

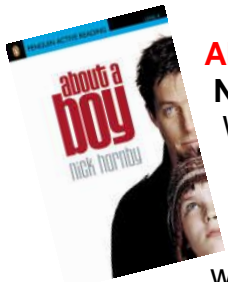
**ULTIMATE**

**The**

**Ultimate**

**List**

**ULTIMATE**



### About a Boy

**Nick Hornby**

Will Freeman wants an easy life with no responsibilities. But then he meets Marcus an unusual twelve year old boy with serious problems.

*Real Life/Film Tie-in*

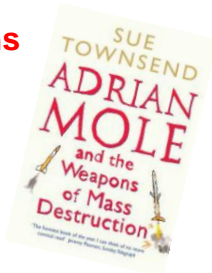
### Adrian Mole and the Weapons of Mass Destruction

*Adrian Mole series*

**Sue Townsend**

Adrian Mole is now working as a bookseller and living in Leicester's Rat Wharf; finding time to write letters of advice to Tim Henman and Tony Blair; locked in mortal combat with a vicious swan called Gielgud and measuring his expanding bald spot. Adrian still yearns for a better more meaningful world. And he's not ready to surrender his pen yet.

*Comic diary series*



### The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn

**Mark Twain**

Huckleberry Finn and his friend Jim travel down the Mississippi River having adventures and meeting interesting characters on the way. But Jim is a runaway slave and the boys must be careful to avoid trouble.

*Adventure classic*

### Animal Farm

**George Orwell**

Having got rid of their human master, the animals of Manor Farm look forward to a life of freedom and plenty. But as a group of clever, ruthless pigs take control, the other animals find themselves hopelessly ensnared in the old ways.

*Fable*



### Birdsong

**Sebastian Faulks**

After beginning in Amiens, France, in 1910, the action of this much-praised novel shifts between the French battlefields of the First World War and suburban England in the late 1970s. It is a love story and an exploration of camaraderie and isolation in the horror of war. *War related drama*



### Black Rabbit Summer

**Kevin Brooks**

As secrets, bitterness and jealousies resurface, five old friends are plunged into the worst night of their lives. Dark, tense and gripping new novel from award-winning Kevin Brooks. *Real Life*

### Blade Runner

**Philip K. Dick**

The Blade Runner prowls the microchip jungle of 21st century Los Angeles, looking for Replicants. His mission is to kill them. Their crime is wanting to be human. *Sci-Fi*



### The Book Thief

**Marcus Zusak**

This novel is narrated by death. It's a small story, about: a girl; an accordionist; some fanatical Germans; a Jewish fist fighter; and quite a lot of thievery. Another thing you should know - death will visit the book thief three times. *Fable*



### The Casebook of Victor Frankenstein

**Peter Ackroyd**

This novel mixes the startling and often heart-breaking exploits of the fictional Victor Frankenstein with real-life characters of his era.

*Historical thriller*





### Catch-22

**Joseph Heller**

In Italy in World War 2, Captain Yossarian spends his time plotting to survive. A satire on military madness and stupidity, and the desire of the ordinary man to survive it. *Anti-war novel*

### The Catcher in the Rye

**J.D.Salinger**

When Holden Caulfield learns he's going to be kicked out of yet another private school, he absconds in the middle of the night and heads to New York City for a few days—hitting on girls, thinking about his dead brother, worrying about where the ducks go in the wintertime—before he deals with his parents. Holden’s disaffected voice is both witty and poignant as he relates his experiences. *Coming-of-age story*

### Chew on This – Everything you don't want to know about Fast Food

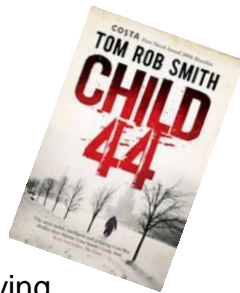
**Eric Schlosser**

Discover the shocking truth about the fast food industry. *Topical*

### Child 44

**Tom Rob Smith**

In Soviet Russia, Leo Demidov is after a killer that the State denies exists. But he's in danger not from the killer he is trying to catch, but from the country he is trying to protect. *Thriller*



### A Cloud Atlas

**David Mitchell**

Six lives. One amazing adventure. A narrative that reaches from the 19th century to a post-apocalyptic future.

