

HGSS Canon

Fifty Books to Read Before You Leave!



Holmer Green Senior School

A canon is a selection of books that is considered essential.

At Holmer Green Senior School, we know that reading is essential for academic and personal development. The benefits of reading link closely to HGSS's four core values.

Work Hard

Committing to reading can help you succeed in all areas of the curriculum.

Be Kind

Reading can help you understand how words and actions impact others. You will show more respect - and gain it!

Have Passion

Reading regularly will help you to achieve your potential across the school and beyond.

Have curiosity


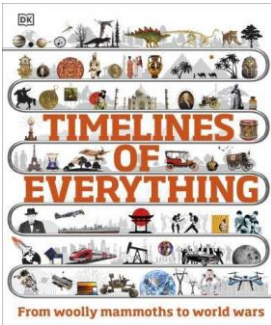
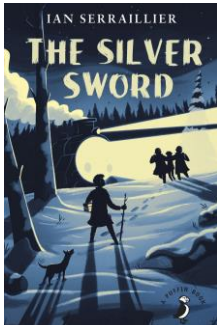
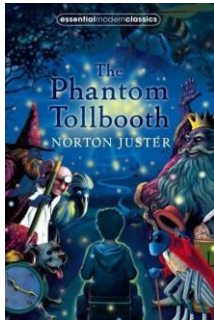
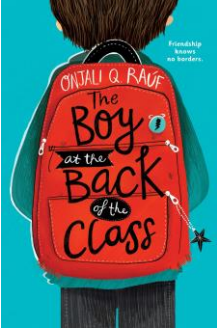

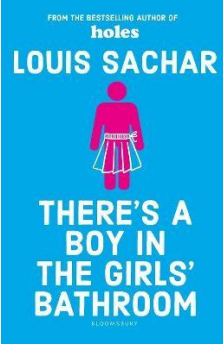
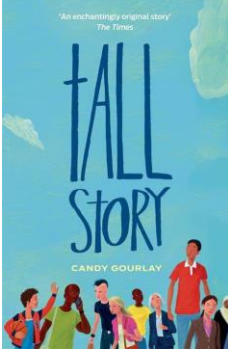
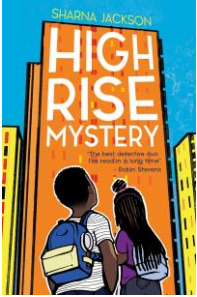
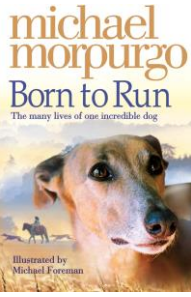
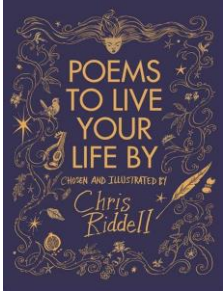

Reading can reflect your own life, be a window into the lives of others and open a door to become who you want to be.

The books on the following pages have been carefully chosen and are recommended for each year group. There were so many more titles we couldn't include but we think this selection is a good blueprint for your reading journey.

Please Note: The links to external sites are not monitored by HGSS

**We challenge our pupils in each year group
to read these ten titles over the school year.**


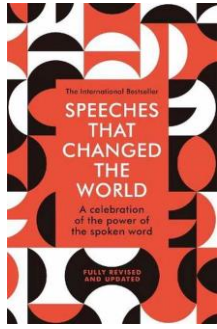
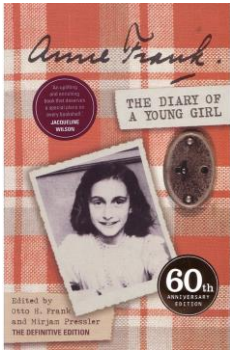
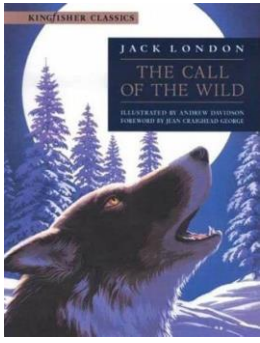
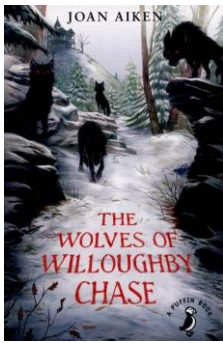
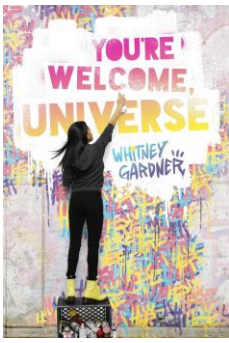
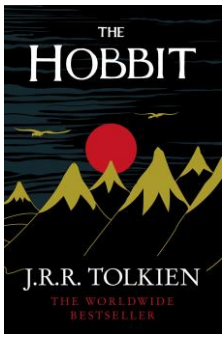
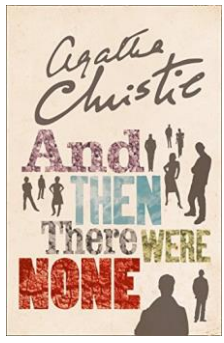
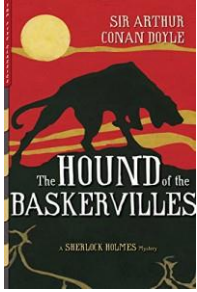

