

The Sutton Academy **Literary Canon**



Contents

Year 7

Ruby in the smoke.....Page 4

Black and British.....Page 5

Year 8

Chinese Cinderella.....Page 6

Animal Farm.....Page 7

Year 9

Noughts and Crosses.....Page 8

Lord of the Flies.....Page 9

Year 10

Grow.....Page 10

Never Let Me Go.....Page 11

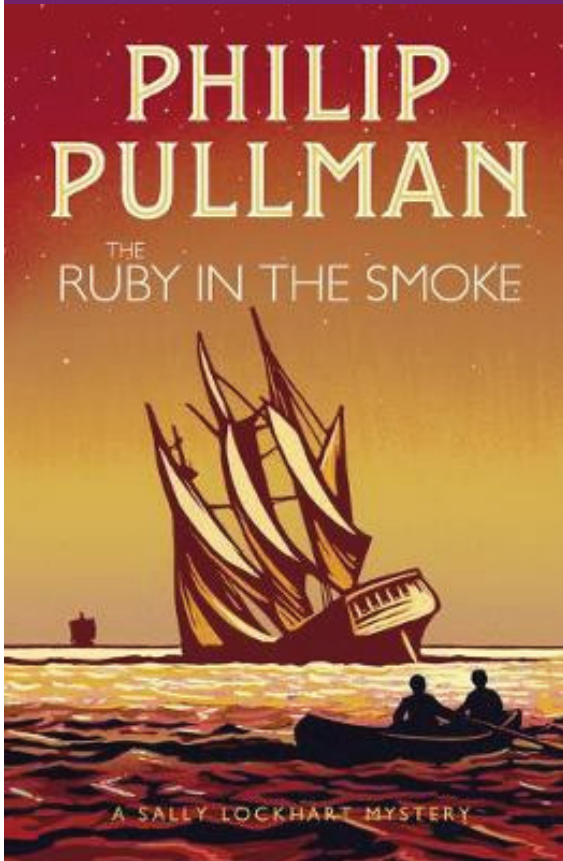
Year 11

The Outrage.....Page 12

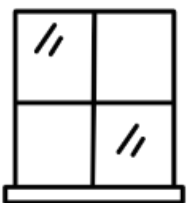
More than this.....Page 13

Literary Canon.....Page 15 & 16

Year 7:
Ruby in the smoke (RA 12-18 years)



Sally Lockhart tries to find the meaning behind her father's last letter which contained a cryptic message that can strike a man dead with fear. Sally finds herself in a mystery involving assassins, opium dens, Chinese gangs, and the Ruby of Agrapur.




Students will be able to see Sally moving from childhood to adulthood. They will see how life was in Victorian England especially for women and the use of drugs, particularly opium. The use of opium pulls all the different plot elements together and almost all the suffering and evil portrayed in the story somehow caused by it. It is represented as a very dangerous, destructive and evil substance, which will only cause greed, misery and corruption. Students will also see a female excel in mathematics and business as Sally works as an accountant and manager.

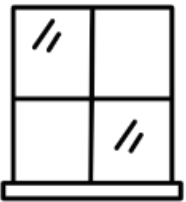


Students will be able to see a feisty female protagonist who is dealing with grief as she has recently been orphaned due to the death of her father. Students will also see that qualities, such as loyalty, are key to any friendships.


Year 7:
Black and British (RA 12+ years)

Black and British, the new work by Olusoga, comes with the subtitle: A Forgotten History. But forgotten by whom? The early black presence in Britain was not so much forgotten as suppressed – well, if not suppressed then at least untold. Even 10 years ago, if such a mainstream work as Olusoga’s had been proposed it might well have been rejected at publishers’ acquisition meetings with the note: “no commercial prospects”. But as Olusoga demonstrates so forcefully in his admirable book, this is a shared history and a reclaiming of a lost past. It builds on the need he felt back in the 1980s for an urgent “uncovering of black British history ... because the present was so contested”.

