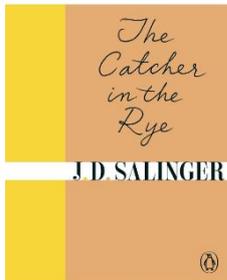


# Suggested Yr10 Reading List

The books in this list have all been enjoyed by many students – read the synopses to decide which ones you would like to read.

If you've read and enjoyed any of these books, consider leaving a [review](#) for other students to see too!



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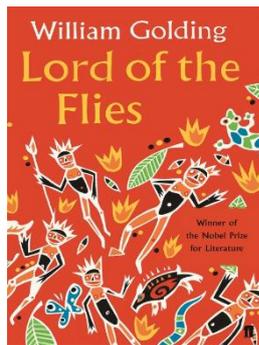
## **The Catcher in the Rye by J. D. Salinger**

Holden Caulfield is a seventeen-year-old dropout who has just been kicked out of his fourth school, in 1950s New York.

Precocious, sensitive, and confused, he blunders through a haze of teenage failures, disappointments and anti-climaxes and delivers to the reader a bitter-sweet, biting commentary on all the 'phony' aspects of society and the 'phonies' themselves.

**Themes:** Teenage confusion/rebellion

**Guided Reading Questions:** This book was censored in America in the 1960's - do you agree?



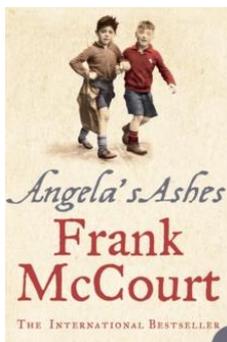
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## **Lord of the Flies by William Golding**

A plane crashes on a desert island. The only survivors are a group of schoolboys. By day, they discover fantastic wildlife and dazzling beaches, learning to survive; at night, they are haunted by nightmares of a primitive beast. Orphaned by society, it isn't long before their innocent childhood games devolve into a savage, murderous hunt ...

**Themes:** Survival, Leadership

**Guided Reading Questions:** How would this story have differed if it had been a group of girls?



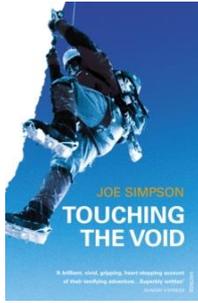
## **Angela's Ashes by Frank McCourt**

Angela's Ashes is a story of extreme hardship and suffering, in Brooklyn tenements and Limerick slums -- too many children, too little money, his mother Angela barely coping as his father Malachy's drinking bouts constantly brought the family to the brink of disaster.

It is a story of courage and survival against apparently overwhelming odds..

**Themes:** Poverty

**Guided Reading Questions:** What do you learn about Ireland and Catholicism from this book?



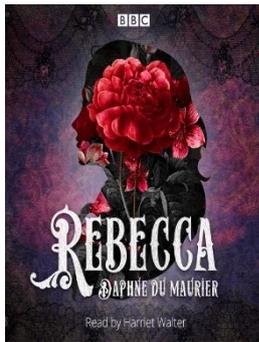
### Touching the Void by Joe Simpson

An account of the ascent of the 21,000ft Siula Grande peak in the Peruvian Andes.

Joe Simpson and his climbing partner, Simon Yates, had achieved the summit before the first disaster struck. What happened and how they dealt with the psychological traumas that resulted is the subject of this book.

**Themes:** Survival, danger

**Guided Reading Questions:** Would you have cut the rope?



### Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier

Manderley is haunted by the shadow of Maxim's first wife, Rebecca, who died the year before. It was Rebecca who made the house and gardens the showpiece of the county and her memory is revered by all, especially the housekeeper Mrs Danvers.

Is Rebecca dead? Her insidious influence seems to extend beyond the grave. A modern masterpiece of romantic suspense.

**Themes:** Jealousy, Murder

**Guided Reading Questions:** Does it matter that we never know the narrator's name?

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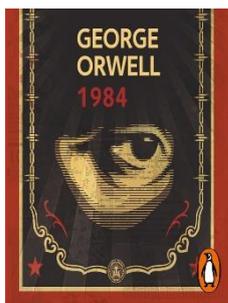


**The Woman in Black by Susan Hill** When a young solicitor is sent to attend to the paperwork of the late Alice Drablow, he finds himself in a spooky old house at the end of a causeway. Who is the mysterious woman in black he keeps seeing and what is her terrible secret? A classic.

**Themes:** Ghosts

**Guided Reading Questions:** Can a book be both a beautiful story and frighten you?

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### 1984 by George Orwell

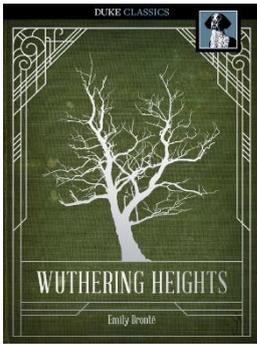
War is Peace. Freedom is Slavery. Ignorance is Strength. Winston Smith rewrites history for the Ministry of Truth, but when he's handed a note that says simply 'I love you' by a woman he hardly knows, he decides to risk everything in search for the real truth.

