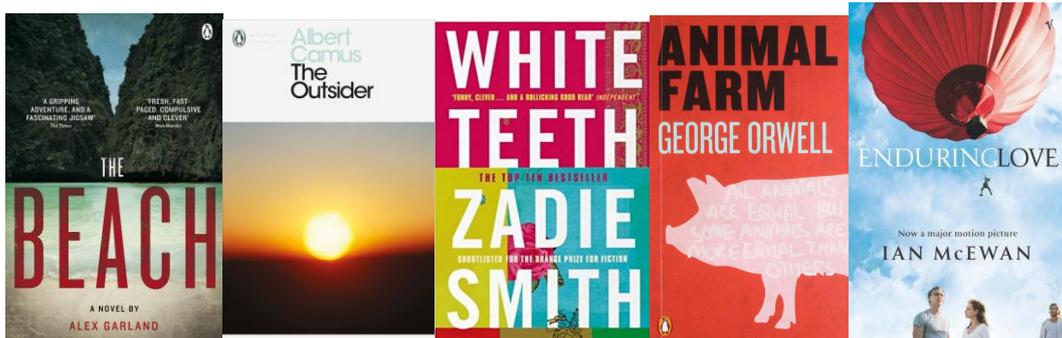




Ark Putney
Academy

Independent Learning Portfolio

Reading Project



"Once you learn to read, you will be forever free." - Frederick Douglass

"Reading is to the mind what exercise is to the body." - Joseph Addison

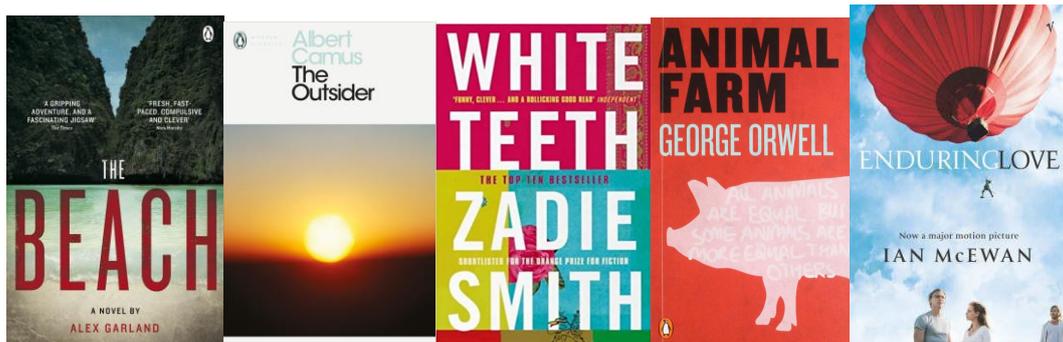
Choose a text. Enjoy reading.



How your reading project works

During this reading project, you will:

- Select a book from the reading list that contains themes and ideas that really interest and engage you.



- Find a quiet space. Spend time really enjoying your choice.



Help and support

To help you reflect on your text, you have been provided with:

A three part journal to document your reactions and ideas so that you can express your thoughts to others as well as looking back on them in the future.



Picking a text

- 1) Have a read of the information on each of your reading project book choices. You can find this on the next five pages.
- 2) Select one book. Make it one with themes and ideas that interest or inspire you.

Additionally, you can find information on each text at the following website:

<https://www.goodreads.com/>

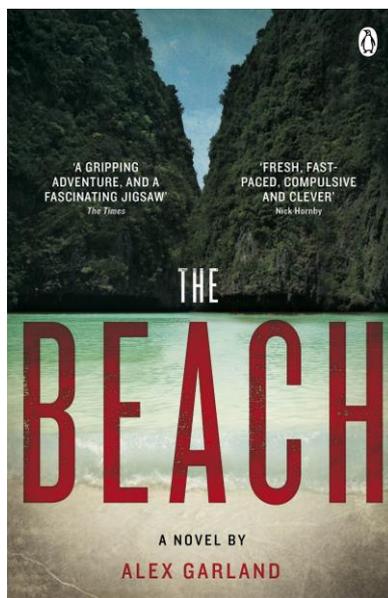




The Beach - Alex Garland

(Mr Melicher's top pick)