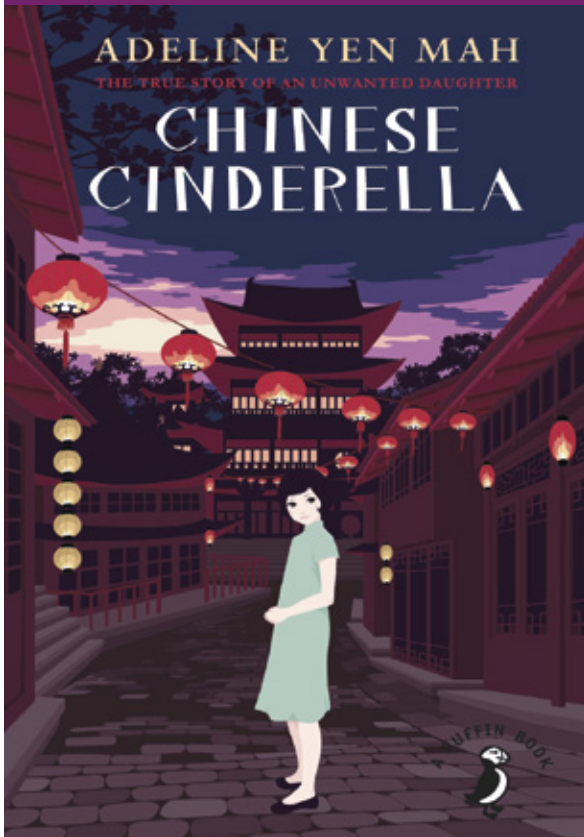



Through Olusoga’s authoritative text, students will be exposed to periods of British history which are both shameful and appalling. “It ranges from the first Africans to come to Britain to the shameful Windrush scandal, and takes in the industrial revolution, cotton grown on slave plantations and the black soldiers who fought for Britain in the first world war. Olusoga’s book conveys with calm clarity why all British children should be taught black history.” (Guardian online)

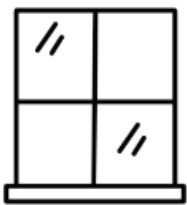



We live in a multicultural country; every day our eyes are opened to the cultural norms and the great diversity of the world around us. Olusoga’s book enables students to begin to understand their place in the world community. Boundaries that have been built up over generations of misunderstanding and racial hatred are addressed, exposed, and shown to be outdated, shameful, and without logical foundation.

Year 8:
Chinese Cinderella (RA 12 years +)



Jung-ling's family considers her bad luck because her mother died giving birth to her. They discriminate against her and make her feel unwanted yet she yearns and continuously strives for her parents' love. Her stepmother is vindictive and cruel and her father dismissive. Jung-ling grows up to be an academic child, with a natural ability for writing. Only her aunt and grandfather offer her any love and kindness. The story is of survival in the light of the mental and physical cruelty of her stepmother and the disloyalty of her siblings. Jung-ling blossoms in spite of everything and the story ends as her father agrees to let her study in England.



Students will develop an insight into different cultures and traditions. They will be able to discuss issues surrounding abusive family relationships and how love and kindness are powerful and reaffirming qualities. They can examine, discuss and reflect upon how even under the worst of circumstances, young people can make positive choices in life and exceed expectations.

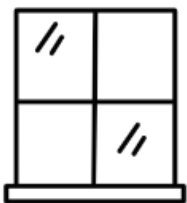


This novel allows students to explore abusive relationships, how they come about, their form and consequences. They are exposed to how a character copes with those situations and brings about positive change in her life. Themes of cruelty are counterpointed with love, kindness, and generosity.

Year 8:
Animal Farm (RA 13+)



All animals are equal. But some animals are more equal than others. Mr Jones of Manor Farm is so lazy and drunken that one day he forgets to feed his livestock. The ensuing rebellion under the leadership of the pigs Napoleon and Snowball leads to the animals taking over the farm. Vowing to eliminate the terrible inequities of the farmyard, the renamed Animal Farm is organised to benefit all who walk on four legs. But as time passes, the ideals of the rebellion are corrupted, then forgotten. And something new and unexpected emerges. . First published in 1945, *Animal Farm* - the history of a revolution that went wrong - is George Orwell's brilliant satire on the corrupting influence of power.