*Science fiction/Political thriller*



### Cold Comfort farm

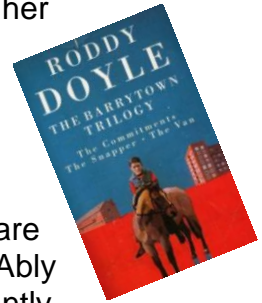
**Stella Gibbons**

The orphaned heroine, Flora Poste, is looking for relatives with whom she might live. She chooses the Starkadders, relatives on her mother's side, who reside in the isolated Cold Comfort Farm. Greeting her as "Robert Poste's child", they take her in to repay some unexplained wrong done to her father. *Black comedy*

### The Commitments

**Roddy Doyle**

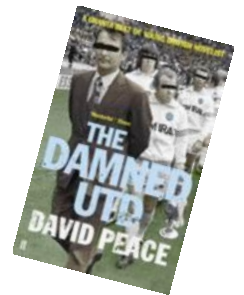
Barrytown, Dublin, has something to sing about. The Commitments are spreading the gospel of the soul. Ably managed by Jimmy Rabbitte, brilliantly coached by Joel 'The Lips' Fagan, their twin assault on Motown and Barrytown takes them by leaps and bounds to immortality on vinyl. But can The Commitments live up to their name? *Drama/Film tie-in*



### The Damned United

**David Peace**

Tells the story of Brian Clough's 44 days as manager of Leeds United in the 1970's. *Sports drama*

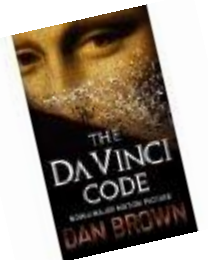


### The Da Vinci Code

**Dan Brown**

Harvard professor Robert Langdon receives an urgent late-night phone call while on business in Paris: the elderly curator of the Louvre has been brutally murdered inside the museum. Alongside the body, police have found a series of baffling codes. As Langdon and a gifted French cryptologist, Sophie Neveu, begin to sort through the bizarre riddles, they are stunned to find a trail that reveals a mystery stretching deep into the vault of history.

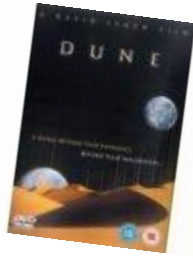
*Thriller/Film Tie-in*



## **Dune**

**Frank Herbert**

The sweeping tale of a desert planet called Arrakis, the only planet with the spice, Melange, necessary for interstellar travel. When stewardship of Arrakis is transferred to House Atreides, the young Duke Paul Atreides is cast out into the planet's harsh environment to die. The setting is elaborate and ornate, the plot labyrinthine and the adventures exciting. Five sequels follow.  
*Sci-Fi*



meet C. Auguste Dupin, Poe's famous Parisian detective. *Horror/Detective*

## **A Farewell to Arms**

**Ernest Hemingway**

In 1918 Ernest Hemingway went to war, to the 'war to end all wars'. He volunteered for ambulance service in Italy, was wounded and twice decorated. He recreates the fear, the comradeship and courage of his young American hero, and the men and women he meets in Italy, with total conviction.