"Escape through travel works. Almost from the moment I boarded my flight, life in England became meaningless. Seat-belt signs lit up, problems switched off. Broken armrests took precedence over broken hearts. By the time the plane was airborne I'd forgotten England even existed." *The Beach* - Alex Garland



The classic story of paradise found - and lost.

Richard lands in East Asia in search of an earthly utopia. In Thailand, he is given a map promising an unknown island, a secluded beach - and a new way of life. What Richard finds when he gets there is breathtaking: more extraordinary, more frightening than his wildest dreams.

But how long can paradise survive here on Earth? And what lengths will Richard go to in order to save it?

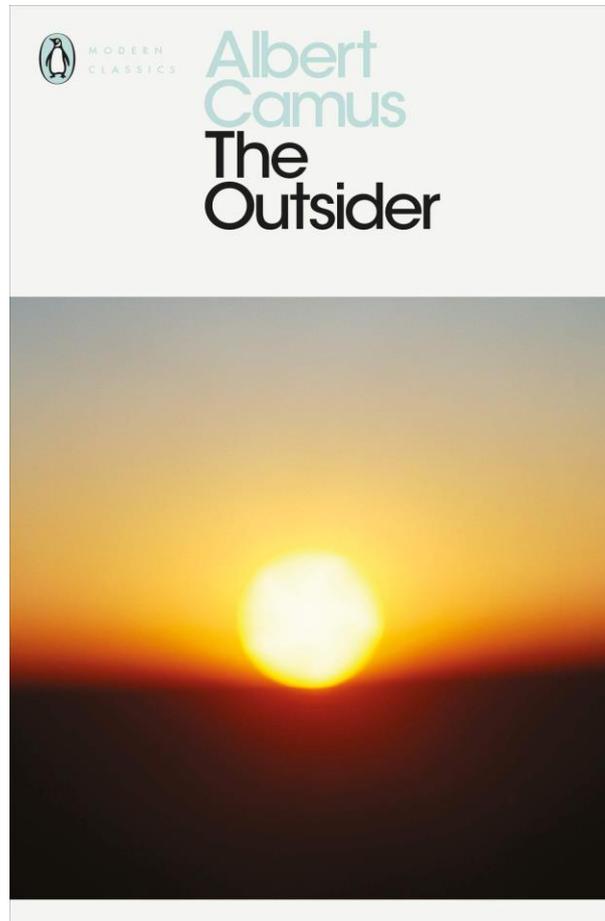
Choose this if you like stories about:

- Travel
- Adventure
- Self discovery
- Deception



The Outsider - Albert Camus

*"I looked up at the mass of signs and stars in the night sky and laid myself open for the first time to the benign indifference of the world."*The Outsider - Albert Camus



In *The Outsider* (1942), his classic existentialist novel, Camus explores the alienation of an individual who refuses to conform to social norms. Meursault, his anti-hero, will not lie. When his mother dies, he refuses to show his emotions simply to satisfy the expectations of others. And when he commits a random act of violence on a sun-drenched beach near Algiers, his lack of remorse compounds his guilt in the eyes of society and the law. Yet he is as much a victim as a criminal.

Albert Camus' portrayal of a man confronting the absurd, and revolting against the injustice of society, depicts the paradox of man's joy in life when faced with the 'tender indifference' of the world.