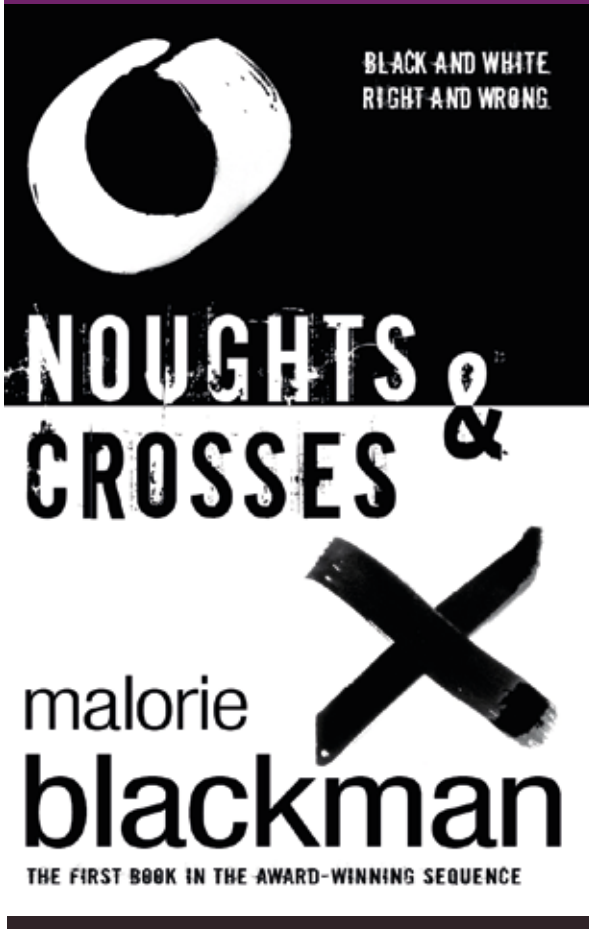


When does leadership become dictatorship? When does "freedom" no longer exist? In this famous 1945 novel by George Orwell, the author asks these questions and more. Students will be exposed in allegorical form to the political upheavals of the Russian Revolution of 1917 when the Tsars were removed from power and the country was thrown into years of turmoil and upheaval. Animals, taking the place of humans, are exploited by unscrupulous and self-serving leaders. Students will face issues of inequality, injustice, and destructive hierarchy in this challenging and engaging short novel.

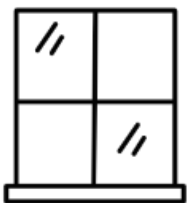


We take our individual freedoms very much for granted in the Twenty First Century, and through this story students will consider what it is to be free, what their responsibilities are, and how precious individual rights and equality are. In "*Animal Farm*" students will consider their individual roles and responsibilities in the communities within which they live. They will be exposed to a society in which the very nature of freedom is critiqued and evaluated.

Year 9:
Noughts and Crosses (RA: 13-16 years of age)



Against a background of prejudice and distrust, intensely highlighted by violent terrorist activity by Noughts, a romance builds between Sephy and Callum - a romance that is to lead both of them into terrible danger. By reversing traditional racial stereotypes and presenting the White population as the oppressed race, Blackman has cleverly shown racial prejudice from a different perspective.



Through this text students will be able to see racism and how segregation affects both sides. They will also see the effects of terrorism and be given an insight into the mind of a character who justifies these actions. Students will also be introduced to the concept of forbidden love based on race.



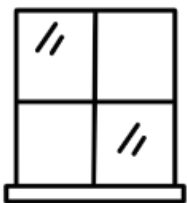
Students will see how young people negotiate their way through childhood, overcoming obstacles, and striving to make a better life for themselves and others around them. Students will also be able to see the views of the privileged reversed from what is the norm.

