

## Recommended Reads for Key Stage 4

### Action, Mysteries, Horror & Thrillers

*Famous Last Words* or *Bad Girls Don't Die*— Alender  
*S.T.A.G.S.* (& sequels) by M.A. Bennett  
*Bodyguard* series; *Bulletcatcher* by Chris Bradford\*  
*The Bunker Diary*; *Martyn Pig*; *iBoy* - Kevin Brooks  
*Dead Time* (& sequels); *The Bone Room*\* -A Cassidy  
*And Then There Were None* by Agatha Christie+  
*Say Her Name* by Juno Dawson  
*Mortal Chaos* or *Lie, Kill, Walk Away* -M Dickinson  
*A Gathering Light* by Jennifer Donnelly  
*Zero Day* by Jan Gangsei  
*The Enemy* (& sequels) by Charlie Higson\*  
*House of Silk*, *Moriarty*, *Magpie Murders*-Horowitz+  
*A Good Girl's Guide to Murder* by Holly Jackson  
*Sawbones* or *Blade & Bone* by Catherine Johnson  
*The Long Weekend* by Savita Kalhan\*  
*Carrie* or *It* by Stephen King+  
*Bluebeard, Bluebeard* by Attica Locke+  
*We Were Liars* by E Lockhart  
*Girl, Missing*; *Here We Lie*; *Blood Ties* by S McKenzie  
*#Murdertrending* by Gretchen McNeil\*  
*One of Us is Lying* (& sequels) by Karen McManus  
*I am Still Alive* or *Rules for Vanishing* by K Marshall  
*Knife Edge*; *Blame* by Simon Mayo  
*The Recruit (Cherub)* (& sequels) by R Muchamore\*  
*Foul Play* (& sequels) or *Ghost Stadium* - T Palmer\*  
*13 Minutes* by Sarah Pinborough

### Autobiographies/Memoirs/Biographies

*I Know Why a Caged Bird Sings* by M. Angelou+  
*A Street Cat Named Bob* by James Bowen\*+  
*Playing the Enemy* by John Carlin+  
*In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote+  
*Hope in a Ballet Shoe*: Michaela & Elaine DePrince  
*Wave: Life After the Tsunami* by S. Deraniyagala+  
*One Dog at a Time* (& sequels) by Pen Farthing+  
*Fatal Throne*: Henry VIII (multiple YA writers)  
*Diary of a Young Girl* by Anne Frank  
*Marley & Me* by John Grogan\*+  
*Mud, Sweat and Tears* by Bear Grylls\*+  
*Fever Pitch* by Nick Hornby+  
*This is Going to Hurt* by Adam Kay+  
*The Story of My Life* by Helen Keller+  
*War Dog* (WWII) by Damien Lewis+

*Today Everything Changes* by Andy McNab\*+  
*Chinese Cinderella* by Adeline Yen Mah+  
*A History of the World in 21 Women*-Jenni Murray+  
*The Greatest: Muhammed Ali* by WD Myers\*  
*Dreams From My Father* by Barack Obama+  
*Becoming* by Michelle Obama+  
*Persepolis* by Marjane Satrapi (graphic novel)\*+  
*Touching the Void* by Joe Simpson\*+  
*How to Be Extraordinary* - Rashmi Sirdeshpande\*^  
*Educated* by Tara Westover+  
*Night* by Elie Wiesel+  
*Black Boy:A Record of Youth&Childhood*-R Wright+  
*Autobiography of Malcolm X*—MalcolmX&A Haley+  
*I am Malala* by Malala Yousafzai