*Second World War*

## **Eats, Shoots and Leaves**

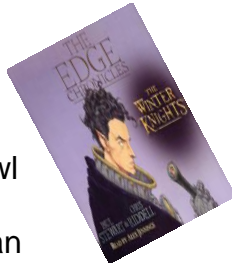
**Lynn Truss**

Why commas really do make a difference. Learn to understand punctuation. *Popular Linguistics*

## **The Edge Chronicles**

**Paul Stewart**

In the great floating city of Sanctaphrax, blizzards howl through the streets as the Edgeworld descends into an endless winter. The 8th in Paul Stewart's and Chris Riddell's well-loved fantasy world. *Comic Fantasy*



## **Fatherland**

**Robert Harris**

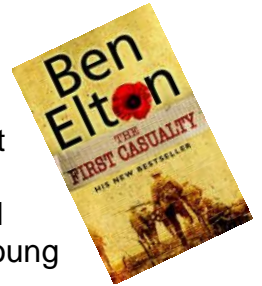
A novel which explores the idea of 'Suppose the Nazis had won the Second World War and Hitler was world leader? What then?' *Thriller*

## **The First Casualty**

**Ben Elton**

Flanders, June 1917: a British officer, a celebrated poet, is shot dead, killed not by German fire, but while recuperating from shell shock well behind the lines. A young English soldier is arrested and, although he protests his innocence, charged with his murder...

*First World War*



## **Empire of the Sun**

**J.G. Ballard**

The heartrending story of a British boy's four year ordeal in a Japanese prison camp during the Second World War.  
*Surviving in war/Film tie-in*



## **Girl Missing**

**Sophie McKenzie**

What if you saw yourself as a toddler on a Missing Children's website? What would you do?

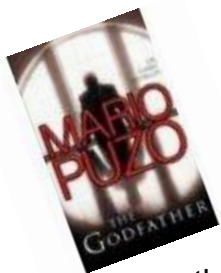
*Mystery*



## **The Fall of the House of Usher and other writings**

**Edgar Allan Poe**

There are five stories in this book. Two are stories of madness; 'The Maelstrom' describes fear of death during a storm on the ocean; and in 'The Murders of the Rue Morgue' and 'The Stolen Letter'



### **The Godfather**

**Mario Puzo**

The Godfather is the Mafia leader Vito Corleone, a benevolent despot who stops at nothing to gain and hold power. Set in Long Island, Hollywood and Sicily, this is a story of a feudal society within society which does not hesitate to consolidate its power. *Mafia novel*

### **Gormenghast**

**Gormenghast Trilogy**

**Mervyn Peake**

One of the most distinctive, absorbing and wonderfully strange books ever written. The story concerns Titus and his adventures in the sprawling, crumbling castle of Gormenghast. Gormenghast is an entire world and Titus comes to grips with his prime antagonist, the sinister kitchen boy Steerpike, amongst a brilliant profusion of characters and vivid detail. *Gothic Fantasy*



### **Hurricane Gold**

**Charlie Higgins**

The young James Bond embarks on a deadly chase through the Mexican jungle. On this terrifying trail of greed and betrayal, only danger is guaranteed ...Survival is not. This is the fourth must-have adventure in this phenomenal series. *SpyThriller*



**The Harsh Cry of the Heron**  
**Tales of the Otori series**

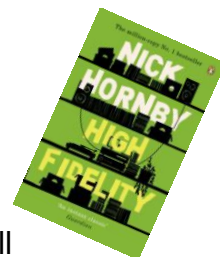
**Lian Hearn**

Takeo and Kaede have now ruled the Three Countries peacefully for over 16 years, following the tumultuous events in the 'Tales of the Otori' series This is a breath-taking epic of warfare and sacrifice, passionate revenge, treacherous betrayals and unconquerable love. *Epic Fantasy*

### **High Fidelity**

**Nick Hornby**

Rob is good on music: he owns a small record shop and has strong views on what's decent and what isn't. But he's much less good on relationships. In fact, he's not at all sure that he wants to commit himself to anyone. So it's hardly surprising that his girlfriend decides that enough is enough. *Real Life*



### **The Hound of the Baskervilles**

**Sir Arthur Conan Doyle**

A deserted moor, a family curse, a demon hound, an escaped convict and a touch of the supernatural with a dash of Sherlock Holmes. *Detective mystery*