Year 9:
Lord of the Flies (RA 13+)



A plane crashes on a desert island. The only survivors are a group of schoolboys. By day, they discover fantastic wildlife and dazzling beaches, learning to survive; at night, they are haunted by nightmares of a primitive beast.

Orphaned by society, it isn't long before their innocent childhood games devolve into a savage, murderous hunt ...

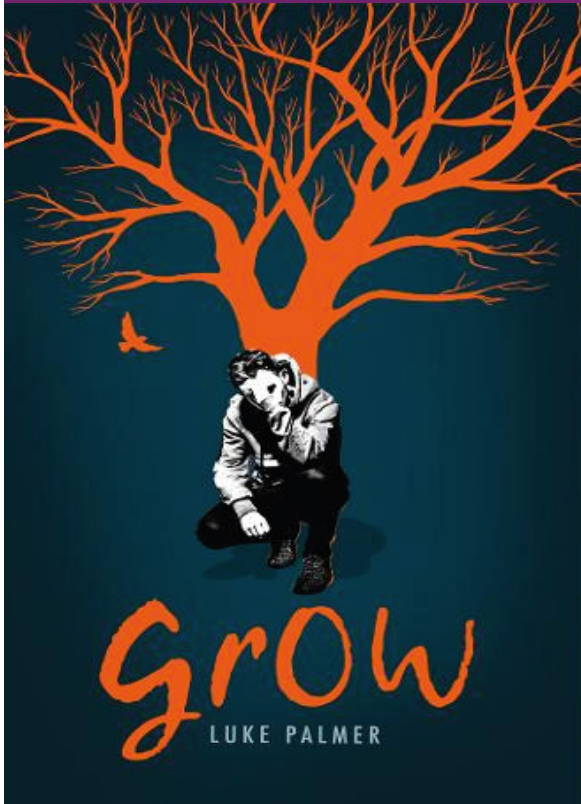


William Golding's powerful novel has stood the test of time and examines the issue of what it means to be a civilised human. How are they formed? How do they live? And, most importantly, can civilised behaviour be taken apart? This novel provides a valuable window on human behaviour. When a group of young boys are stranded on a desert island they try to survive by establishing a hierarchy and rules to abide by. However, as the true nature of their situation gradually dawns on them, they descend into tribal and almost animalistic behaviour. Students will face issues of power, control, manipulation, and the gradual decay of society in this dark and adventurous text.

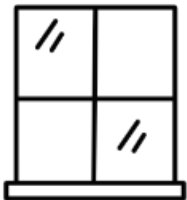


We can learn a lot about our own behaviour and the primal drives which influence how humans behave on a day-to-day basis. Through Golding's challenging text, students will be able to consider how society works, and what can influence our behaviours. They will consider the "pack" mentality, and consider what it is to be an individual in society as well as a part of a larger group. They will be able to critique friendship groups and analyse what "peer pressure" can do at its most extreme.

Year 10:
Grow (RA: 13-16 years of age)



A white supremacist group and its violent leader targets teenage Josh, who is struggling to cope with his father's recent death at the hands of terrorists. Will he find the strength to resist, or will his unlikely relationship with Dana give them both the escape that they so badly need? An unflinching and muscular exploration of grief, and what we plant in the spaces that loss leaves inside us, *Grow* is a tense and compelling novel of our current social landscape.