Can Winston possibly hold onto what he feels inside? Or will he renounce everything, accept the Party's reality, and learn to love Big Brother?

**Themes:** Future society/dictatorship/censorship

**Guided Reading Questions:** How would your life change if you lived in the world of 1984?

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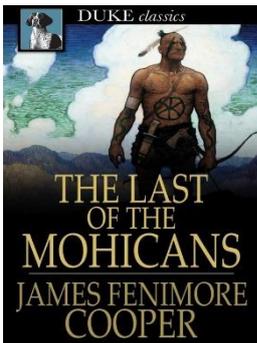
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**Wuthering Heights by Emily Brontë**

One of the most haunting, complex, and tragic love stories, Wuthering Heights tells the dark story that lies behind a remote and desolate house. Cathy and Heathcliff are powerfully and violently in love. When Cathy refuses to marry Heathcliff, he takes a terrible revenge leaving him, Cathy, and those they love in great danger.

**Themes:** Love

**Guided Reading Questions:** Is Heathcliff a villain?

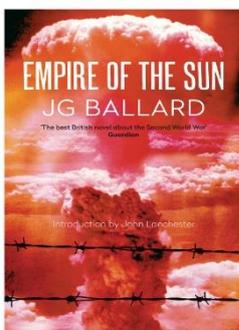


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**The Last of the Mohicans by James Fenimore Cooper** In an uncharted wilderness, the daughters of a British army commander, Alice, and Cora Munro, find themselves hunted by a tribe of ruthless savages as they struggle to return to their father's fort.

**Themes:** American History, Colonialism

**Guided Reading Questions:** Is this book still relevant today?



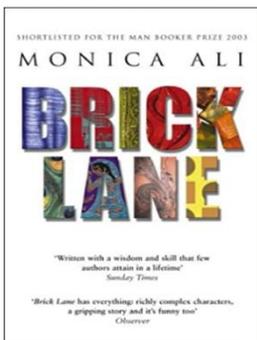
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**Empire of the Sun by J. G. Ballard**

Based on J. G. Ballard's own childhood, this is the extraordinary account of a boy's life in Japanese-occupied wartime Shanghai. It blends searing honesty with an almost hallucinatory vision of a world thrown utterly out of joint.

**Themes:** World War Two, Childhood, Imprisonment

**Guided Reading Questions:** How does war affect children differently from adults?



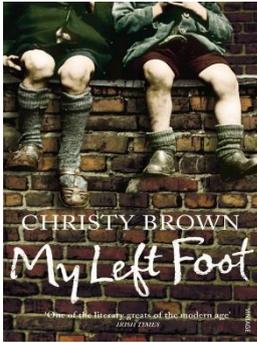
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**Brick Lane by Monica Ali**

The deeply moving story of one woman, Nazneen, born in a Bangladeshi village and transported to London at age eighteen to enter an arranged marriage. One day the radical Karim steps unexpectedly into her life and, on a background of racial conflict and tension, they embark on a love affair that forces Nazneen finally to take control of her fate.

**Themes:** Immigration, Family Life

**Guided Reading Question:** Are arranged marriages right or wrong?

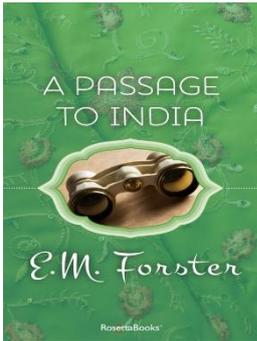


### My Left Foot by Christy Brown

Christy Brown was born a victim of cerebral palsy. He recounts his childhood struggle to learn to read, write, paint, and finally type, with the toe of his left foot. In this manner he wrote his bestseller *Down all the Days*.

**Themes:** Disability

**Guided Reading Questions:** What did this book teach you about achieving your dreams?



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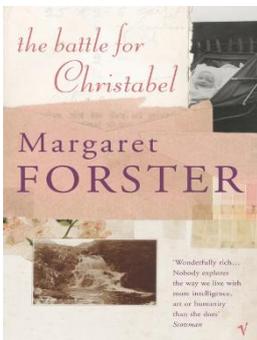
### A Passage to India by E. M. Forster

When Adela and her elderly companion Mrs Moore arrive in the Indian town of Chandrapore, they quickly feel trapped by its insular and prejudiced British community. Determined to explore the real India, they seek the guidance of the charming Dr Aziz, a cultivated Indian Muslim.

But a mysterious incident occurs while they are exploring the Marabar caves with Aziz, and the doctor finds himself at the centre of a scandal.

**Themes:** Colonialism, Culture

**Guided Reading Questions:** During the British Empire, could an Englishman and an Indian be friends?



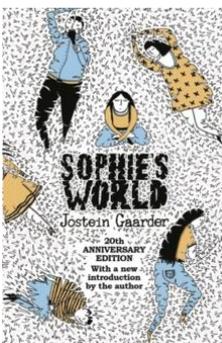
### The Battle for Christabel by Margaret Forster

Rowena wants a baby. What she doesn't want is the baby's father. Yet, five years after the birth of Christabel, Rowena is dead, tragically killed in a climbing accident.

