



SURBITON

HIGH SCHOOL

English Department Summer Reading List 2019



Welcome to English at Surbiton High School

During your time at Surbiton High School, you will be given the opportunity to study a wide array of fantastic texts as part of the English curriculum. This reading pack has been designed to give you a taste of the sorts of wonderful books you can expect to come across in English.

In this booklet, you will find a reading list of 10 books all dealing in some way with the theme of 'change'. It is **not compulsory** for you to read any of these books as you will already have to read 'The Boy Who Hit Play'. However, if you would like to read any additional books then please do check out the reading list! There are even some fun activities for you complete **BUT** only if you would like to :)

We very much look forward to meeting you all in September. Happy reading!

Book List

Please see below a list of books with a short blurb on each you could choose from:

1. *Wonder* – R. J. Palacio

I know I'm not an ordinary ten-year-old kid. I mean, sure, I do ordinary things. I eat ice cream. I ride my bike. I play ball. I have an Xbox. Stuff like that makes me ordinary. I guess. And I feel ordinary. Inside. But I know ordinary kids don't make other ordinary kids run away screaming in playgrounds. I know ordinary kids don't get stared at wherever they go.

2. *The 1,000 year old Boy* – Ross Welford

There are stories about people who want to live forever. This is not one of those stories. This is a story about someone who wants to stop. . .

Alfie Monk is like any other nearly teenage boy – except he's 1,000 year old and can remember the last Viking invasion of England. Obviously, no one believes him. So when everything Alfie knows and loves is destroyed in a fire, and the modern world comes crashing in, Alfie embarks on a mission to find friendship, acceptance, and a different way to live...

3. *Matilda* – Roald Dahl

Matilda's parents have called her some terrible things. The truth is, she's a genius and they're the stupid ones. Matilda is determined to get her own back and soon discovers she has a very special power.

4. *Little Women* – Louisa May Alcott

Following the lives of the four March sisters – Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy – the novel details their passage from childhood to womanhood and is loosely based on the author and her three sisters.

5. *The Hobbit* – J. R. R. Tolkien

This book follows the quest of home-loving hobbit Bilbo Baggins to win a share of the treasure guarded by Smaug the dragon. Bilbo's journey takes him from light-hearted, rural surroundings into more sinister territory.

6. *Holes* – Louis Sachar

The book centers around an unlucky teenage boy named Stanley Yelnats, who is sent to Camp Green Lake, a juvenile corrections facility in a desert in Texas, after being falsely accused of theft. The plot explores the history of the area and how the actions of several characters in the past have affected Stanley's life in the present.

7. *The Diary of Anne Frank* – Anne Frank

In July 1942, thirteen-year-old Anne Frank and her family, fleeing the occupation, went into hiding in an Amsterdam warehouse. Over the next two years Anne vividly describes in her diary her frustrations of living in such close quarters, and her thoughts, feeling and longings as she grows up. Her diary ends abruptly when, in August 1944 they were all betrayed.

8. *When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit* – Judith Kerr

Suppose your country began to change. Suppose that without your noticing, it became dangerous for some people to live in Germany any longer. Suppose you found, to your complete surprise, that your own father was one of those people.

That is what happened to Anna in 1933. She was nine years old when it began, too busy to take much notice of political posters, but out of them glared the face of Adolf Hitler, the man who would soon change the whole of Europe - starting with her own small life.

One day, Anna's father was missing. Then she herself and her brother Max were being rushed by their mother, in alarming secrecy, away from everything they knew - home and schoolmates and well-loved toys - right out of Germany...

9. *Oranges in No Man's Land* – Elizabeth Laird

Since her father left Lebanon to find work and her mother tragically died in a shell attack, ten-year-old Ayesha has been living in the bomb-ravaged city of Beirut with her granny and her two younger brothers. The city has been torn in half by civil war and a desolate, dangerous no man's land divides the two sides. Only militiamen and tanks dare enter this deadly zone, but when Granny falls desperately ill Ayesha sets off on a terrifying journey to reach a doctor living in enemy territory.

10. *Ballet Shoes* - Noel Streatfield

Pauline, Petrova and Posy Fossil are sisters - with a difference. All three were adopted as babies by Great Uncle Matthew, an eccentric and rich explorer who then disappeared, leaving them in the care of his niece Sylvia. The girls grow up in comfort until their money begins to run out and nobody can find Great Uncle Matthew. Things look bleak until they hit on an inspired idea: Pauline, Petrova and Posy will take to the stage. But it's not long before the Fossils learn that being a star isn't as easy as they first thought...

Activity List

If you feel like completing a fun activity on any of the books you read, there is a list below which you could choose from. Again, this is not compulsory.

Activities:

1. Design a book cover for the book you have read.
 - You could include; a blurb to entice readers, a clear title, author's name and illustrations.
 - Make it colourful and creative.
2. Create a storyboard of the book.
 - Your storyboard could include illustrations and a short description of what is happening in each frame of the story board.
3. Draw a map of where the story takes place.
 - If the location changes in your text, you can either draw a map covering the entire area or just focus on one area.
 - You could include a key to explain your map.
4. Create a character profile of one of the characters from your book.
 - Select any character from the book.
 - You could include any factual information you are given about the character e.g. Physical description/characteristics.
 - You could include any information you learn about their personality/interests/relationships
5. Write a letter to the author.
 - You could:
 - i. Explain what you enjoyed most/enjoyed the least about the book.
 - ii. Explain what you liked/did not like about the characters.
 - iii. Any suggestions you have you may have.
6. Write a letter to one of the characters.
 - Select **one** of the characters from the text.
 - You could include:
 - Any questions you may have for them regarding a specific event.
 - Any questions you may have for them regarding the way they handled a situation/interaction with another character.
 - Their thoughts/feelings on a specific event in the book.
7. Write a book review about your book for a teenage magazine.
 - You could include the following:
 - A brief summary of the book
 - Explore some of the key themes in the book and why they are important
 - What you enjoyed/did not enjoy about the text
 - Why others your age should/should not read the text

8. Write a diary entry from the point of view of one of the characters
 - Write in the first person
 - You could write about:
 - A specific event that took place
 - A particular day that you found upsetting/thrilling/challenging.
 - Remember to write in the first person, include a date and don't forget to sign off your diary entry!