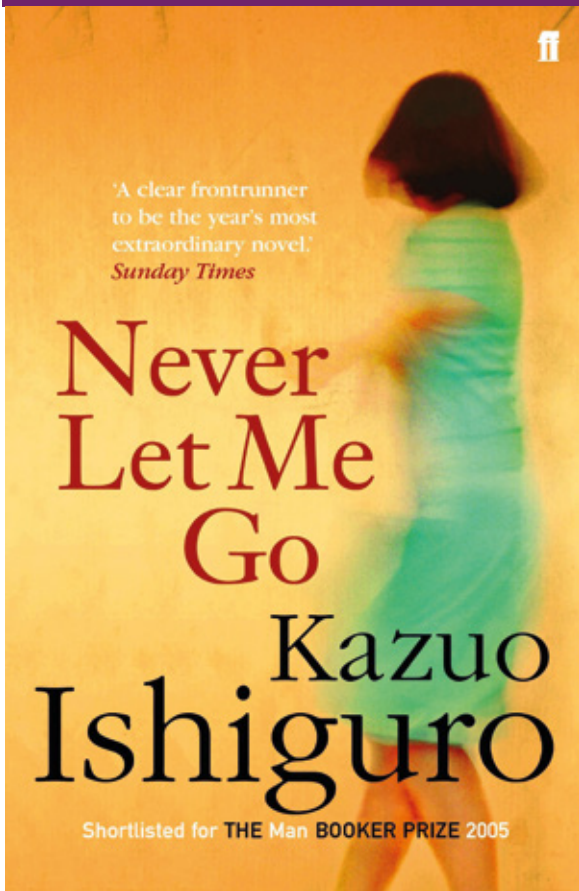


We all pray never to be exposed to the harsh realities of terrorism and its consequences. Josh, in Luke Palmer's *"Grow"* encounters just that – and more. Whilst coping with the death of his father, he is targeted by a white supremacist group as a potential recruit. This gripping novel provides a powerful opportunity for students to see how quickly our "normal lives" can deteriorate and be shattered by unexpected events. Palmer enables students to look out into an unforgiving world where not everything is predictable. This is a tale of strength over grief which will provide students with a gritty realism of the psychology of terrorism and its terrifying consequences.



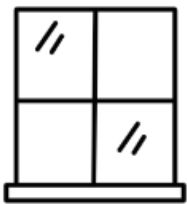
Looking back at ourselves every day, we can feel perfectly safe and protected in our daily lives. Danger is something we think little of, or suppress to concentrate on getting on with the daily task life presents. Josh is a football-playing teenager with plenty of friends – much like any other teen. However, his world is shattered and through his first person narrative, he guides us through his thoughts, nightmares, hopes, and struggles. Students will be able to empathise with Josh and his wish for an ordinary life. They will be able to see how grief can be used as a source of strength. They will also become aware that there are those who seek to manipulate and control us. *"Grow"* in the best sense of the word is about how individual strength can conquer terrorism.

Year 10:
Never Let Me Go (RA 12-15 years of age)



In one of the most acclaimed novels of recent years, Kazuo Ishiguro imagines the lives of a group of students growing up in a darkly skewed version of contemporary England. Narrated by Kathy, now thirty-one, *Never Let Me Go*

dramatises her attempts to come to terms with her childhood at the seemingly idyllic Hailsham School and with the fate that has always awaited her and her closest friends in the wider world. A story of love, friendship and memory, *Never Let Me Go* is charged throughout with a sense of the fragility of life.

