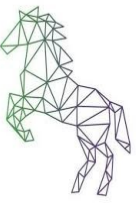


# The 'Lockdown Library'

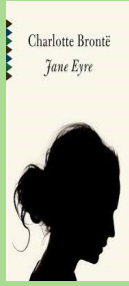


**KSA READING RECOMMENDATIONS TO GET YOU THROUGH TO THE OTHER SIDE!**

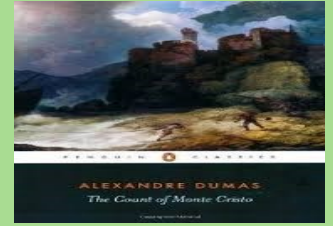
Genre / Category	Recommendations	Comment
<p>Crime, Horror and Science Fiction</p>	<p><i>True Grit</i> - Charles Portis <i>The Humans</i> - Matt Haig <i>The Shining</i> – Stephen King <i>Dracula</i>—Bram Stoker <i>Frankenstein</i>—Mary Shelley</p>	<p>Mrs Webber says of <i>True Grit</i>: "In this classic adventure which inspired the films of the same name, 14 year old Mattie Ross sets off to avenge her father's murder and bring his killer to justice. A gripping tale of bravery and grit!" <i>The Humans</i> was recommended by a Year 13 student who called it "An intriguing read!"</p> 
<p>Teen experiences</p> 	<p><i>The Hate U Give</i> – Angie Thomas <i>The Sky is Everywhere or I'll Give you the Sun'</i> - Jandy Nelson <i>The Outsiders</i> – S. E Hinton <i>Catcher in the Rye</i> – J. D Salinger</p> 	<p><i>The Hate U Give</i> is a department favourite—a "fab book, important with a great exploration of race and class" according to Mr Donnelly whilst Mrs Slade called it "gripping... with important issues for young people to engage with". Jandy Nelson writes young adult fiction. These two books explore love, grief and relationships, following the characters on their journeys of self- discovery. Miss Wardle says of <i>The Outsiders</i>: "This short novel encompasses a range of issues from gang culture, poverty, social division, toxic masculinity and violent crime. I was surprised by the level of empathy I developed for these characters, despite their actions and attitudes. All in all, a short-ish yet very thought-provoking read."</p>
<p>Dystopian visions</p> 	<p><i>The Road</i> - Cormac McCarthy <i>1984</i> - George Orwell <i>The Power</i> - Naomi Alderman <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> -Margaret Attwood <i>Station Eleven</i> -Emily St. John Mandel</p>	<p>Miss Wardle says: "These are all quite challenging and a little disturbing reads but they are powerful, memorable and each one has an important message about the world we live in. My personal favourite? <i>1984</i> - a real pioneer of the genre. However, if you want a break from the subject of pandemics, steer clear of <i>Station Eleven!</i>" Meanwhile, <i>The Power</i> comes recommended by a Year 13 student who says she "just loves it!"</p>  
<p>Modern Classics</p> 	<p><i>Never Let Me Go</i> - Kazuo Ishiguro <i>I Capture the Castle</i> - Dodi Smith <i>The Gathering Light</i> - Jennifer Donnelly <i>Maggot Moon</i>—Sally Gardner <i>The Life of Pi</i>-Yann Martel</p> 	<p>Ms Green says: " <i>The Gathering Light</i> is a beautiful book looking at gender, race and the power of education. It is structured around a series of letters written by a woman whose body is discovered in a lake. This case is a true story even though the story is fictional. <i>Maggot Moon</i> is a really interesting and quite abstract novel. It is written by a dyslexic writer and the font is designed to be accessible. Well worth a read."</p>  

**Older classics**

*Jane Eyre*—Charlotte Bronte  
*Little Women*—Louisa May Alcott  
*Emma* -Jane Austen  
*The Count of Monte Cristo*  
 -Alexander Dumas

