

Text Overview: Tutor Reading Programme



Year 9		
Text & Study Link	Short Summary	Key Themes
<p>The Book Thief <i>Marcus Zusak (2005)</i> http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/the-book-thief/</p>	<p>The Book Thief centres on the life of Liesel Meminger, a teenager 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.</p>	<p><i>death, war, Nazi Germany, responsibility, writing, darkness</i></p>
<p>Animal Farm <i>George Orwell (1945)</i> http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/animalfarm/</p>	<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. This is a commentary on the Russian Revolution.</p>	<p><i>leadership and corruption, control of naïve working class, lies and deception, dreams and hopes</i></p>
<p>The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night-Time, <i>Mark Haddon (2003)</i> http://www.sparknotes.com/lit/the-curious-incident-of-the-dog-in-the-night-time/</p>	<p>Fifteen-year-old Christopher with an exceptional, logical brain lives on patterns, rules, and a diagram kept in his pocket. When his neighbour's dog, Wellington, is killed he sets out to solve the murder in the style of his favourite detective, Sherlock Holmes.</p>	<p><i>difference, outsiders, perspective, social disability</i></p>
<p>Flowers for Algernon <i>Daniel Keyes (1994)</i> https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/algernon/</p>	<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>
<p>The Fault in our Stars <i>John Green (2012)</i> https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/the-fault-in-our-stars/</p>	<p>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 heart-breaking news to Hazel and both of their worlds fall apart around them.</p>	<p><i>life and death, suffering, fear, friendship, love</i></p>
<p>The Hunger Games <i>Suzanne Collins (2008)</i> https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/the-hunger-games/</p>	<p>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</p>	<p><i>power, class inequality, identity, love, strength & skill</i></p>

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	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.	
Oliver Twist Charles Dickens (1838) https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/oliver/	Charles Dickens' classic story of a young boy who seeks his fortune on the streets of London. After Oliver Twist asks nasty Mr Bumble for more food, he has to flee the workhouse for the streets of London. Here he meets the Artful Dodger, who leads him to Fagin and his gang of pickpockets. When a thieving mission goes wrong, Oliver narrowly avoids prison and finds himself in the care of kind Mr Brownlow. But Fagin and the brutal Bill Sikes go in search of the young orphan, determined to drag him back . . .	<i>treatment of children, class division, poverty, childhood and innocence</i>