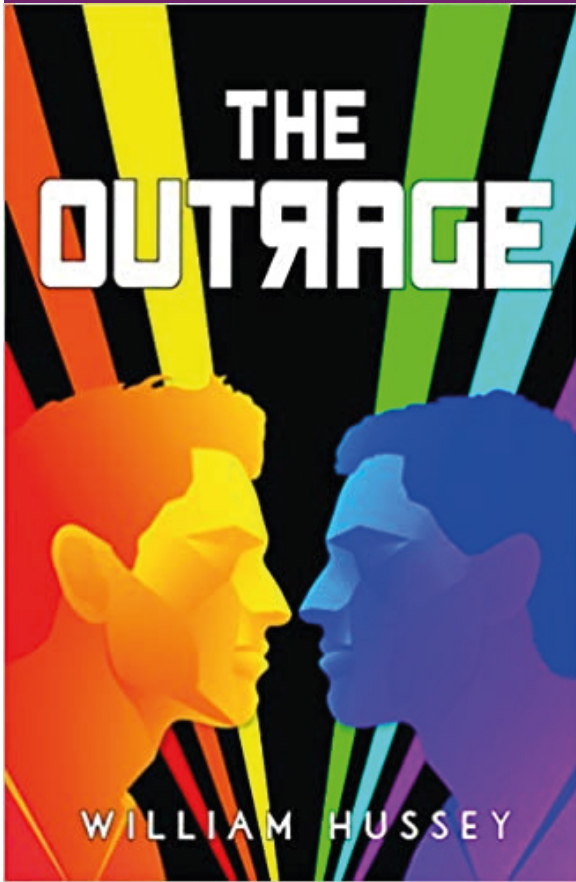


Imagine looking out on a dystopian world, a skewed version of the England we know. Kazuo Ishiguro presents us with a dark vision of a world we take for granted. This novel allows students to explore the big questions of existence; they consider why we exist, what our purpose is in life, and what our ultimate fate may be. Following the story narrated by Kathy, students see a world where remaining healthy is not only of paramount importance, but is used as an excuse to abuse individuals who are created for spare parts. What it is to be alive, what our rights are, and when does the end not justify the means are all considered in this heart-breaking and masterly novel.

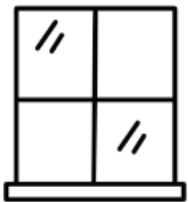


Every day we think about our purpose in life and search for answers. In this novel, students will learn that sometimes finding the truth is more terrifying than imagination. They will examine the complexities of relationships and how they grow and change over time. They will look at the power of friendship and endurance and think about the nature of identity. Students will also think about sacrifice and the true power of friendship.

Year 11:
The Outrage (RA: 14-17 years of age)



Welcome to England, where the Protectorate enforces the Public Good. Here, there are rules for everything - what to eat, what to wear, what to do, what to say, what to read, what to think, who to obey, who to hate, who to love. Your safety is assured, so long as you follow the rules. Gabriel is a natural born rule-breaker. And his biggest crime of all? Being gay. Gabriel knows his sexuality must be kept secret from all but his closest friends, not only to protect himself, but to protect his boyfriend. Because Eric isn't just the boy who has stolen Gabriel's heart. He's the son of the chief inspector at Degenerate Investigations - the man who poses the single biggest threat to Gabriel's life. And the Protectorate are experts at exposing secrets.

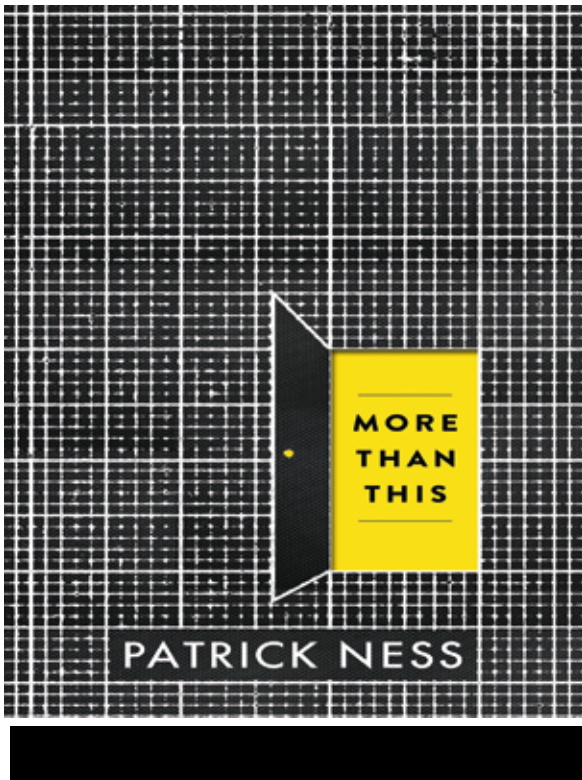


Should we be afraid of who we are? In William Hussey's powerful dystopian novel "The Outrage" students are transported to a world where being "different" is not only vilified but also illegal. The world is ruled by "The Protectorate" - designed to promote public good and well-being. However, the public good also means destroying all those who do not conform. We meet Gabriel who, by being gay, is a natural born rule breaker. He must keep his identity a secret to avoid the worst of punishments. Students will investigate a world where being yourself can be lethal: where injustice and prejudice are not only tolerated; they are encouraged.