The battle for Christabel has begun.

**Themes:** Adoption, love

**Guided Reading Questions:** Who do you think Christabel should live with and why?

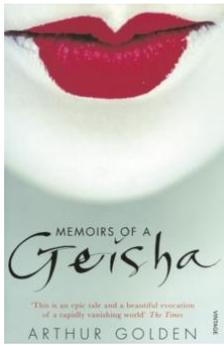


### Sophie's world by Margaret Forster

When 14-year-old Sophie encounters a mysterious mentor, who introduces her to philosophy, mysteries deepen in her own life. Why does she keep getting postcards addressed to another girl? Who is the other girl? And who, for that matter, is Sophie herself? To solve the riddle, she uses her new knowledge of philosophy, but the truth is far stranger than she could have imagined.

**Themes:** Philosophy

**Guided Reading Questions:** Is this a story or the history of philosophy?



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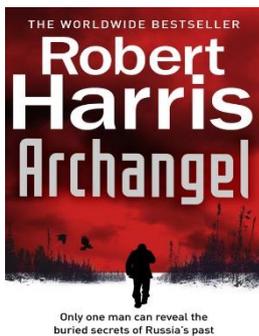
### **Memoirs of a Geisha by Arthur Golden**

A young peasant girl is sold as servant and apprentice to a renowned geisha house.

Many years later she tells her story from a hotel in New York, opening a window into an extraordinary half-hidden world of eroticism and enchantment, exploitation and degradation and summoning up a quarter of a century of Japan's dramatic history.

**Themes:** Culture

**Guided Reading Questions:** What can we learn about Japanese culture from this book?



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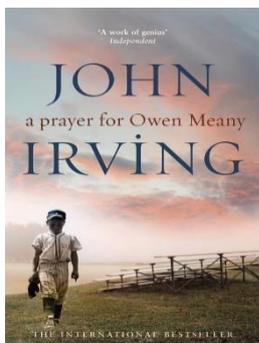
### **Archangel by Robert Harris**

Historian Fluke Kelso is in Moscow, attending a conference on recently unclassified Soviet papers, when an old veteran of the Soviet secret police visits his hotel room in the dead of night to tell him about a secret notebook belonging to Josef Stalin, stolen on the night of his death.

Kelso expects little but agrees to investigate. But in the new Russia, swirling with dark money and falling into the grip of anonymous oligarchs, a man seeking the truth is a dangerous quantity. Eyes are turning his way.

**Themes:** Russian History, Fear

**Guided Reading Questions:** What are the dangers of learning history from reading fiction?



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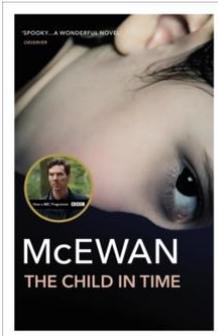
### **A Prayer for Owen Meany by John Irving**

Eleven-year-old Owen Meany, playing in a Little League baseball game in Gravesend, New Hampshire, hits a foul ball and kills his best friend's mother.

Owen doesn't believe in accidents; he believes he is God's instrument. What happens to Owen after that 1953 foul ball is both extraordinary and terrifying.

**Themes:** Friendship, Life Choices

**Guided Reading Questions:** How is your belief (or not) in God affected by other people.



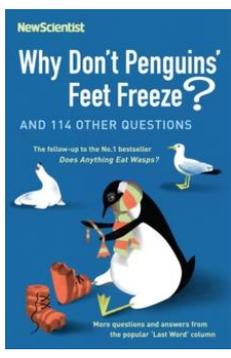
**A Child in Time by Ian McEwan**

Stephen Lewis, a successful author of children's books, takes his three-year-old daughter on a routine Saturday morning trip to the supermarket. While waiting in line, his attention is distracted, and his daughter is kidnapped.

Just like that. From there, Lewis spirals into bereavement that has effects on his relationship with his wife, his psyche and time itself.

**Themes:** Grief/loss

**Guided Reading Questions:** Can someone ever “get over” the loss of a child?



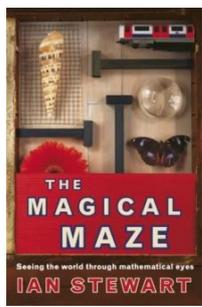
**Why don't penguin's feet freeze? edited by Mick O'Hare**

Yet again, many seemingly simple questions turn out to have complex answers. And some that seem difficult have a very simple explanation. "New Scientist's" 'Last Word' is regularly voted the magazine's most popular section as it celebrates all questions - the trivial, idiosyncratic, baffling, and strange.

This new selection of the best is popular science at its most entertaining and enlightening.

**Themes:** Science

**Guided Reading Questions:** Will science ever answer all the questions of life?



**The Magical Maze by Ian Stewart**

A brilliant exploration of the beauty and power of mathematics Ian Stewart has carved out of a niche for himself as by far the leading populariser of maths in this country in a series of successful books.

The Magical Maze is structured on the image of a maze representing the network of connected mathematical ideas that have proved so powerful and effective in the understanding the natural world.

**Themes:** Maths

**Guided Reading Questions:** What is a Mathematician?