### Classics (off the beaten path) & Modern Literature

*Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe+  
*Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Adichie+  
*Djinn Patrol on the Purple Line* - Deepa Anapparo+  
*The Testaments; The Handmaid's Tale* – Atwood+  
*Fahrenheit 451* by Ray Bradbury+  
*All The Light We Cannot See* by Anthony Doerr+  
*Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha* by Roddy Doyle  
*Invisible Man* by Ralph Ellison+  
*Girl, Woman, Other* by Bernadine Evaristo+  
*Birdsong* by Sebastian Faulks+  
*Homegoing* by Yaa Gyasi+  
*Woman in Black* by Susan Hill+  
*The Kite Runner* by Khalid Hosseini+  
*Not Without Laughter* by Langston Hughes+  
*Brave New World* by Alex Huxley+  
*Never Let Me Go* by Kazuo Ishiguro+  
*To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee+  
*Cider With Rosie* by Laurie Lee+  
*Small Island* by Andrea Levi+  
*The Road* by Cormac McCarthy+  
*Circe* or *Song of Achilles* by Madeline Miller+  
*The Bluest Eye* or *Beloved* by Toni Morrison+  
*Hamnet* by Maggie O'Farrell+  
*All Quiet on the Western Front* by EM Remarque+  
*The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy+  
*Anita and Me* by Meera Syal +  
*The Color Purple* by Alice Walker+  
*Nickel Boys* by Colson Whitehead+  
*Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit* – J Winterson+  
Complex/Difficult/Thought-provoking Issues  
*Change is Gonna Come* – various BAME authors

**Poet X; Clap When You Land** by Elizabeth Acevedo^  
**7 Days** by Eve Ainsworth  
**Simon vs the Homo Sapiens Agenda** – B Albertalli\*  
**Booked; Rebound; Crossover**-Kwame Alexander\*^  
**The Hypnotist** by Laurence Anholt  
**Thirteen Reasons Why** by Jay Asher  
**Black Flamingo** by Dean Atta^  
**Noughts & Crosses** or **Boys Don't Cry** -M Blackman\*  
**Tiger Eyes** or anything by Judy Blume\*  
**Am I Normal Yet?** (Spinster Club series)- H. Bourne  
**See Through Me; Dumb Chocolate Eyes** - K Brooks\*  
**Hate List** by Jennifer Brown  
**Junk** or **The Hit** by Melvin Burgess  
**Heart-Shaped Bruise** by Tanya Byrne  
**Looking for JJ; No Virgin/No Shame**-Anne Cassidy  
**The Perks of Being a Wallflower** by S. Chbosky  
**Stolen** by Lucy Christopher  
**The Chocolate War** by Robert Cormier  
**Toffee; One; Moonrise** by S Crossan\*^  
**Meat Market** by Juno Dawson  
**A Swift Pure Cry; Solace of the Road** -S. Dowd  
**Furious Thing; Before I Die** by Jenny Downam  
**Out of My Mind** by Sharon Draper  
**Heroic; Being Billy; Saving Daisy** by Phil Earle\*  
**Mockingbird; Seeing Red** by Kathryn Erskine  
**The Universe versus Alex Woods** by G. Extence  
**If I Stay; Just One Day** by Gayle Forman  
**Full Disclosure** by Camryn Garrett  
**After the Fire** by Will Hill  
**Looking at the Stars** by Lewis Hine  
**The Outsiders** by SE Hinton\*  
**And the Stars Were Burning Brightly** by D Jawando  
**That Asian Kid; Girl in Broken Mirror** by S Kalhan  
**That's Not What Happened** by Kody Keplinger  
**I am Thunder; Kick the Moon** - Muhammed Khan  
**Rose, Interrupted, Indigo Donut, Orangeboy** or  
**Eight Pieces of Silva** by Patrice Lawrence  
**Brock, Pike, Rook & Lark** by Anthony McGowan\*  
**Run, Rebel** by Manjeet Mann^  
**Out of Heart; A Beautiful Lie** by Irfan Master  
**Sister Heart** by Sally Morgan^  
**Slay** by Brittney Morris  
**The Sky is Everywhere** or **I'll Give You...** by J Nelson  
**No Fixed Address; Word Nerd** by Susin Nielson  
**All the Bright Places & Holding Up Universe** - Niven  
**Before I Fall; Vanishing Girls** by Lauren Oliver  
**Heartstopper** (graphic novel); **Solitaire**-A Oseman\*

