



# Padgate Academy Recommends

## 25 Reading Books

### for Year 10 students.

	Name of Book	Written by	Blurb
1	<b>13 minutes</b>	<i>Sarah Pinborough</i>	I was dead for 13 minutes. I don't remember how I ended up in the icy - water but I do know this - it wasn't an accident, and I wasn't suicidal. My friends love me, I'm sure of it. But that doesn't mean they didn't try to kill me. Does it?
2	<b>A Separate Peace</b>	<i>John Knowles</i>	A horrific and brilliant fable about the dark side of adolescence set at a boys' boarding school in New England during the early years of World War II. Gene is introverted. Phineas is reckless. Like the war itself, what happens between the two friends robs them of their innocence.
3	<b>American Gods</b>	<i>Neil Gaiman</i>	After three years in prison, Shadow Moon is free to go home. But hours before his release, his beloved wife is killed in a freak accident. Numbly, he boards a plane where he meets an enigmatic stranger who seems to know Shadow and claims to be an ancient god - and king of America.
4	<b>As Far as You'll Take Me</b>	<i>Phil Stamper</i>	Marty arrives in London with nothing but his oboe and some savings from his summer job, but he's excited to start his new life--where he's no longer the closeted, shy kid who slips under the radar and is free to explore his sexuality without his parents' disapproval.
5	<b>Cider with Rosie</b>	<i>Laurie Lee</i>	A wonderfully vivid memoir of childhood in a remote Cotswold village, a village before electricity or cars. Growing up amongst the fields and woods and characters of the place, Laurie Lee depicts a world that is both immediate and real and belongs to a now-distant past.
6	<b>Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?</b>	<i>Philip K Dick</i>	San Francisco lies under a cloud of radioactive dust. Most people emigrate to Mars - unless they have a job to do on Earth. Like Rick Deckard - android killer for the police. This week he has to find, identify, and kill six escaped androids. They're machines, but they look and sound and think like humans - clever, dangerous humans.
7	<b>Grow</b>	<i>Luke Palmer</i>	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.
8	<b>I Capture the Castle</b>	<i>Dodie Smith</i>	Cassandra Mortmain lives with her bohemian and impoverished family in a crumbling castle in the middle of nowhere. Her journal records her life with her beautiful sister, Rose; her glamorous stepmother, Topaz; her brother, Thomas and her eccentric father who suffers from writer's block. However, all their lives are turned upside down when the American heirs to the castle arrive.
9	<b>Jane Eyre</b>	<i>Charlotte Bronte</i>	Although the poor but plucky heroine is outwardly of plain appearance, she possesses an indomitable spirit, a sharp wit and great courage. She is forced to battle against the exigencies of a cruel guardian, a harsh employer and a rigid social order. All of which circumscribe her life and position when she becomes governess to the daughter of the mysterious, sardonic and attractive Mr Rochester.