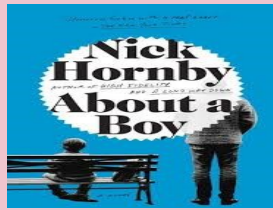
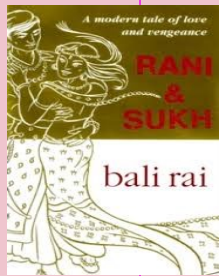


Mrs Stokes says: "*Jane Eyre* is a classic! I remember reading it in Year 10 and being enchanted by the story and the heroine."  
 Ms Solon says of *Little Women*: "I still remember being absorbed in this as a teenager. A classic coming of age story, the four March sisters - and their neighbour Laurie - learn about love, loss, and feminism!"  
 Miss Wardle says: "*The Count of Monte Cristo* is a cracking read from the author of *The Three Musketeers*—an exhilarating revenge saga with a strong message about resilience and never giving up hope."



**Linked to your GCSE Literature texts**

*Rani and Sukh*  
 —Bali Rai  
*The Fault in our Stars*  
 —John Green  
*A Tale of Two Cities* - Charles Dickens  
*About A Boy*  
 —Nick Hornby

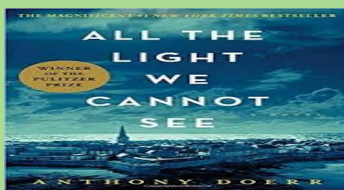
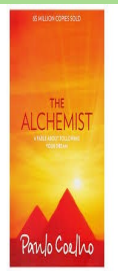


Mrs Stokes says: "*Rani and Sukh* is a great modern day *Romeo and Juliet* which considers different cultures and religions and the barricades to love. In a similar vein, *The Fault in Our Stars* (warning—bit of weepie!) also makes allusions to Shakespeare's classic through its depiction of a similarly tragic teen couple."

Miss Wardle says: "*A Tale of Two Cities* is my favourite Dickens novel. Set against the backdrop of the bloody French Revolution, it picks up on themes we see in *A Christmas Carol*—like an evolving social conscience, isolation, an understanding of privilege and a character arc that you could say is similar to that of Scrooge. The modern novel *About a Boy* by Nick Hornby (also a great film) likewise studies a character who believes isolated living is the way forward before encounters with different people begin to teach him otherwise."

**Exploring the self and society**

*All the Light We Cannot See*  
 - Anthony Duerr  
*The Alchemist*  
 -Paulo Coelho  
*The Goldfinch*  
 -Donna Tartt  
*A Thousand Splendid Suns*  
 —Khaled Hosseini  
*Salt to the sea*  
 -Ruta Sepetys



Mr Lonsdale says of *All the Light We Cannot See*: "Action, intrigue and a little bit of romance. Set in France in WWII, this beautifully plotted story will keep you gripped right to the end. One of those books that you're a little sad to finish!"

Miss Tordoff says: "*The Alchemist* is one to read and possibly read again...escapist reading that follows the travels of Santiago, an Andalusian Shepherd, with an important message at its heart: learn to go with the flow of life! *The Goldfinch* is a fairly challenging and longer read but epic! A coming of age story that follows the story of a young boy navigating his way through life. A novel about love, loss, friendship."

Mrs Hastings says: *A Thousand Splendid Suns* is a book with adult and disturbing themes and experiences—so do be aware of this if you opt to read it. But it's a paradoxically beautiful story set against the unstable events of Afghanistan's last thirty years; a story of humanity in a volatile situation and a tale of two generations of characters brought together by the tragic sweep of war. It's very moving and links to the consequences of conflict and the plight of refugees. I really liked it."

**Non Fiction**

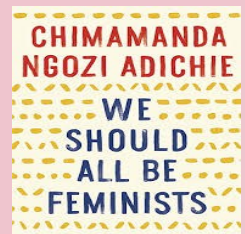
*Fingers in the Sparkle Jar*  
 Chris Packham  
*Diary of a Young Naturalist* -Dara McAnulty  
*In The Sea There are Crocodiles* -Fabio Geda  
*We Should All Be Feminists* -Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie  
*No One Is Too Small To Change The World* -Greta Thunberg



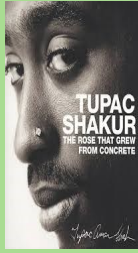
Miss Tordoff says: "*Fingers in the Sparkle Jar* is a fascinating insight into the mind of Chris Packham, living with asperger's syndrome and his love of nature. A really engaging read that almost reads like a novel. Moving and uplifting! Haven't read McAnulty's debut book but it comes highly recommended and is on the list!"