### **Inside the Cage**

**Matt Whyman**

Under suspicion for a virtual break-in at Fort Knox, 17-year-old Carl Hobbes is taken to an isolated camp in the Arctic wilderness. One notorious detainee stages an uprising. Cut off from civilisation, and with overnight temperatures plummeting, Carl must decide whether his chances of survival are greater inside the cage - or out... *Thriller*

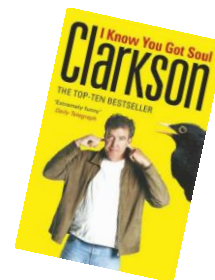


### **I Know You Got Soul**

**Jeremy Clarkson**

Jeremy Clarkson tells the stories of the geniuses, innovators and crackpots who put the ghost in the machine.

*Popular science/TV tie-in*





**The Knife that killed me**  
**Anthony McGowan**

When Paul ends up delivering a message from Roth to the leader of a gang at a nearby school, it fuels a rivalry with immediate consequences. Paul attempts to distance himself from the feud, but when Roth hands him a knife it both empowers him and scares him at the same time ...  
*Real life drama*

**Jaws**  
**Peter Benchley**

It was just another day in the life of a small Atlantic resort until the terror from the deep came to prey on unwary holiday makers.  
*Film tie-in/Adventure*



**The Kite Runner**  
**Khaled Hosseini**

The Kite Runner tells the gripping story of the boyhood friendship between Amir and Khaled which is destroyed by jealousy and fear. The fall of Afghanistan from a secluded oasis to a tank-strewn battlefield controlled by the Russians, and then the Taliban, runs parallel to Amir's story.  
*Surviving in war/Film tie-in*

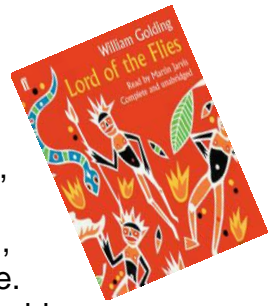


**Life, the Universe and Everything**  
**Douglas Adams**

**The Hitchhiker's Guide series**  
In consequence of a number of stunning catastrophes, Arthur Dent is surprised to find himself living in a hideously miserable cave on prehistoric Earth. The final part of the original Hitch Hiker's Guide trilogy confirms Douglas Adams as one of the most original and funniest of Britain's comic writers. *Comic Sci-Fi*

**Lord of the Flies**  
**William Golding**

A group of boys are marooned on an island after their plane crashes. With no adult survivors, they create their own "micro-society". Ralph is elected "chief", and he organises shelter and fire. Jack, the head of the choir, takes his boys hunting for food. A bitter and brutal rivalry develops between Jack and Ralph as both want to be in charge. *Fable*



**Man and Boy**  
**Tony Parsons**

Harry Silver has it all. A successful job in TV, a gorgeous wife, a lovely child. And in one moment of madness, he chucks it all away. Man and Boy is the story of how he comes to terms with his life and achieves a degree of self-respect, bringing up his son alone. It is very well written, pacy, funny, and moving. *Real life drama*

**No Country for Old Men**  
**Cormac McCarthy**

Llewelyn Moss, stumbles upon a transaction gone horribly wrong. Finding bullet-ridden bodies, several kilos of heroin, and a caseload of cash, he faces a choice - leave the scene as he found it, or cut the money and run. Choosing the latter, he knows, will change everything. And so begins a terrifying chain of events, in which each participant seems determined to answer the question that one asks another: 'how does a man decide in what order to abandon his life?'  
*Crime thriller/Film tie-in.*





### On the Edge: My Story

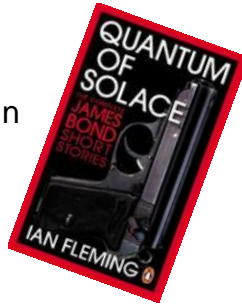
**Richard Hammond**

A gripping account of life before and after his high speed car crash and an honest description of his recovery, full of drama and incident. *Autobiography*

