

Required Reading

Lord of the Flies by William Golding

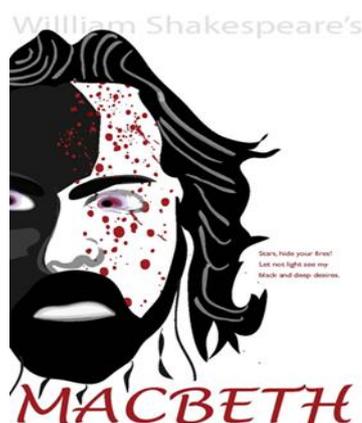
This **modern text** is an **Allegory** that explores the loss of innocence:

A plane crashes on a desert island and the only survivors, a group of schoolboys, assemble on the beach and wait to be rescued. By day they inhabit a land of bright fantastic birds and dark blue seas, but at night their dreams are haunted by the image of a terrifying beast. As the boys' delicate sense of order fades, so their childish dreams are transformed into something more primitive, and their behaviour starts to take on a murderous, savage significance.

*Macbeth* by William Shakespeare

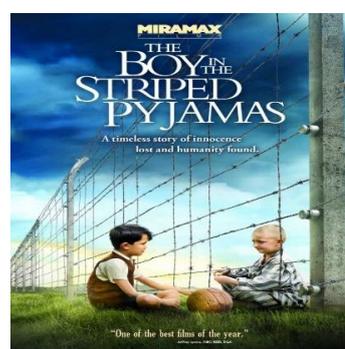
This **Jacobean drama** is a **Tragedy** that explores the influence of the supernatural in a world full of ambition, deception and bloody justice:

A brave Scottish general named Macbeth receives a prophecy from a trio of witches that one day he will become King of Scotland. Consumed by ambition and spurred to action by his wife, Macbeth murders King Duncan and takes the Scottish throne for himself. He is then wracked with guilt and paranoia.

Suggested Reading

Historical Fiction: *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas* by John Boyne

The story takes place in Nazi Germany, when nine-year-old Bruno's father is given a position of power at Auschwitz, and the family moves to a house outside of the camp. The camp is visible from the family's house, and Bruno spends time walking along its fence. He encounters a boy wearing striped pyjamas on the other side of the fence, who he becomes friends with. Bruno's imprisoned friend Shmuel asks for Bruno's help in finding his father. Bruno disguises himself as one of the prisoners and enters the death camp.



Political Fantasy: *Animal Farm* by George Orwell

The animals of the Manor Farm lived badly. Their farmer Mr. Jones, a mean and drunken man, exploited them. One day old Major, the pig who led the animals, called a meeting of all the animals. Old Major told them about a dream he had the previous night. He had dreamed about an old song called, 'Beasts of England', which started a resistance against the human beings...now all of the animals' desire rebellion against their human masters.

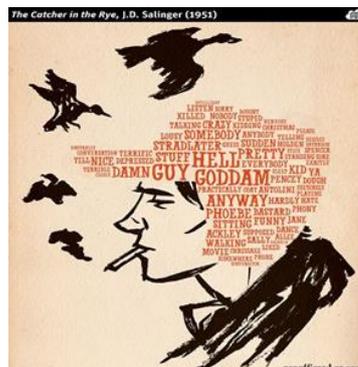


Suggested Reading continued

Coming-of-Age (Bildungsroman) Novels:

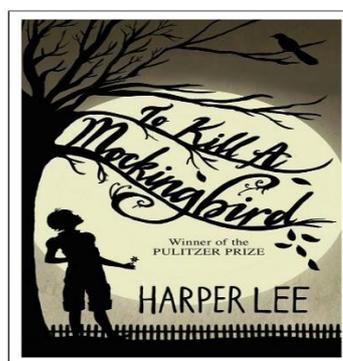
***The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D. Salinger**

In a session with his therapist, 17 year old Holden Caulfield recounts the days following his expulsion from Pencey Prep, a private school. After a fight with his roommate, Stradlater, Holden leaves school two days early to explore New York before returning home; interacting with teachers, prostitutes, nuns, an old girlfriend and his younger sister along the way. Over the course of a weekend the novel illustrates a teenager's dramatic struggle against death and growing-up.



***To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee**

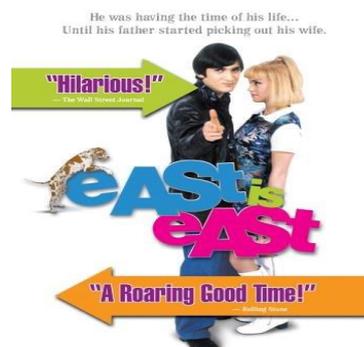
It is Alabama during the Great Depression; this story is narrated by the main character, a little girl named Jean Louise "Scout" Finch. Her father, [Atticus Finch](#), is a lawyer with high moral standards. Scout, her brother Jem, and their friend Dill are intrigued by the local rumors about a man named [Boo Radley](#), who lives in their neighbourhood but never leaves his house. Legend has it that he once stabbed his father in the leg with a pair of scissors. The children are curious to know more about Boo and during one summer they endeavour to find out more: on their journey they encounter racial injustice and the destruction of innocence.



20th Century Dramas:

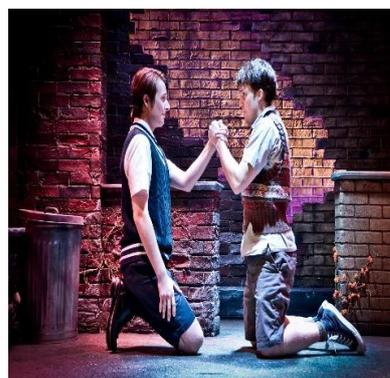
***East is East* by Ayub Khan Din**

George Khan, proud Pakistani and chip shop owner - Ghengis to his kids - rules his family with a rod of iron. He thinks he's raising his seven children to be respectable Pakistanis. But this is Salford in the North of England, in 1971. Much as George's English wife, Ella, loves and tries to honour her husband, she also wants her kids to be happy. The children, caught between bell-bottoms and arranged marriages, simply want to be citizens of the modern world.



***Blood Brothers* by Willy Russell**

Twin boys (Mickey and Edward) who are separated at birth and brought up in completely different environments in the city. Mickey is brought up with his seven older siblings by his struggling single mother, Mrs Johnstone. His twin brother, Edward, however is brought up as the only child of the wealthy Lyons family, who live nearby, after Mrs Lyons persuaded Mrs Johnstone to hand over one of her twins at birth. Mickey and Edward don't meet each other until they're seven years old, but immediately become best friends and 'blood brothers', without realising that they are actually blood-brothers.



Suggested Reading *continued*

Young Adult Fiction:

***Noughts & Crosses* series by Malorie Blackman**

The series describes an alternative human history in which African people have gained a technological and organisational advantage over European people, rather than the other way around - with Africans having made Europeans their slaves. The series takes place in an alternate 21st-century Britain.

'Life is meaningless only if we allow it to be. Each of us has the power to give life meaning, to make our time and our bodies and our words into instruments of love and hope.'

'Why love if losing hurts so much? We love to know that we are not alone.'

'Radical superiority is a mere pigment of the imagination.'

Sephy is a Cross – a member of the dark-skinned ruling class. Callum is a nought – a 'colourless' member of the underclass who were once slaves to the Crosses.

The two have been friends since early childhood. But that's as far as it can go. Until the first steps are taken towards more social equality and a limited number of Noughts are allowed into Cross schools... 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...

