The Priory School

Reading List



The books and authors listed below are regarded as good quality literature. It is by no means a comprehensive list but a guide to help students and parents choose challenging reads.

Action and Adventure

Title	Author	Description
Boy Solder	Andy McNab	Danny's grandfather was a SAS hero turned traitor but why?
BZRK	Michael Grant	Futuristic nano technology is used as a weapon in this thriller.
The Sniper	James Riordon	Realistic World War 2 adventure tale about young Russian Snipers.
Revolver	Marcus Sedgwick	Gripping psychological revenge thriller set in Alaska in 1910.
HIVE series	Mark Walden	Hidden academy for training budding evil geniuses.
Boy Kills Man	Matt Whyman	Teenage gangs running wild in Columbia.
Long Reach	Peter Cocks	In this gritty South London thriller a teenager begins to investigate the murder of his elder brother. A quality gangland thriller.

Fantasy

The Magicians'	Trudi Canavan	Complex tale of conspiracy & magic which is lost and found.
Across the Nightingale Floor	Liam Hearn	Novel about the search for a boy with special powers, after his family have been killed by an evil warlord.
Angel	Cliff McNiish	Freya is stalked by an angel in this gripping fantasy tale.
Northern Lights	Philip Pullman	Staggering dark fantasy in which Lyra fights for survival in a godless world.
Tunnels	Roderick Gordon	Novel about a labyrinthine world underneath London, full of sinister inhabitants and evil intentions.
Wolf Brother	Michelle Paver	Six thousand year ago, twelve year old Torak and his guide, a wolf cub, set out on a dangerous journey to fulfil an oath the boy made to his dying father.
Book of Dead Days	Marcus Sedgwick	Valerian is a magician who made a pact with evil many years ago and is now called upon to pay.
Mortal Engines	Philip Reeve	A young assassin is stalking her prey through the city. Hester Shaw's plot is foiled by a young apprentice who has finally stumbled into a real adventure

Modern Classic

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings	Maya Angelou	Classic autobiography of a young black girls struggling against brutal race discrimination in the 1930s.
Looking For JJ	Anne Cassidy	JJ is released from prison, 10 years after killing a friend, & tries to live with her new identity.
Wolf	Gillian Cross	Cassy becomes deeply involved in presenting a theatrical event for children on wolves. But soon, Cassy begins to sense she is being stalked herself.
I Capture The Castle	Dodie Smith	Great novel of first love, with an eccentric family of sisters living in a dilapidated castle in pre-war Ireland.
How I live Now	Meg Rosoff	Daisy is sent from America to live in England. War breaks out and the country is occupied.
Walkabout	James Marshall	Two Australian school children, defenceless in the vast wilderness of the Outback, meet an Aborigine youth on his walkabout and are forced to undergo a walkabout of their own.

Classics

Little Women	Louisa M Alcott	This classic story chronicles the joys and troubles of the four March sister-Meg, Jo, Amy, Beth – as they grow to adulthood
Jane Eyre	Charlotte Bronte	Jane is a plain, yet spirited, governess whose virtuous integrity, keen intellect, and perseverance break through class barriers to reach the man she loves.
Murder on the Orient Express	Agatha Christie	Hercule Poirot investigates the early death of a young man.
Treasure Island	R.L. Stevenson	A tale of piracy on the tropical seas, of treachery and greed combined with romance, treasure and adventure.
Journey to the Centre of the Earth	Jules Verne	A team of explorers makes an expedition into a crater in Iceland, which leads to the centre of the earth and to incredible and horrifying discoveries.
The Time Machine	H.G. Wells	An incredible invention enables the Time Traveller to reach the year 802701
Animal Farm	George Orwell	Politically-minded farm animals spark a revolution against their human master and establish a new government that fails because of a corrupt leader tempted by greed and power
Oliver Twist	Charles Dickens	The tale of an orphan who runs away from his employer, is captured by thieves on the London streets and finally escapes