10	<b>Long Walk to Freedom</b>	<i>Nelson Mandela</i>	The riveting memoirs of the outstanding moral and political leader of our time, <i>A Long Walk to Freedom</i> brilliantly re-creates the drama of the experiences that helped shape Nelson Mandela's destiny. Emotive, compelling and uplifting, <i>A Long Walk to Freedom</i> is the exhilarating story of an epic life; a story of hardship, resilience and ultimate triumph told with the clarity and eloquence of a born leader.
11	<b>Never Let Me Go</b>	<i>Kazuo Ishiguro</i>	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, <i>Never Let Me Go</i> 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.
12	<b>Oranges are Not the Only Fruit</b>	<i>Jeanette Winterson</i>	This is the story of Jeanette, adopted and brought up by her mother as one of God's elect. Zealous and passionate, she seems destined for life as a missionary, but then she falls for one of her converts. At sixteen, Jeanette decides to leave the church, her home, and her family, for the young woman she loves.
13	<b>Oxygen Mask</b>	<i>Jason Reynolds</i>	Intimately set within the walls of a family home, this book is an incredible artefact of the historic year we have all lived through. This is a gift in commemoration of a time and place, of a world-wide pandemic, of loss and of the murder of George Floyd. It is a reminder of how, in uncertain times, we can cling to the simple things for respite, for hope.
14	<b>Paper Butterflies</b>	<i>Lisa Heathfield</i>	June's life at home with her stepmother and stepsister is a dark one - and a secret one. Not even her father knows about it. She's trapped like a butterfly in a jar. But then she meets Blister, a boy in the woods. And in him, June recognises the tiniest glimmer of hope that perhaps she can find a way to fly far, far away. But freedom comes at a price.
15	<b>The Grapes of Wrath</b>	<i>John Steinbeck</i>	Shocking and controversial when it was first published, <i>The Grapes of Wrath</i> is Steinbeck's Pulitzer Prize-winning epic of the Joad family, forced to travel west from Dust Bowl era Oklahoma in search of the promised land of California. Their story is one of false hopes, thwarted desires, and powerlessness.
16	<b>The Road</b>	<i>Cormac McCarthy</i>	In a burned-out America, a father and his young son walk under a darkened sky. The landscape is destroyed, and cruel, lawless men stalk the roadside, lying in wait. Attempting to survive in this brave new world, the young boy and his protector have nothing but a pistol to defend themselves. They must keep walking.
17	<b>The Wasp Factory</b>	<i>Iain Banks</i>	Frank, no ordinary sixteen-year-old, lives with his father outside a remote Scottish village. Their life is, to say the least, unconventional. Frank's mother abandoned them years ago: his elder brother Eric is confined to a psychiatric hospital; and his father measures out his eccentricities on an imperial scale.
18	<b>Things a Bright Girl Can Do</b>	<i>Sally Nicholls</i>	Through rallies and marches, in polite drawing rooms and freezing prison cells and the poverty-stricken slums of the East End, three courageous young women join the fight for the vote.
19	<b>Things Fall Apart</b>	<i>Chinua Achebe</i>	Okonkwo is the greatest wrestler and warrior alive, and his fame spreads throughout West Africa like a bushfire. But when he accidentally kills a clansman, things begin to fall apart. Then Okonkwo returns from exile to find missionaries and colonial governors have arrived in the village. With his world thrown radically off-balance he can only hurtle towards tragedy

20	<b>To Kill A Mockingbird</b>	<i>Lee, Harper</i>	Through the young eyes of Scout and Jem Finch, Harper Lee explores with exuberant humour the irrationality of adult attitudes to race and class in the Deep South of the 1930 as their father defends a black man falsely charged with the rape of a white girl.
21	<b>Touching the Void</b>	<i>Joe Simpson</i>	<i>Touching the Void</i> is the heart-stopping account of Joe Simpson's terrifying adventure in the Peruvian Andes. He and his climbing partner, Simon, reached the summit of the remote Siula Grande in June 1995. A few days later, Simon staggered into Base Camp, exhausted and frost-bitten, with news that that Joe was dead. However, Joe was still alive.
22	<b>War of the Worlds</b>	<i>H.G. Wells</i>	The War of the Worlds (1898), by H. G. Wells, is an early science fiction novel which describes an invasion of England by aliens from Mars. It is one of the earliest and best-known depictions of an alien invasion of Earth and has influenced many others.
23	<b>We Are All Made of Molecules</b>	<i>Susin Nielsen</i>	Meet Ashley. She's popular, cool and sees things very differently to her new family. Her dad has come out and moved out – but not far enough. And now she must live with a freakazoid stepbrother.
24	<b>Where the World Ends</b>	<i>Geraldine McCaughrean</i>	Every summer Quill and his friends are put ashore on a remote sea stack to hunt birds. But this summer, no one arrives to take them home. Surely nothing but the end of the world can explain why they've been abandoned - cold, starving and clinging to life, in the grip of a murderous ocean. How will they survive?
25	<b>Wuthering Heights</b>	<i>Emily Bronte</i>	Wuthering Heights is a wild, passionate story of the intense and almost demonic love between Catherine Earnshaw and Heathcliff, a foundling adopted by Catherine's father. After Mr Earnshaw's death, Heathcliff is bullied and humiliated by Catherine's brother Hindley and wrongly believing that his love for Catherine is not reciprocated, leaves Wuthering Heights, only to return years later as a wealthy and polished man.