**Where the Crawdads Sing** by Delia Owens+  
**My Sister's Keeper; Small Great Things** -J Picoult+  
**Patron Saints of Nothing** by Randy Ribay  
**Rani & Sukh; (Un)arranged Marriage; Killing Honour; The Gun\*; Stay a Little Longer\*** - Bali Rai  
**Gloves Off^; Wrecked^; Black Heart Blue** by L Reid\*  
**Long Way Down^; All American Boys** - J Reynolds\*  
**Extraordinary Means** by Robyn Schneider  
**The Lovely Bones** or **Lucky** by Alice Sebold+  
**Voyages in Underworld of Orpheus Black**-Sedgwick\*  
**The Boxer** or **Run, Riot** Nikesh Shukla  
**Counting by 7s** by Holly Sloan  
**The Million Pieces of Neena Gill** by E Smith-Barton  
**Stone Cold** by Robert Swindells\*  
**Lies We Tell Ourselves** by Robin Talley  
**Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry** by Mildred Taylor  
**The Hate U Give** or **On the Come Up** by A Thomas\*  
**The List** by Siobhan Vivian  
**It's Kind of a Funny Story** by Ned Vizzini  
**My Name is Leon** by Kit de Waal  
**What Momma Left Me** by Renee Watson  
**Liclle Bit** (& sequels) or **Uprising** by Alex Wheatle\*  
**Frankly in Love** by David Yoon  
**Teacher's Dead, Face** or **Terror Kid** by B Zephaniah\*

**Dystopian, Science Fiction or Magic Realism**  
**Children of Blood and Bone** by Tomi Adeyemi  
**The Power** by Naomi Alderman+  
**A Jigsaw of Fire & Stars** by Yaba Badoe  
**Six of Crows; Crooked Kingdom** by Leigh Bardugo  
**Exodus** by Julie Bertagna  
**Chasing the Stars** by Malorie Blackman  
**Gamer** (& Virtual Combat series) by Chris Bradford\*  
**Ink** (& sequels) by Alice Broadway  
**World War Z** by Max Brooks+  
**The Girl With All the Gifts** by MR Carey+  
**City of Bones** (& sequels) by Cassandra Clare  
**Matched** (& sequels) by Ally Condie  
**The Maze Runner** (& sequels) by J. Dashner  
**Cell 7** (& sequels) by Kerry Drewery  
**The Gender Game** by Bella Forrest  
**Gone; Front Line** (& sequels) by Michael Grant\*  
**Half Bad** (& sequels) by Sally Green  
**The Deathless Girls** by Kiran Millwood Hargrave  
**Department 19** (& sequels) by Will Hill  
**Raybearer** by Jordan Ifueko  
**The Loneliest Girl in the Universe** by Lauren James  
**Maladapted** by Richard Kurti

*I Am Number Four* (& sequels) by Pittacus Lore  
*Legend* (& sequels) by Marie Lu  
*The Dog Runner; Across the Risen Sea*-B MacDibble  
*A Blade So Black* by L.L. McKinney  
*Station 11* by Emily Mandel+  
*The Passengers; The One* by John Marrs+  
*The 100* by Kass Morgan  
*Killer T* by Robert Muchamore  
*The Knife of Never Letting Go* series; *Burn*-P Ness  
*Z For Zachariah* by Robert O'Brien  
*The Loop* by Ben Oliver  
*Replica* or *Delirium* (& sequels) by Lauren Oliver  
*Only Ever Yours* by Louise O'Neill  
*Divergent* (& sequels) by Veronica Roth  
*Way of Kings* (Stormlight Archive) by B Sanderson  
*Plague Land* by Alex Scarrow  
*Oh My Gods* by Alexandra Sheppard  
*Scythe, Unwind* or *Dry* (& sequels) -N Shusterman  
*Concentr8* by William Sutcliffe  
*An Ember in the Ashes* (& sequels) by Sabaa Tahir  
*Contagion* or *Slated* (& sequels) by Teri Terry  
*The Martian* by Andy Weir+  
*Partials* (& sequels) by Dan Wells  
*Uglies* or *Zeroes* (& sequels) by Scott Westerfield  
*The 5th Wave* (& sequels) by Rick Yancey

