

## Overview: Tutor Reading Programme

| Year 9   |  |   |
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| Text   | Short Summary  | Key Themes  |
| <b>Animal Farm,</b><br><i>George Orwell (1945)</i>         | <p>A group of animals take control of the farm they live on. The animals become tired of the treatment they receive from their master, Farmer Jones, so they overthrow him. Life on the farm is good for a while and there is hope for a happier future of less work, better education and more food. However, trouble brews as the pigs fight for the hearts and minds of the other animals on the farm. A commentary on the Russian Revolution, this story parallels the narrative told by a major event in history.</p>   | <p><i>leadership and corruption, control of naïve working class, lies and deception, dreams and hopes</i></p> |
| <b>Flowers for Algernon,</b><br><i>Daniel Keyes (1994)</i> | <p>A classic novel about a daring experiment in human intelligence. Charlie Gordon, IQ 68, is a floor sweeper and the gentle butt of everyone's jokes - until an experiment in the enhancement of human intelligence changes him. It's a procedure that has been highly successful when tested on a lab mouse named Algernon. As Algernon's fate is revealed before Charlie's very eyes, he is forced to question his own destiny.</p>   | <p><i>power; man playing God, friendship, intelligence, human relationships</i></p>                           |
| <b>Of Mice and Men,</b><br><i>John Steinbeck (1937)</i>    | <p>A parable about what it means to be human. Steinbeck's story introduces the unlikely pair of George and Lennie and their ambition of owning their own ranch. It reveals the obstacles that stand in the way of that ambition. Ultimately, Lennie, the mentally handicapped giant who makes George's dream of owning his own ranch worthwhile, ironically becomes the greatest obstacle to achieving that dream.</p>   | <p><i>dreams, loneliness, companionship, the American dream, women</i></p>                                    |
| <b>The Book Thief,</b><br><i>Marcus Zusak (2005)</i>       | <p>Liesel Meminger, a young teenager faces the harsh realities of living in Germany during World War II. Liesel's experiences are narrated by Death, who describes both the beauty and destruction of life in this era. After her brother's death, Liesel arrives at the home of her new foster parents, Hans and Rosa Hubermann. During her time there, she is exposed to the horror of the Nazi regime and struggles to enjoy her childhood in the midst of her destructive surroundings. When her foster parents agree to hide a Jewish man named Max, they are forced to cope with the danger that this brings. Learning to read, Liesel recognises the power of the written word, and finds comfort in the freedom that the books she encounters bring.</p> | <p><i>the power of words, war, mortality, suffering, courage, Nazi Germany</i></p>                            |



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| <b>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time,</b><br><i>Mark Haddon (2003)</i> | Christopher John Francis Boone knows all the countries of the world and their capitals, and every prime number up to 7,057. He relates well to animals but has little understanding of human emotions. He cannot stand to be touched. And he detests the colour yellow. Although gifted with a superbly logical brain, for fifteen-year-old Christopher everyday interactions and admonishments have little meaning. He lives on patterns, rules, and a diagram kept in his pocket. Then, one day, a neighbour's dog, Wellington, is killed and his carefully constructed universe is threatened. Christopher sets out to solve the murder in the style of his favourite (logical) detective, Sherlock Holmes. What follows makes for a novel that is funny, poignant and fascinating in its portrayal of a person whose curse and blessing are a mind that perceives the world entirely literally.   | <i>independence, disorder, coping with loss, honesty and trust</i>   |
| <b>The Fault in our Stars,</b><br><i>John Green (2012)</i>                             | A book about a young teenage girl who has been diagnosed with lung cancer and attends a cancer support group. Hazel is 16 and is reluctant to go to the support group, but she soon realises that it was a good idea. Hazel meets a young boy named Augustus Waters. He is charming and witty. Augustus has had osteosarcoma, a rare form of bone cancer, but has recently had the all clear. Hazel and Augustus embark on a roller coaster ride of emotions, including love, sadness and romance, while searching for the author of their favourite book. They travel to Amsterdam in search of Peter Van Houten the author of An Imperial Affliction. While on their trip Augustus delivers heartbreaking news to Hazel and both of their worlds fall apart around them.  | <i>life and death, suffering, fear, friendship, love</i>             |
| <b>The Hunger Games,</b><br><i>Suzanne Collins (2008)</i>                              | Winning will make you famous. Losing means certain death. The nation of Panem, formed from a post-apocalyptic North America, is a country that consists of a wealthy Capitol region surrounded by 12 poorer districts. As punishment of a previous rebellion, and as a reminder of the power and grace of the Capitol, each district must yield one boy and one girl between the ages of 12 and 18 through a lottery system to participate in the games. The 'tributes' are chosen during the annual Reaping and are forced to fight to the death, leaving only one survivor to claim victory. When 16-year-old Katniss's young sister, Prim, is selected as District 12's female representative, Katniss volunteers to take her place. She and her male counterpart Peeta, are pitted against bigger, stronger representatives, some of whom have trained for this their whole lives. She sees it as a death sentence, but Katniss has been close to death before. | <i>power, class inequality, identity, love, strength &amp; skill</i> |