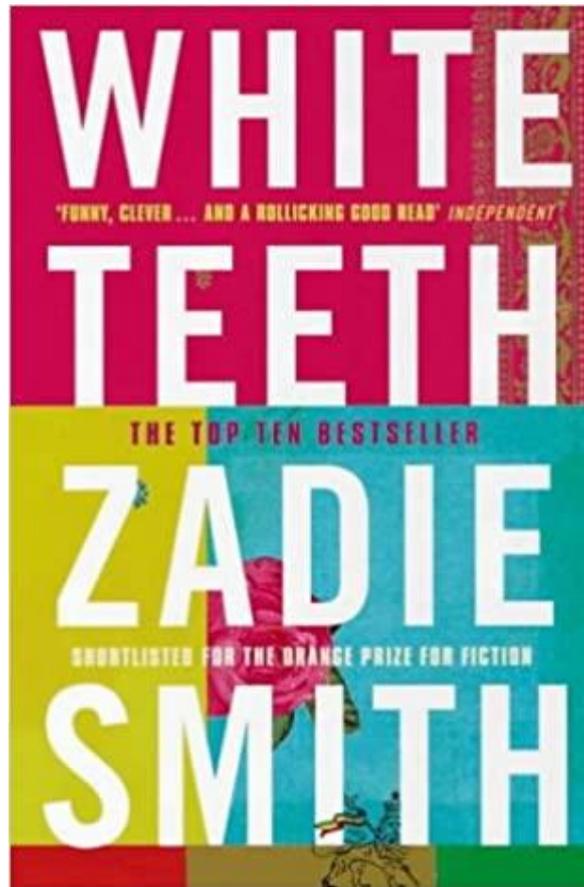
Choose this if you like stories about:

- The irrationality of the universe
- The importance of the physical world
 - Absurdity
 - Alienation



White Teeth - Zadie Smith

"Every moment happens twice: inside and outside, and they are two different histories." White Teeth - Zadie Smith



Set against London's racial and cultural tapestry, venturing across the former empire and into the past as it barrels toward the future, *White Teeth* revels in the ecstatic hodgepodge of modern life, flirting with disaster, confounding expectations, and embracing the comedy of daily existence.

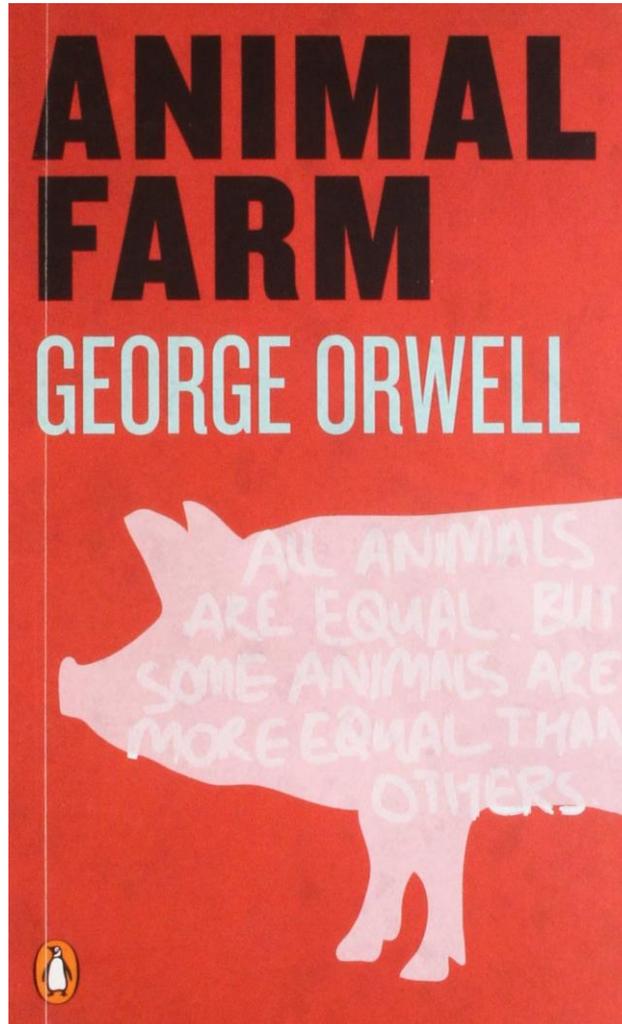
Choose this if you like stories about:

- Friendship
- Appearances
 - Identity
- Race and ethnicity
 - Religion



Animal Farm - George Orwell

"The creatures outside looked from pig to man, and from man to pig, and from pig to man again; but already it was impossible to say which was which." *Animal Farm* - George Orwell



All animals are equal - but some are more equal than others.