#### Humorous books

*The Princess Diaries* by Meg Cabot\*  
*A Man Called Ove* by Fredrik Backman+  
*The Private Blog of Joe Cowley* by Ben Davis\*  
*An Abundance of Katherines* by John Green  
*Noah Can't Even; Alex in Wonderland* - SJ Green  
*The Reformed Vampire Support Group* by Jinks\*  
*Hellbent* or *Henry Tumour* by Anthony McGowan\*  
*Don't Even Think About It* – Sarah Mylnowski  
*Discworld* series by T Pratchett (try *The Last Hero*)+  
*Good Omens* by Terry Pratchett and Neil Gaiman+  
*Geekhood* series by Andy Robb  
*The Rosie Project* (& sequel) by Graeme Simsion+  
*The Gifted, The Talented and Me* by W Sutcliffe  
*Dark Lord: The Teenage Years* by Jamie Thomson  
*The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole* – Sue Townsend

#### Relationships

*Beautiful Broken Things* by Sara Barnard  
*Tender Earth* by Sita Brahmachari  
*Floored: When Seven Lives Collide* (various authors)  
*Fault in Our Stars* or *Looking for Alaska* by J Green

*Why We Broke Up* by Daniel Handler  
*To All the Boys I've Loved Before* by Jenny Han  
*Slammed* or *Regretting You* by Colleen Hoover  
*Hold Back the Stars* by Katie Khan  
*Falling Fast* (& sequels) by Sophie McKenzie  
*One Day* or *Sweet Sorrow* by David Nicholls+  
*Unboxed; Second Best Friend* by Nan Pratt\*  
*Eleanor and Park* & *Fangirl* by Rainbow Rowell  
*Written in the Stars* by Aisha Saeed  
*The Art of Racing in the Rain* by Garth Stein+  
*Shiver* or *The Raven Boys*(&sequels) - M. Stiefvater  
*Our Chemical Hearts* by Krystal Sutherland  
*Paper Avalanche; The Art/Normal* by L Williamson  
*If You Come Softly* by Jacqueline Woodson  
*Everything, Everything* & *Sun is Also a Star*-Yoon

#### War, History, Conflict, Genocide & Refugees

*The Short Knife* by Elen Caldecot  
*Illegal* by Eoin Colfer (graphic novel)\*  
*Copper Sun* by Sharon M Draper  
*The Bone Sparrow* by Zana Fraillion  
*An Act of Love* or *The Trap* by Alan Gibbons  
*Bone Talk* by Candy Gourlay  
*The Mercies* by Kiran Millwood Hargrave+  
*Orphan, Monster, Spy* by Matt Killeen  
*The Librarian of Auschwitz* by Antonio Iturbe+  
*The Beekeeper of Aleppo* by Christy Lefteri+  
*Dog Tags: Semper Fido* or *Strays* by CA London\*  
*Fallen Angels* or *Sunrise over Fallujah*-WD Myers\*  
*Things a Bright Girl Can Do; Silent Stars* - S Nicholls  
*Salt to the Sea* by Ruta Sepetys  
*Maus* by Art Spiegelman (graphic novel)\*+  
*Milkweed* by Jerry Spinelli  
*Deogratius* (graphic novel) by JP Stassen\*+  
*Code Named Verity & Enigma Game* – E Wein  
*Kent State* (verse novel) by Deborah Wiles^  
*My Dear I Wanted to Tell You* by Louisa Young  
*Refugee Boy* by Benjamin Zephaniah  
*The Book Thief* by Marcus Zusak

\* = top picks for reluctant readers or readers who prefer visual/less dense texts. Includes some dyslexia-friendly titles; quick-paced reads of longer books

+ = Books written for adults; content may reflect this.

^ = verse novel