets along the way. Meanwhile Albert, unable to forget his equine friend, searches the battlefields of France to find Joey and bring him home. Links to the Conflict Poetry unit.</p>
	<p>The Peaceful brothers, Tommo and Charlie, have a tough rural childhood facing the death of their father, financial hardship and a cruel landlord. Their fierce loyalty to each other pulls them through, until one day they both fall for the same girl. And then the Great War comes. Links to the Conflict Poetry unit.</p>
	<p>Ten-year-old Jamie Mathews moves to the Lake District from London with his 15-year-old sister Jasmine and alcoholic father after their mother has an affair and leaves them. Jasmine's twin sister, Rose, was killed on September 9 in the London Bombings five years earlier - her ashes remain in an urn on the mantelpiece. A text which explores the themes of identity and perspective explored in Year 7 as well as linking to the Conflict Poetry unit.</p>
	<p>In his story, a young Arthur Kipps, a junior solicitor, is sent to settle the affairs of Alice Drablow. He sees a woman dressed in black at her funeral, though apparently no one else does. At Eel Marsh House, a house beyond a causeway, Arthur is haunted by noises and sightings of the woman. Links to Gothic unit.</p>

	<p>Frankenstein by Mary Shelley is a classic gothic novel that explores the dangers of ambition and the consequences of playing god. It tells the story of a young scientist who creates a monster that ultimately destroys his life and the lives of those around him. Links to the Gothic unit.</p>
	<p>Animal Farm depicts a group of animals who rebel against humans and become their own masters. Things work smoothly at first, and the animals revel in their freedom and have equality. However, the pigs become power-hungry and become the new oppressors of the animals and become indistinguishable from humans. Links to the Art of Rhetoric unit in Year 8 and the Dystopian unit in Year 9.</p>
	<p>A Midsummer Night's Dream Summary. Four Athenians run away to the forest only to have Puck the fairy make both of the boys fall in love with the same girl. The four run through the forest pursuing each other while Puck helps his master play a trick on the fairy queen. Links to the make 'em laugh unit.</p>
	<p>A group of pupils in a Progress Class at a secondary school in a deprived part of Liverpool are going on a trip to Conwy Castle, but they misbehave. Before the trip they leave they buy sweets and the deputy head disciplinarian teacher, Mr Briggs, joins them. Links to the make 'em laugh unit.</p>
	<p>VAR book choice for Year 8</p> <p>The wild, tragic, and controversial life and career behind one of the most polarizing figures in sports culture, heavyweight champion Mike Tyson. The wild, tragic, and controversial life and career behind one of the most polarizing figures in sports culture, heavyweight champion Mike Tyson. Links to the Art of Rhetoric unit???</p>

Class readers for Year 9

	<p>In his story, a young Arthur Kipps, a junior solicitor, is sent to settle the affairs of Alice Drablow. He sees a woman dressed in black at her funeral, though apparently no one else does. At Eel Marsh House, a house beyond a causeway, Arthur is haunted by noises and sightings of the woman. Links to the Gothic unit.</p>
	<p>The story revolves around Coraline and the strange experiences she has after she and her parents move into an apartment in an old house. Coraline must save herself and her parents from the evil forces that threaten them. Coraline by Neil Gaiman is recommended for ages 8-12. Links to the Gothic unit.</p>
	<p>The plot focuses on a group of British boys who are stranded on an uninhabited island and their disastrous attempts to govern themselves. The novel's themes include morality, leadership, and the tension between civility and chaos. Links to the Dystopian unit.</p>
	<p>In what was once North America, the Capitol of Panem maintains its hold on its 12 districts by forcing them each to select a boy and a girl, called Tributes, to compete in a nationally televised event called the Hunger Games. Every citizen must watch as the youths fight to the death until only one remains. District 12 Tribute Katniss Everdeen (Jennifer Lawrence) has little to rely on, other than her hunting skills and sharp instincts, in an arena where she must weigh survival against love. Links to the Dystopian unit.</p>

	<p>More Than This follows Seth Wearing, a teenage boy who has died by suicide and wakes up in a strange, desolate version of his childhood hometown. Seth explores what he believes is his personal hell only to learn that humanity has entered an alternate online reality to escape ecological collapse in the “real” world. Links to the Dystopian unit.</p>
	<p>Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry is a coming-of-age novel told from the perspective of 9-year-old Cassie Logan and deals with the racial and economic hardships that the Logan family and their Black community face. Links to the Global Voices unit.</p>
	<p>To Kill a Mockingbird is a 1961 novel by Harper Lee. Set in small-town Alabama, the novel is a bildungsroman, or coming-of-age story, and chronicles the childhood of Scout and Jem Finch as their father Atticus defends a Black man falsely accused of rape. Scout and Jem are mocked by classmates for this. Links to the Global Voices unit.</p>
	<p>Dante is waiting for the postman. It's 'A' level results day and he has high hopes, but a knock on the door brings an old girlfriend and some news that will change his plans for good.</p> <p>Written from the point of view of two teenaged brothers: Dante, who is looking forward to university and a successful career, unexpectedly finds himself faced with the demands of full time single parenthood, and Adam, who is happy to be gay and makes no secret of it, but ultimately suffers from the intolerance of those around him. Links to the Global Voices unit.</p>
	<p>15-year-old Callum is a Nought, and his best friend, Sephy, as well as being a Cross, is also the daughter of one of the most influential politicians in the country. The story focuses on their relationship, which is frowned upon by society, and explores the discrimination they encounter at every turn. Links to the Global Voices unit.</p>

	<p>Of Mice and Men Plot. The novel follows two migrant workers, Lennie and George, as they seek work during the Depression with the goal they share of buying a place of their own where they can be in charge of their own lives. Lennie is not intelligent while George is. Links to the Global Voices unit.</p>
	<p>It is a tragic love story where the two main characters, Romeo and Juliet, are supposed to be sworn enemies but fall in love. Due to their families' ongoing conflict, they cannot be together, so they kill themselves because they cannot cope with being separated from one another. Links to the Love and Conflict unit.</p>
<p>VAR reading books for Year 9</p>	
	<p>What is the synopsis of The Book Thief? The Book Thief is a book about a girl during World War II in Nazi Germany. Her foster parents hide a Jewish man, but this man is forced to leave once attention is drawn to the family. Ultimately the girls' town is bombed, and her foster parents and best friend are killed. Links to the Global Voices unit.</p>
	<p>After deciding to sell their zoo in India and move to Canada, Santosh and Gita Patel board a freighter with their sons and a few remaining animals. Tragedy strikes when a terrible storm sinks the ship, leaving the Patels' teenage son, Pi (Suraj Sharma), as the only human survivor. However, Pi is not alone; a fearsome Bengal tiger has also found refuge aboard the lifeboat. As days turn into weeks and weeks drag into months, Pi and the tiger must learn to trust each other if both are to survive. Links to the Global Voices unit.</p>