### Quantum of Solace

**Ian Fleming**

Bringing together all of the James Bond short stories in one volume for the first time, this is the ultimate celebration of suave and deadly secret agent 007. *Spy thriller/Film tie-in*



### One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest

**Ken Kesey**

Presents the story of a mental ward and its inhabitants, especially the tyrannical Big Nurse Ratched and Randle Patrick McMurphy, the brawling, fun-loving new inmate who resolves to oppose her. Seen through the eyes of Chief Bromden, the seemingly mute half-Indian patient who understands McMurphy's heroic attempt to do battle with the awesome powers that keep them all imprisoned. *Black comedy/Film tie-in*

### The Pearl

**John Steinbeck**

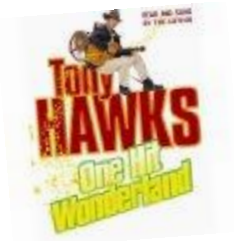
Like his father, and grandfather before him, Kino is a poor diver, gathering pearls from the Gulf beds. Desperate for money, one day he emerges from the sea with a pearl as large as a seagull's egg, as "perfect as the moon." With the pearl comes hope, the promise of comfort and of security. But at what cost? *Fable*



### One Hit Wonderland

**Tony Hawks**

For two years, Tony goes in search of that elusive top ten hit record, changing acts and styles with a singular lack of integrity. When he meets up with Norman Wisdom in Albania, things take an unexpectedly up-beat turn. *Comedy*



### The Perks of Being a Wallflower

**Stephen Chbosky**

Charlie is a freshman. And while he's not the biggest geek in the school, he is by no means popular. Deeply affecting. *Coming-of-age story*



### Penalty

**Mal Peet**

Penalty is Mal Peet's second novel about the sports reporter detective Paul Faustino. This time Faustino is investigating the disappearance of a teenage superstar, El Brujito. Faustino is a grumpy, middle-aged man with a quick brain and a dry humour. In other words, he's quite like a lot of other fictional detectives. *Football thriller*

### The Picture of Dorian Gray

**Oscar Wilde**

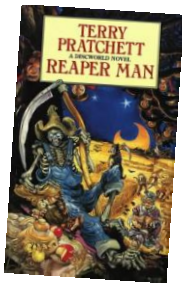
Be careful what you wish for! As Dorian Gray desires, his portrait, painted by his friend, reveals his inner sin and debauchery while his beautiful exterior remains intact. *Victorian gothic horror*



### Pompeii

**Robert Harris**

In 79 AD, Mount Vesuvius in Italy suffered a colossal volcanic explosion that was 100,000 times more powerful than the atomic bomb dropped on Hiroshima. The eruption buried Pompeii and a few other cities, killing thousands of Roman citizens and slaves. *Historical*



## Reaper Man Discworld Series

**Terry Pratchett**

Death is missing which leads to the kind of chaos you always get when an important public service is withdrawn. Meanwhile, on a little farm far, far away, a tall dark stranger is turning out to be really good with a scythe. There's a harvest to be gathered in... *Comic fantasy*

## The Reluctant Fundamentalist

**Moshin Hamid**

Changez, a Pakistani Muslim from a once wealthy family in Lahore, has a high-flying job in the world of New York finance and a relationship with a beautiful, enigmatic all-American girl. But in the wake of September 11 his position in the city suddenly changes. And Changez's own identity is changing as well as he is drawn into allegiances more fundamental than money, power, and perhaps even love. *Psychological drama*



## The Road

**Cormac McCarthy**

A father and his son walk alone through a burned out America, heading through the ravaged landscape to the coast. A haunting work that explores how two people survive in the face of total devastation. *Futuristic*



