

Challenge Reading List

Reading for success at GCSE and A Level



Marches Academy Trust

Modern Novels

The Wasp Factory by Iain Banks
Cloud Atlas by David Mitchell
White Teeth by Zadie Smith
Birdsong by Sebastian Faulks
Asylum by Patrick McGrath
Captain Corelli's Mandolin by Louis de Bernieres
A History of the World in 10½ Chapters by Julian Barnes
The God of Small Things by Arundhati Roy

Nineteenth Century Classics

Crime and Punishment by Fyodor Dostoyevsky
The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson
Frankenstein by Mary Shelley
David Copperfield by Charles Dickens
Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen
Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë
Moby-Dick by Herman Melville
Middlemarch by George Eliot

A NOTE TO PARENTS AND READERS

These texts have been selected to challenge pupils who are already showing a high level of ability in English. Reading as many of these texts as possible will certainly help your son/daughter in their quest for the top grades in the subject. A wider depth and breadth of reading, and exposure to more complex vocabulary, forms and themes will benefit them not just in English but in all of their subjects. As you may expect from more difficult texts, some deal with adult themes. We feel that your son/daughter has the maturity to cope with these concepts but please do get in touch if you would like to query any of the content before they begin reading them.

Twentieth Century Classics

Heart of Darkness by Joseph Conrad
The Stranger by Albert Camus
The Lord of the Rings by JRR Tolkien
Catch-22 by Joseph Heller
One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel García Márquez
The Catcher in the Rye by JD Salinger
Jazz by Toni Morrison
Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe
The Great Gatsby by F Scott Fitzgerald
The Big Sleep by Raymond Chandler
Brighton Rock by Graham Greene
Slaughterhouse Five by Kurt Vonnegut
The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams
The Code of the Woosters by P G Wodehouse

Dystopia

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood
1984 by George Orwell
A Clockwork Orange by Anthony Burgess
The War of the Worlds by HG Wells
A Brave New World by Aldous Huxley
The Road by Cormac McCarthy
Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury
High Rise by J G Ballard
The Iron Heel by Jack London