It has been said by one review that *We Should All Be Feminists* should be read by every young person for a "world of happier men and happier women who are truer to themselves".

Indeed, Sweden did just that, giving it to every 16 year old in the country.....



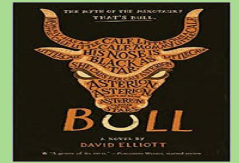
Poetry



*Ten Years in an Open Necked Shirt*  
 -John Cooper Clarke  
*Milk and Honey* and *The Sun and Her Flowers*  
 -Rupi Kaur  
*Bull*—David Elliott  
*The Rose that Grew from Concrete*  
 —Tupac Shakur  
 Anything by Kate Tempest

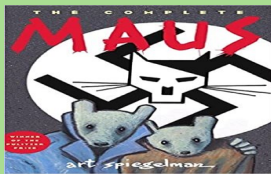
We often think of poetry as something we have to do in English lessons, which is a shame, as it is a dynamic and powerful mode of expression and the foundation of many of our favourite songs—for example, the name Tupac Shakur might be more familiar to you through the world of rap music and Kate Tempest now sells out concert venues reciting her very modern brand of poetry. Why not have both a novel and a poetry book on the go?!

Miss Tordoff says: "What's not to love about Cooper Clarke! Wry, dry, witty and moving. A must read."

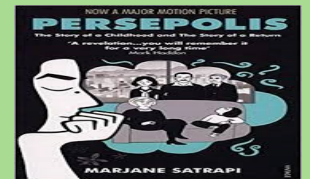


Graphic Novels

*Maus*  
 - Art Spiegelman  
*Persepolis*  
 - Marjane Satrapi  
*Watchmen*  
 - Alan Moore



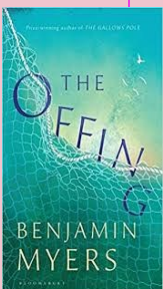
Over the last decade or so, graphic novels have become increasingly recognised for their sophistication and cutting-edge content. Long seen as being inferior to traditional novels, they are now reaching an ever-widening audience who laud their creativity and vision. *Persepolis* is an autobiographical account of a young girl growing up during the Iranian / Islamic Revolution; *Maus* depicts creator Spiegelman interviewing his father about his experiences as a Polish Jew and Holocaust survivor and *Watchmen* is set in an alternate 1985 America where costumed superheroes are part of everyday life. All 3 are excellent places to begin a graphic novel habit!



The Head's recommendations



*The Offing*  
 -Benjamin Myers  
  
*Sapiens*  
 -Yuval Noah Harari  
  
*How to Stop Time*  
 -Matt Haig  
  
*A Walk in the Woods*  
 -Bill Bryson  
  
*Jack Reacher* books  
 - Lee Child



Dr Bell says: "I found *Sapiens* incredibly thought provoking and couldn't put it down! It tracks the history of the human race and helps to shed some light on our history, our evolution and our inherent motivations. *A Walk in the Woods* by Bill Bryson is a much-needed uplifting read. When we cannot get out as much as we want this is a lovely trip into nature. Bill is always relaxed funny and engaging. To be honest, any Bill Bryson travel writing also makes you feel like you have had a trip yourself. *The Offing* set in 1946, follows sixteen year old Robert Appleyard as he embarks on an adventure from his Durham mining village to Robin Hood's Bay. It is a wonderful coming-of-age book about being on the brink of adulthood and discovering the wider world. Finally, *How to Stop Time* is a novel about family, enduring friendship and time travel which is very readable. Many of the books on both the KS3 recommended lockdown list and this one I have read with my son Henry, but I would also recommend any Jack Reacher (by Lee Child) books just for pure predictable escapism!"