## Sara's Face

**Melvin Burgess**

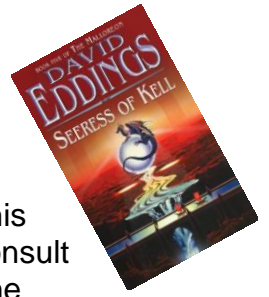
Sara Carter wants to be famous. When legendary rock star Jonathon Heat offers her the cosmetic surgery she thinks she wants, she can't believe her dream will come true. But Jonathon Heat doesn't want Sara's talent. Jonathon Heat wants Sara's face. *Psychological drama*



## Seeress of Kell Malloreon series

**David Eddings**

Now in the final stages of their quest for his son, Garion and his companions travel to Kell to consult the only undamaged copy of the Malloreon Gospels. For centuries the Seers have guarded this book from the Grolims and even had their wizards put a curse on those who tried to enter Kell. *Epic fantasy series*



## The Siege

**Ismail Kadare**

In the early fifteenth century, as winter falls away, the people of Albania know that their fate is sealed. They have refused to negotiate with the Ottoman Empire, and war is now inevitable. This book tells the enthralling story of the siege that follows. *Historical drama*



## The Shipping News

**Annie Proulx**

When a series of tragedies leave Quoye to raise his daughters alone, he is helped in his grief by a distant aunt and is encouraged to return with her to their ancestral home in Newfoundland. The touching story of a damaged man redeemed by the community and landscape of a small, remote fishing village.

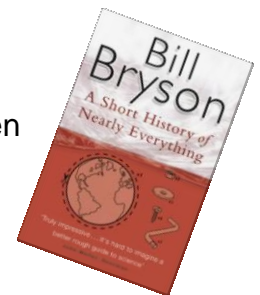
*Real life drama/ Film tie-in*

## A Short History of Nearly Everything

**Bill Bryson**

Geology, chemistry and even particle physics can be fun (and understandable).

*Popular science*





## Slaughterhouse 5

**Kurt Vonnegut**

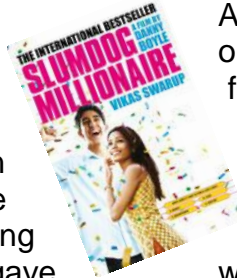
An account of a young soldier by the name of Billy Pilgrim, as he faces the disaster of the Dresden bombing in the Second World War. Vonnegut's style is both witty and serious as he takes us on a time-travel experience through Billy's life. If you are particularly interested in war literature, Slaughterhouse 5 is a must. *Anti-War novel*

## Slumdog Millionaire (Q and A)

**Vikas Swarup**

How can a kid from the slums know who Shakespeare was? In the order of the questions on the show, Ram tells us which amazing adventures in his street-kid life gave him the answers.

*Black Comedy/ Film Tie-in*

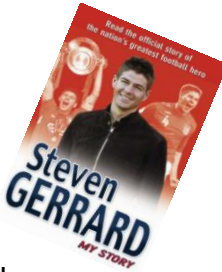


## Steven Gerrard

**Steven Gerrard**

is the inspirational captain of Liverpool FC and a key member of the England team. This is an honest and fascinating account of his life-long obsession with football and the tensions and thrills of playing at the top level.

*Autobiography*



## A Spot of Bother

**Mark Haddon**

Things start well . George Hall, having just retired in Peterborough, is out buying a suit at Alders. He spots a lesion on his hip, decides he must have cancer, and even after his doctor tells him it's eczema, he realises there can only be one solution: "He would have to kill himself." A comic look at family life from the author of The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time. *Black comedy*



## Stupid White Men

**Michael Moore**

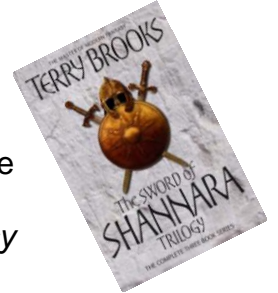
This is a must-read for anyone who has ever wondered why politicians and big business were lying to them and wanted to know how they got away with it. It is passionate, fierce, savage ...and very funny. *Satire*



## The Sword of Shannara Trilogy

**Terry Brooks**

A classic series that has become one of the most popular epic fantasy tales of all time. *Fantasy*