When the downtrodden animals of Manor Farm overthrow their master Mr Jones and take over the farm themselves, they imagine it is the beginning of a life of freedom and equality. But gradually a cunning, ruthless elite among them, masterminded by the pigs Napoleon and Snowball, starts to take control.

Soon the other animals discover that they are not all as equal as they thought, and find themselves hopelessly ensnared as one form of tyranny is replaced with another.

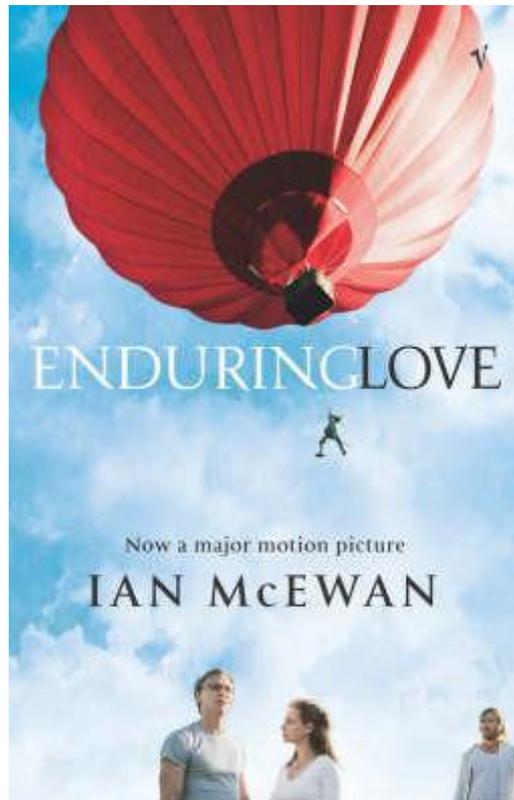
Choose this if you like stories about:

- Foolishness and folly
- Political struggle



Enduring Love - Ian McEwan

“When it's gone, you'll know what a gift love was. You'll suffer like this. So go back and fight to keep it.” Enduring Love - Ian McEwan



One windy spring day in the Chilterns Joe Rose's calm, organised life is shattered by a ballooning accident. The afternoon could have ended in mere tragedy, but for his brief meeting with Jed Parry. Unknown to Joe, something passes between them – something that gives birth in Parry to an obsession so powerful that it will test to the limits Joe's beloved scientific rationalism, threaten the love of his wife Clarissa and drive him to the brink of murder and madness.

Choose this if you like stories about:

- Obsession
- Desire
- Madness



Now you have chosen a text...

Now that you have chosen a text, you have an opportunity to escape reality and get lost in the world that your novel has created.



But, before you get started...

- Divide your book into three similar sized chunks. They do not have to be exactly equal. Make sure that none of the chunks are in the middle of a chapter.
- You will stop at the end of these three chunks so that you can document what you have found interesting. We will ask to see this so that we can understand your relationship with the book and because we are intrigued about your personal responses.
- After you have completed your text, there are three book club questions to be answered.
- You will also have the opportunity to write a book review which you will share with your teacher. You can also share this with friends and family.



Reading Journal Part 1

You should have split your novel into three relatively equal chunks, ensuring that each chunk is at the end of a chapter rather than in the middle of it.

This journal is for your first chunk.

- What's the first thing that struck you in the text? Was it because it was shocking or familiar? How did it make you feel?