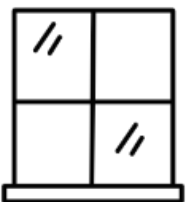
Identity, personal choice, tolerance, equality. These are all dearly valued parts of our society. People must be free to be who they are; to express their identities and live peacefully in an accepting world. Through reading "The Outrage" and learning about the personal struggles of Gabriel and his boyfriend Eric, students begin to appreciate what a world where individual liberties are stripped away would be like. They will evaluate their own freedoms and consider the struggles of those who have gone before to provide them with the liberty they enjoy in the Twenty First Century.

Year 11:
More than this (RA 14-16)



From two-time Carnegie Medal winner Patrick Ness comes an enthralling and provocative new novel chronicling the life – or perhaps afterlife – of a teen trapped in a crumbling, abandoned world. A boy called Seth drowns, desperate and alone in his final moments, losing his life as the pounding sea claims him. But then he wakes. He is naked, thirsty, starving. But alive. How is that possible? He remembers dying, his bones breaking, his skull dashed upon the rocks. So how is he here? And where is this place? It looks like the suburban English town where he lived as a child, before an unthinkable tragedy happened and his family moved to America. But the neighbourhood around his old house is overgrown, covered in dust and completely abandoned. What's going on? And why is it that whenever he closes his eyes, he falls prey to vivid, agonizing memories that seem more real than the world around him? Seth begins a search for answers, hoping that he might not be alone, that this might not be the hell he fears it to be, that there might be more than just this...

What happens to us after we die? Where do we go? Patrick Ness, in his post-apocalyptic novel "More



Than This" offers the reader a strange and distorted view of what hell might be.

We meet Seth at the end of his life, drowning in the ocean. After his death, he awakes in a strangely distorted vision of his old home in the south of England. The world he encounters and the people he meets will open the eyes of students to possible alternative worlds filled with intrigue and danger. It provides darkly sinister answers to some of the biggest questions in life – but also takes us on an adventure to the very limits of life itself!



Mortality, or the nature of life is something people rarely think about consciously. In Patrick Ness' "More Than This" he awakens some of the most fundamental questions human must face. What is life? What is death? What might happen to me after I die? At 16, Seth is a totally relatable character for students to engage with. His hopes, dreams, and fears will mirror those of our students and enable them to engage with some difficult and seemingly impossible questions. Relationships are explored and secrets uncovered.

Literary Canon

Year 7

English Curriculum

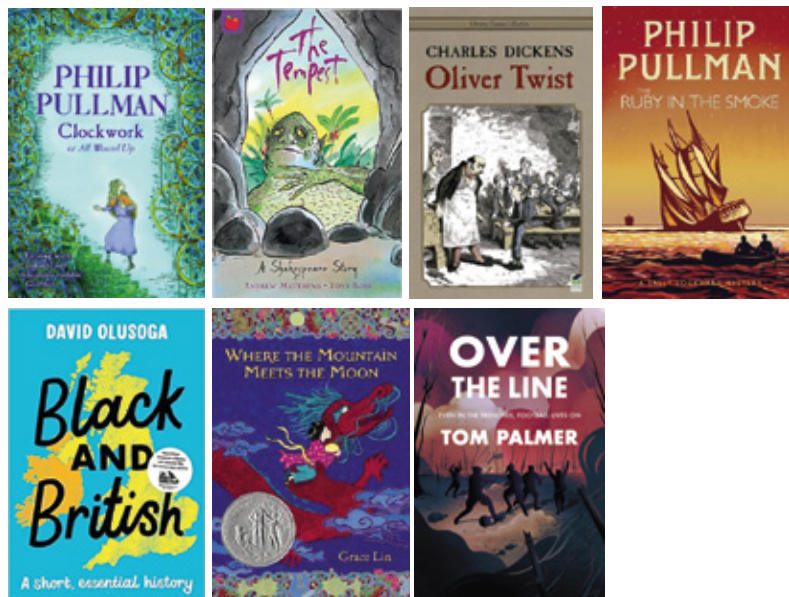
Clockwork - Pullman
 The Tempest - Shakespeare
 Oliver Twist - Dickens