Feel the Fear

Breathe	Cliff McNish	Asthmatic Jack discovers he can communicate with ghosts.
Stuff of Nightmare	Malorie Blackman	Frightening and scary novel which centres on the small, irrational fears that affect us all whilst we're having nightmares.
Sara's Face	Melvin Burgess	Troubled teenager swept off her feet by an aging rock star. He offers to mastermind her transformation and pay for her cosmetic surgery. However there is a sinister reason behind his generosity.
My Soul to Take	Rachel Vincent	Supernatural thriller - Kaylee senses when someone near her is about to die.
My Swordhand is Singing	Marcus Sedgwick	A fabulous spine tingling story set in an Eastern European village and vampires.
Leaving Poppy	Kate Cann	A macabre novel of possession, friendship and going too far.
Sisters Red	Jackson Pearce	Fantastic dark horror with a dash of Romance about two teenage sisters who hunt warewolves.
Cirque du Freak	Darren Shan	Darren and his friend Steve are caught in a deadly trap. Darren must make a bargain with the one person who can save Steve. But that person is not human.

Funny Books

Millions	Frank Cottrell- Boyce	When a bag full of money drops out of the sky Damian and Anthony find themselves rich.
`Death Defying Pepper Roux	G. McCaughrean	Funny adventure about a boy who thinks he is going to die on his 14th birthday. Very quirky.
Bootleg	Alex Shearer	Chocolate is made illegal and this funny novel centres on the resistance movement that is created to combat this.
The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole	Sue Townsend	Hysterical account of a boy coping with first love, his parents splitting up and the messy business of growing up.
Flour Babies	Anne Fine	The class Science project is to look after a flour baby like a real baby. A laugh out loud read.

Science Fiction

Department 19	Will Hill	Welcome to a strange department that fights supernatural beings. Mix of horror, thriller and science fiction.
Maze Runner Trilogy	James Dashner	Sixteen year old James wakes up with no memory in the middle of a maze and realises he must work with the community in which he finds himself in order to escape.
The Quantum Prophecy	Michael Carroll	Ten years after a great battle that wiped out all superheroes. Colin and his friends Danny begin to develop strange powers.
Feed	M.T. Anderson	Set in the future where most people have computer implants in their heads to control their environment.
Daniel X	James Patterson	Daniel is an alien hunter – bent on revenge on those who killed his parents.
The Day of the Triffids	John Wyndham	After recovering from an eye injury, Bill finds civilisation has come to an end. His greatest threat comes from plants genetically engineered to feed on human flesh. Fantastic
Metawars	Jeff Norton	The Millenials and Guardians are locked in a battle over the control of the Metasphere. A fabulous si-fi exploring 'what if' scenarios.
Children of the Dust	Louise Lawrence	After a nuclear attack, Sarah and her family have to stay in a sealed kitchen for days on end, dreading the inevitable radioactive fall-out. But then from out of the dust comes new life.
Time Riders	Alex Scarrow	Liam, Maddy and Sal all should have died at different periods of history, but moments before death they were recruited by an agency devised to fix broken history, to protect us and to stop time travel from destroying the world.

War & Conflict

Chocolate Cake with Hitler	Emma Craig	Fictionalised account of the life of Helga Goebbels, the eldest of six children in Germany's first family.
The Diary of Anne Frank	Anne Frank	Diary of a fourteen year old Jewish girl in hiding during the second world war.
Annexed	Sharon Dogar	Fictionalised story of life with Anne Frank from Peter's point of view.
The Book Thief	Frances Zusak	Death takes an interest in an orphaned girl. This Nazi Germany set novel is seeped deep in humanity and compassion. Amazing
Guantanamo Boy	Anna Perera	When fifteen year old Khalid is kidnapped while on holiday in Pakistan, he is forced to go to a place no teenager should ever see.
An Act of Love	Alan Gibbons	Best friends, Imran and Chris, are inseparable until racism, politics and extremism forces them apart.
Prisoner of the Inquisition	Theresa Breslin	When the frightening Inquisition arrives in 15th Century Grenada, they commit acts of brutality inciting betrayal and revenge.