



Padgate Academy Recommends

25 Reading Books

for Year 9 students.

	Name of Book	Written by	Blurb
1	A Spark of Light	<i>Jodi Picoult</i>	A lone gunman takes the women and doctors at a controversial abortion clinic hostage. As the tense negotiation for their release unfolds, hour by hour, back in time through the day that brought the hostages and their captor to this moment, every certainty is questioned, every judgement thrown into sharp relief.
2	A Tree Grows in Brooklyn	<i>Betty Smith</i>	The Nolan family, originally from Ireland and Austria, are first-generation immigrants to the United States. Their life in the Williamsburg slums of Brooklyn is poor and deprived, but their sacrifices make it possible for their children to grow up in a land of boundless opportunity.
3	After the Fire	<i>Will Hill</i>	Father John controls everything inside The Fence. And Father John likes rules. Especially about never talking to Outsiders. Because Father John knows the truth. He knows what is right, and what is wrong. He knows what is coming. Moonbeam is starting to doubt, though.
4	Anita and Me	<i>Meera Syal</i>	The story of nine-year-old Meena, growing up in the only Punjabi family in the Black Country mining village of Tollington.
5	Beyond the Bright Sea	<i>Lauren Wolk</i>	Crow has lived her whole life on a tiny, starkly beautiful island. Her only companions are Osh and Miss Maggie. It is only when a mysterious fire appears across the water that an unspoken question of her own history forms in Crow's heart, and an unstoppable chain of events is triggered.
6	City of Beasts	<i>Isabelle Allende</i>	When Alexander Cold's mother falls ill, he is sent to stay with his eccentric grandmother in New York. She takes Alex along with her on an expedition to the Amazon to verify the existence of the fierce, gigantic, legendary creature known as the Beast.
7	Empire of the Sun	<i>J.G. Ballard</i>	Based on J. G. Ballard's own childhood, this is the extraordinary account of a boy's life in Japanese-occupied Shanghai. Trapped in a prison camp and separated from his parents, Jim is witness to the death, starvation and chaos of the Second World War.
8	Every Day	<i>David Levithan</i>	Each morning, A wakes up in a different body. There's never any warning about who it will be, but A is used to that. Never get too attached. Avoid being noticed. Do not interfere. And that's fine – until A wakes up in the body of Justin and meets Justin's girlfriend, Rhiannon.
9	Every Line of You	<i>Naomi Gibson</i>	Lydia has been creating her AI, Henry, for years – she's built herself the perfect boyfriend in a hard-drive filled with lines of code. But what is Henry really – and how far is he willing to go to be everything Lydia desires?
10	Hidden Figures	<i>Margot Lee Shetterly</i>	Dorothy Vaughan, Mary Jackson, Katherine Johnson, and Christine Darden participated in some of NASA's greatest successes, and they did so during a time when being black and a woman limited what they could do. But they used their genius minds to change the world.
11	Lionheart Girl	<i>Yaba Badoe</i>	Born into a family of West African witches, Sheba's terrified of her mother who is deadly dangerous. But like mother, like daughter - magic runs through her blood and Sheba discovers powers of her own.
12	Looking for Alaska	<i>John Green</i>	Miles Halter's whole life has been one big non-event until he starts at anything-but-boring Culver Creek Boarding School and meets Alaska Young. Gorgeous, clever, funny and utterly fascinating she pulls Miles into her world, launches him into a new life, and steals his heart.

13	Maladapted	<i>Richard Kurti</i>	Cillian is the sole survivor of a devastating terrorist attack on a packed Metro train. How did he survive when everyone else was killed? Searching for answers with the mysterious Tess, makes Cillian ask not who he is, but what he is...
14	Nineteen Eighty Four	<i>George Orwell</i>	The year is 1984 and war and revolution have left the world unrecognisable. Great Britain is ruled by the Party, led by Big Brother. Mass surveillance is everything and The Thought Police are employed to ensure that no individual thinking is allowed. Winston Smith dreams of freedom and of rebellion.
15	Noah Can't Even	<i>Simon James Green</i>	Poor Noah Grimes! His father disappeared years ago, his mother's Beyonce tribute act is an unacceptable embarrassment, and his beloved gran is no longer herself. He only has one friend, Harry, and school is... Well, it's pure hell. Why can't Noah be normal, like everyone else at school?
16	Rebecca	<i>Daphne du Maurier</i>	When the story's nameless narrator meets a wealthy and handsome widower, she is immediately swept off her feet. Maxim de Winter whisks his new bride away to his home hoping to rid himself of his sinister past.
17	Slumdog Millionaire	<i>Vikas Swarup</i>	Former tiffinboy Ram Mohammad Thomas has just got twelve questions correct on a TV quiz-show to win a cool one billion rupees. But he is brutally slung in prison on suspicion of cheating. Because how can a kid from the slums know who Shakespeare was, unless he is cheating?
18	The A.B.C. Murders	<i>Agatha Christie</i>	There's a serial killer on the loose. His macabre calling card is to leave the ABC Railway Guide beside each victim's body. But if A is for Alice Asher and B is for Betty Bernard, who will then be Victim C?
19	The Amnesia Clinic	<i>James Scudamore</i>	Anti, a quiet English boy living in Quito, Ecuador, strikes up a friendship with flamboyant classmate Fabián, who is everything Anti isn't: handsome, athletic and popular.
20	The Book Thief	<i>Marcus Zusak</i>	It is 1939. In Nazi Germany, the country is holding its breath. By her brother's graveside, Liesel's life is changed forever when she picks up a single object, abandoned in the snow. It is The Gravedigger's Handbook, and this is her first act of book thievery.
21	The Call	<i>Peadar O'Guilin</i>	Nessa and her friends attend Boyle College to train for the most dangerous time of their lives - THE CALL. Without warning, each one of them will wake in a terrifying land, alone and hunted, with a one-in-ten chance of returning alive. No one believes Nessa can make it,
22	The Hate U Give	<i>Angie Thomas</i>	Sixteen-year-old Starr lives in two worlds: the poor neighbourhood where she was born and raised and her posh high school in the suburbs. The uneasy balance between them is shattered when Starr is the only witness to the fatal shooting of her unarmed best friend, Khalil, by a police officer.
23	The Poet X	<i>Elizabeth Acevedo</i>	Xiomara has always kept her words to herself. When it comes to standing her ground in her Harlem neighbourhood, she lets her fists and her fierceness do the talking. But X has secrets –the notebook full of poems that she keeps under her bed.
24	The Sky is Everywhere	<i>Jandy Nelson</i>	Seventeen-year-old Lennie Walker spends her time tucked safely and happily in the shadow of her fiery older sister, Bailey. But when Bailey dies abruptly, Lennie is catapulted to centre stage of her own life.
25	The Vanishing of Katharina Linden	<i>Helen Grant</i>	On the day Katharina Linden disappears, Pia is the last person to see her alive. Terror is spreading through the town. How could a ten-year-old girl vanish in a place where everybody knows everybody else?