Ready to Learn Set Texts (Fiction/Non-Fiction)

Ruby in the Smoke - Pullman
 Black and British - Olusoga

Reading Interventions

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon - Lin
 Over the line - Palmer



Year 8

English Curriculum

Frankenstein (play) - Shelley
 Long Way Down - Reynolds
 The Hunger Games - Collins
 The Hate U Give - Thomas
 Romeo & Juliet - Shakespeare

Ready to Learn Set Texts (Fiction/Non-Fiction)

Chinese Cinderella - Yen Mah
 Animal Farm - Orwell
 The Diary of a Young Girl - Frank



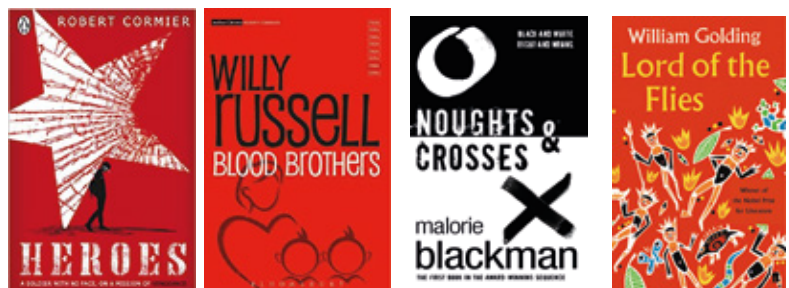
Year 9

English Curriculum

Heroes - Cormier
 Blood Brothers - Russell

Ready to Learn Set Texts (Fiction/Non-Fiction)

Noughts & Crosses - Blackman
 Lord of the Flies - Golding



Literary Canon

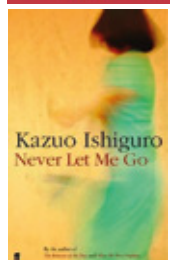
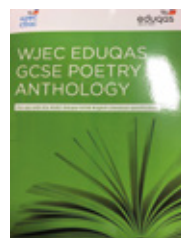
Year 10

English Curriculum

A Christmas Carol - Dickens
Macbeth - Shakespeare
Eduqas Anthology - Various

Ready to Learn Set Texts (Fiction/Non-Fiction)

Grow – Palmer
Never Let Me Go – Ishiguro



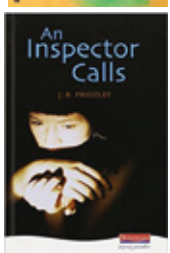
Year 11

English Curriculum

An Inspector Calls - Priestley

Ready to Learn Set Texts (Fiction/Non-Fiction)

The Outrage - Hussey
More Than This - Ness



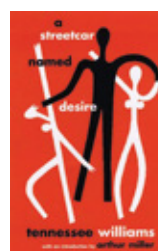
Year 12

English Curriculum

The Handmaid's Tale - Atwood
A Streetcar Named Desire - Williams

Ready to Learn Set Texts (Fiction/Non-Fiction)

The Colour Purple - Walker
1984 - Orwell
Fahrenheit 451 - Bloom



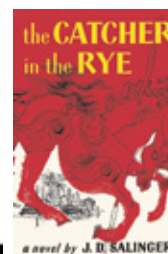
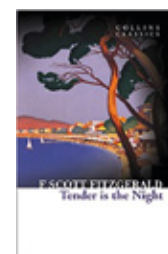
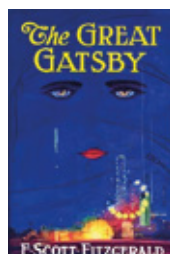
Year 13

English Curriculum

The Great Gatsby - Fitzgerald

Ready to Learn Set Texts (Fiction/Non-Fiction)

Tender is the Night - Fitzgerald
Grapes of Wrath - Steinbeck
Catcher In The Rye - Salinger





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