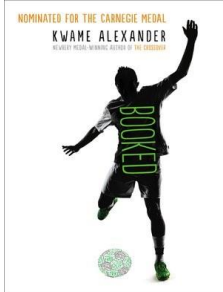

Year 7 is all about exploring your world. Moving to secondary school exposes you to new people, ideas and places. The Year 7+ list includes historical and fantasy adventures in new and strange lands. There are several books to help you see life from the perspective of others. There is a book of timelines so you can make sense of what has gone before and there is an anthology of poetry to help you live your life!

<p>HGSS Canon</p> 			
<p>Recommended Reads for Year 7+</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Timelines of Everything by DK</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> The Silver Sword by Ian Serraillier</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> The Phantom Tollbooth by Norton Juster</p>
			
<p><input type="checkbox"/> The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Rauf</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Wonder by I.R. Palacio</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> There's A Boy in the Girls' Bathroom by Louis Sachar</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Tall Story by Candy Gourlay</p>
			<p>Year 7+</p> 
<p><input type="checkbox"/> High Rise Mystery by Sharna Jackson</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Born to Run by Michael Morpurgo</p>	<p><input type="checkbox"/> Poems to Live Your Life By (ed by) Chris Riddell</p>	<p>Exploring Your World</p>

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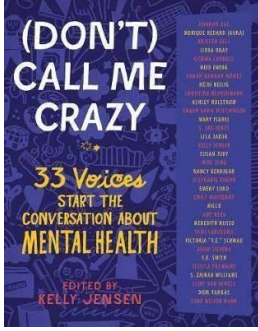
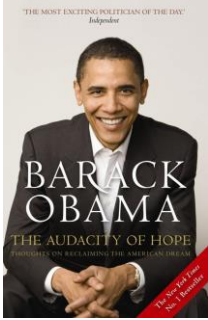
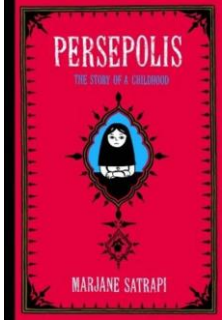

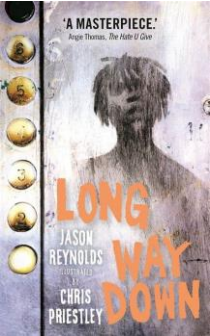

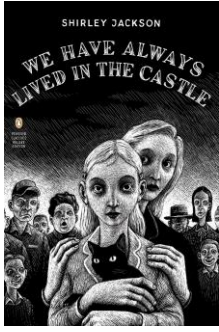
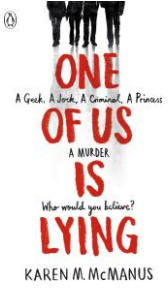
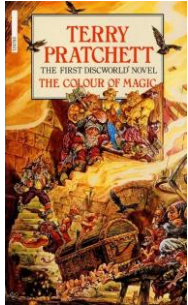
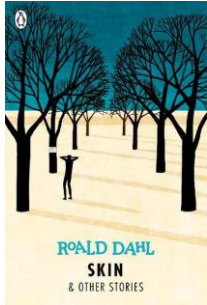

By Year 8, you 've found your feet in secondary school and now it is time to find your voice. The Year 8+ list includes an anthology of speeches that changed the world, a young girl whose diary exposed some of the real horrors of the holocaust and a number of books where unlikely characters step up to become heroes.

Plus, can you solve two classic mysteries?

<p>HGSS Canon</p>  <p>Recommended Reads for Year 8+</p>			
	<input type="checkbox"/> Speeches That Changed The World (Quercus)	<input type="checkbox"/> The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank	<input type="checkbox"/> The Call of the Wild by Jack London
			
<input type="checkbox"/> The Wolves of Willoughby Chase by Joan Aiken	<input type="checkbox"/> You're Welcome, Universe by Whitney Gardner	<input type="checkbox"/> The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien	<input type="checkbox"/> And Then There Were None by Agatha Christie
			<p>Year 8+</p>  <p>Finding Your Voice</p>
<input type="checkbox"/> The Hound of the Baskervilles by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle	<input type="checkbox"/> Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children Ransom Riggs	<input type="checkbox"/> Booked by Kwame Alexander	

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Year 9 is interesting. You aren't yet an adult but you're too old to be a kid. The Year 9+ list looks at how this can make you feel. There is an anthology of real-life accounts about mental health and coming of age novels where difficult decisions have to be made. To lighten the mood, Barack Obama tells us about his unexpected journey to become president and Terry Pratchett introduces us to his wonderful Discworld.