- What was something that puzzled you about the first part of the text? Was it a character or a decision that they made?

- Was there something you disagreed with? What? Why?



Submitting work



Please submit your work to Miss McCormack:
r.mccormack@arkputneyacademy.org



Reading Journal Part 2

You should have split your novel into three relatively equal chunks, ensuring that each chunk is at the end of a chapter rather than in the middle of it.

This journal is for your second chunk.

- What patterns do you see emerging in the text? Does the author repeat certain words or phrases? Sentence patterns? Symbols? Images?

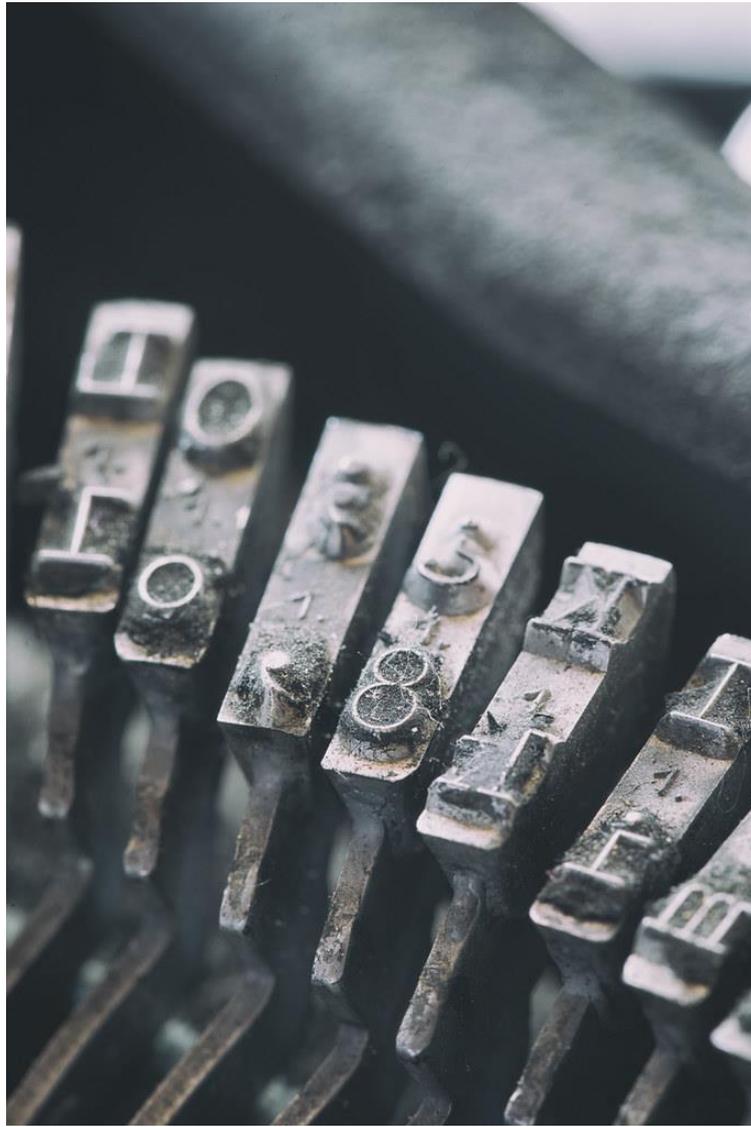
- What effect do these patterns have?

- If your book has a main character, how has he/she changed over the course of the text?

- Why do you think this change is important?



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Book Club Questions



Here is your opportunity to delve deeper into the ideas, settings and characters presented in your chosen novel.

Simply answer the book club questions which relate to your novel.



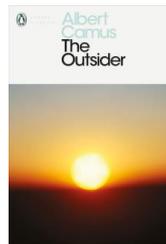
The Beach - Alex Garland



1. Discuss the character of Richard. Is he likeable? Does he deserve to escape relatively unscathed from his adventure?
2. Is paradise on Earth attainable? Describe your version of heaven on Earth and discuss how this could be achieved.
3. Discuss the irony of the commune buying their rice from a neighboring island and of Keaty's obsession with video games while living in paradise.