## Tales of the unexpected

**Roald Dahl**

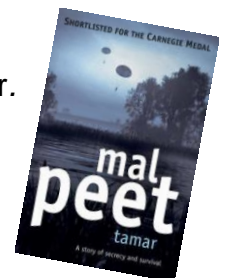
Stories with a 'sting in the tail' that will leave you feeling horrified, yet mesmerised by Dahl's expert craftsmanship and wit. *Black comedy*

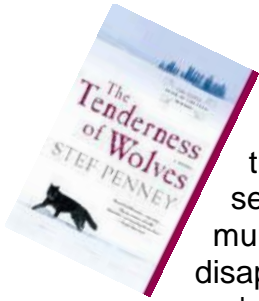
## Tamar

**Mal Peet**

A thrilling and moving story about love, betrayal and belonging. When Tamar's grandfather, an intensely private man, falls from a balcony to his death, he leaves behind a box with Tamar's name on it. For a long time Tamar refuses even to think about it...until one hot June day she opens it to reveal a series of clues and hidden messages from her grandfather.

*Mystery drama*





**The Tenderness of Wolves**  
**Stef Penney**

It is 1867, Canada: as winter tightens its grip on the isolated settlement of Dove River, a man is murdered and a 17-year old boy disappears. Tracks leaving the dead man's cabin head north towards the forest. In the wake of such violence, people are drawn to the township. But do they want to solve the crime or exploit it? *Psychological thriller*

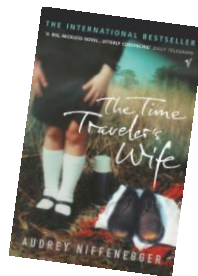
**Then**  
**Maurice Gleitzman**

The sequel to *Once*. 'I had a plan for me and Zelda. Pretend to be someone else. Find new parents. Be safe forever. Then the Nazis came.' *Surviving in war*



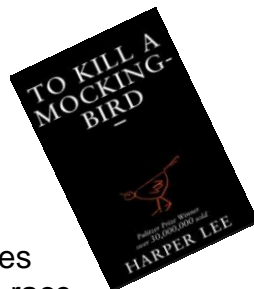
**The Time-Traveller's Wife**  
**Audrey Niffenegger**

This is a strange story centering on a man with a genetic disorder that causes him to unpredictably time travel, and his wife, an artist who has to cope with his frequent absences and dangerous experiences. *Science Fiction/Romance*



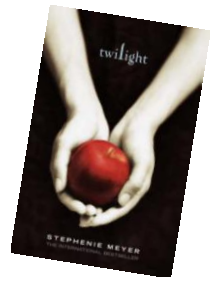
**To Kill a Mockingbird**  
**Harper Lee**

A lawyer's advice to his children as he defends a black man charged with attacking a white girl. Through the young eyes of Scout and Jem Finch, Harper Lee explores the irrationality of adult attitudes to race and class in the Deep South of the 1930s. *Courtroom drama*



**Twilight**  
**Twilight series**  
**Stephanie Meyer**

An electrifying debut novel of a young woman's love for a vampire. *Horror/Film Tie-in*



**2001 A Space Odyssey**  
**Arthur C Clarke**

A classic among classics, a science fiction story that begins three million years in the past and ends in what was, at the time Clarke developed the story, the near future. Time and space travel are interwoven to create a complex and original novel. *Sci-Fi*



Please ask, or look at some of the other following options:

## **Books**

The Ultimate Teen Book Guide  
Daniel HAHN and Leonie FLYNN

Good Reading Guide – One Good Book Leads to Another  
Peter BOXALL, editor



1001 Books you Must Read Before You Die  
Peter BOXALL, editor

## **Websites**

READING MATTERS  
[www. Readingmatters.co.uk/lists](http://www.Readingmatters.co.uk/lists)

LOVEREADING UK  
<http://www.lovereadng.co.uk>



**QEH Library  
Upper School  
Reading List**