<p>HGSS Canon</p>  <p>Recommended Reads for Year 9+</p>			
	<input type="checkbox"/> (Don't) Call Me Crazy Edited by Kelly Jensen	<input type="checkbox"/> The Audacity of Hope by Barack Obama	<input type="checkbox"/> Persepolis by Marjane Satrapi
			
<input type="checkbox"/> The Knife of Never Letting Go by Patrick Ness	<input type="checkbox"/> Long Way Down by Jason Reynolds and Chris Priestley	<input type="checkbox"/> The Outsiders by S.E. Hinton	<input type="checkbox"/> We Have Always Lived in the Castle by Shirley Jackson
			<p>Year 9+</p> 
<input type="checkbox"/> One of Us is Lying by Karen M. McManus	<input type="checkbox"/> The Colour of Magic by Terry Pratchett	<input type="checkbox"/> Skin and Other Stories by Roald Dahl	<p>Tackling the Tough Stuff</p>


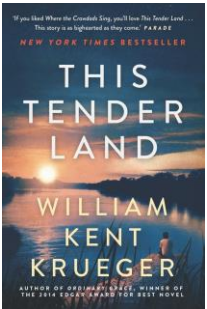
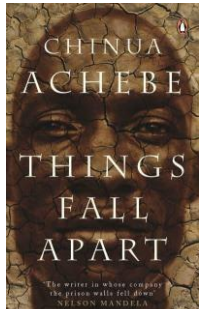
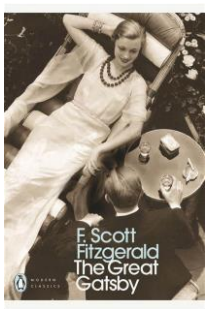
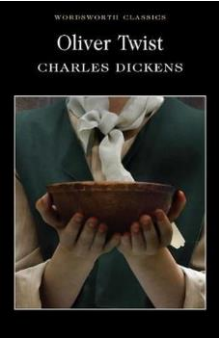
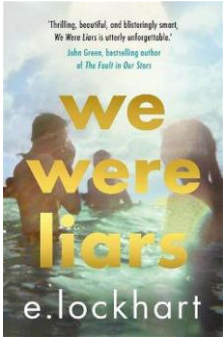
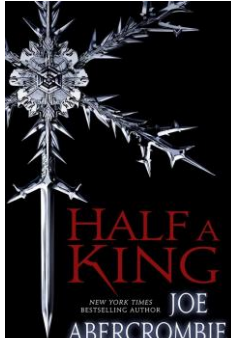

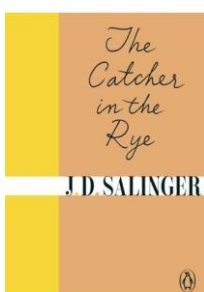
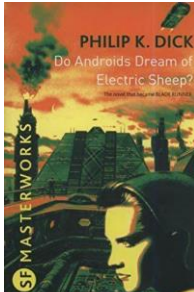


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Year 10 is a great time to grow up and make some changes in your life. The Y10+ list looks at how unexpected events can lead to a new way of thinking. You'll find some top tips for being an adult, some characters who make huge discoveries about themselves and an anthology of short stories on the subject of change. Plus there's a book to help tackle the environmental problems faced by our planet.

<p>HGSS Canon</p>  <p>Recommended Reads for Year 10+</p>	 <p><input type="checkbox"/> American Born Chinese by Gene Luen Yang</p>	 <p><input type="checkbox"/> A Change is Gonna Come by various authors</p>	 <p><input type="checkbox"/> Adulting for Beginners by Jeff Johnson</p>
 <p><input type="checkbox"/> The Life of Pi by Yann Martel</p>	 <p><input type="checkbox"/> Drawdown Edited by Paul Hawken</p>	 <p><input type="checkbox"/> Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro</p>	 <p><input type="checkbox"/> To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee</p>
 <p><input type="checkbox"/> Midwinterblood by Marcus Sedgewick</p>	 <p><input type="checkbox"/> Aristotle and Dante ... by Benjamin Alire Saenz</p>	 <p><input type="checkbox"/> Boys Don't Cry by Malorie Blackman</p>	<p>Year 10+</p>  <p>Discoveries and Changes</p>

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As you reach the end of your Beechen journey, it's time to look ahead. This list for Year 11+ delves into the deeper aspects of life. The universal themes of love, revenge, greed, survival, the search for truth, how the past affects the future, rebellion and facing mortality are all explored in this selection of books which are an amazing springboard for your future reading choices.

<p>HGSS</p> <p>Canon</p>  <p>Recommended Reads for Year 11+</p>			
	<input type="checkbox"/> This Tender Land by William Kent Krueger	<input type="checkbox"/> Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe	<input type="checkbox"/> The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
			
<input type="checkbox"/> Oliver Twist by Charles Dickens	<input type="checkbox"/> We Were Liars by E. Lockhart	<input type="checkbox"/> Half a King by Joe Abercrombie	<input type="checkbox"/> The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas
			<p>Year 11+</p> 
<input type="checkbox"/> The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger	<input type="checkbox"/> Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? Philip K. Dick	<input type="checkbox"/> Blood Moon by Lucy CutheW	<p>Life</p>

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