Irony: Events that seem deliberately contrary or opposed to what you expect

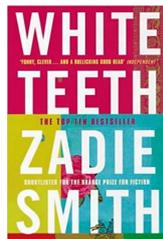
The Outsider - Albert Camus



1. Who is the outsider and why are they called that? In later translations, the novel is called, *The Stranger*. Which title makes more sense to you?
2. While Camus was an atheist, he was a humanist - a person who could see good in man and saw reasons to behave morally. Was this a trait of Mersault?
3. Do you think Mersault ever felt remorse for his crime?

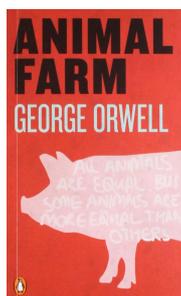


White Teeth - Zadie Smith



1. Why does Archie like to flip a coin in moments of indecision? What does it reveal about him as a character?
2. Why do you think Smith made the decision that Irie would never be able to identify the father of her child?
3. Which characters have no religion in the book? What does their lack of faith tell us about them? What do they believe in instead?

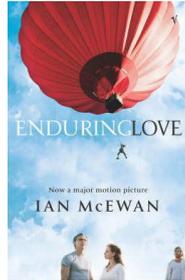
Animal Farm - George Orwell



1. Is it important to know the world history of the mid- and late-1940s to fully understand the ideas that Orwell is trying to portray?
2. Do you feel that, overall, the animals were better or worse off once they were in control of the farm?
3. What is the most important decision taken by Napoleon in Animal Farm? Explain.



Enduring Love - Ian McEwan



1. Which is the enduring love the title refers to?
2. When does the reader begin to suspect that Joe may not be altogether reliable with his version of events? How does Ian McEwan manage to create this suspicion when it is Joe himself who is telling the story?
3. How does Joe's scientific background and Clarissa's artistic one affect the way they deal with the Jed Parry situation?



Submitting work



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Book Review

This is your opportunity to write a review for the novel you have read.

You will share this with your teachers. You can also use it as a basis to recommend your chosen text to your friends and family.

How to write your review

- Read the list of key ingredients. You can use this as a checklist. You might choose not to include all of the ingredients.
- Write your review, remembering to organise your ideas in clear paragraphs.



Book review key ingredients

How to write a Book Review

Getting started

Below is a list of questions about your book. If you answer them carefully and in detail you can use your answers to form a detailed book review which gives your opinion of the book.

Answer in sentences to form paragraphs under the following headings rather than numbering your answers or using bullet points.



Plot

What happened in the story?
What was the story about?
What length of time did it cover? (this is the amount of time that passes during the course of the story, not how long it took you to read it)
Was what happened unusual? Ordinary?
What was the opening of the story like? Exciting? Slow? Dramatic? Dull?
How did the events of the story follow on from each other?

Characters

Who were the main characters?
What were they like?
Were they described in much detail?
Which did you find most interesting? Most sympathetic? (if you find a character sympathetic, you like them as you can understand their feelings. Perhaps you have had a similar experience to them)
What kind of relationships and / or conflicts were there?
Did these characters change throughout the story?

Comments on style

Was the story written in the first or third person? ('I' or 'he / she')
How important was this to the story?
Was the setting described in detail?
Were feelings and attitudes described in depth?
Was it a good story? Why?
What was your favourite moment in the story? Why?
Were there any moments (or characters) that might have been improved? If so, what changes would you make?

General

Do you think the writer had a particular reason for telling this story?
How did you feel during and after reading it?
Do you think you learned anything from the book about people? Ways of life?
How would you compare it to other books you've read?
What else do you think is important to say about it?
Would you recommend this book / read another by the same author?



Submitting work



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