

The Ultimate Reading List

“Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.”

— Margaret Fuller



Novels

- Almond, D.** **The Fire-Eaters**
Skellig
A selection of books from a very popular author.
- Ahern, C.** **Where Rainbows End**
Written as a series of letters. Boy meets girl, but they never seem to get together.
- Boyce, F.C.** **Millions-** what if a million pounds dropped from the sky and landed at your feet?
Framed – the perfect crime is a work of art...
Two super books from the Carnegie Medal winner.
- Breslin, T.** **Saskia’s Journey**
Saskia’s dad convinces her to go and stay with her Aunt Alessandra in Scotland for a few weeks during her gap year. When she arrives she realises that she has stayed with her Aunt before, but she cannot remember it.
- Brunton, C.** **I Predict a Riot**
This is a powerful novel about gangs, class and race, set during a violent summer in London.
- Donnelly, J.** **A Gathering Light**
Coming of Age novel, featuring 16 year old Mattie Gokey who gets involved in a murder mystery. Difficult to put down.
- Gaiman, N.** **Coraline**
The Graveyard Book
Frightening tales from prize-winning author.
- Haig, M.** **Echo Boy**
A dystopian thriller Echo Boy is an imaginative and pacy thriller about the future and about what makes us truly human.
- Horowitz, A.** **Stormbreaker**
Follow Alex Rider’s adventures as he starts his career as an undercover spy.

- Laird, Elizabeth** **The Garbage King**
A sad, but compelling story of Dani and Mamo's survival in the harshest of worlds.
- Lane, A.** **Young Sherlock Holmes**
Enthralling detective series.
- Lewis, C.S.** **The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe**
Four children discover a whole new world, just behind their wardrobe.
- Lingard, J.** **The Twelfth Day of July**
Against all odds Kevin and Sadie meet and fall in love in Seventies' Belfast.
- Campbell McLean, A.** **The Hill of the Red Fox**
An exciting spy story set in the Highlands. It's a classic adventure.
- Nicholson, W.** **The Wind Singer**
First part of The Wind of Fire series.
- Paolini, C.** **Eragon**
A young boy's simple life is shattered at the discovery of a stone in a forest. Fantasy.
- Palacio, R.J.** **Wonder**
A warm and uplifting school story. With wonderfully realistic family interactions lively school scenes, and short chapters, Wonder is accessible to readers of all levels.
- Pullman, P.** **Northern Lights**
Award- winning adventure set in a parallel universe.
Fantasy
- Sachar, L.** **Holes** – a nobody, who is punished for a crime he didn't commit.
There's a Boy in the Girls Bathroom – A school story full of teen angst.
- Sewell, A.** **Black Beauty**
19th Century tale, told from a horse's perspective.
- Shan, D.** **Cirque du Freak / The Lake of Souls**
A gruesome tale of strange and outrageous happenings.

- Strachan, L.** **Spider**
Dead Boy Talking
Two crime novels for teenagers. Fast-paced and gripping.
- Streatfield, N** **Ballet Shoes**
Uncle Matthew collects fossils- and babies! He adopts Pauline, Petrova and Posy but, when money becomes scarce, the girls talents are vital to the family's continuing survival.
- Swindells, R.** **Ruby Tanya**
This is a contemporary tale about two friends - one of whom, Asra, is an asylum seeker from an unnamed Eastern European country. There are also many other super books by R. Swindells.
- Webster, J.** **Daddy-Long-Legs**
Judy is able to go to college provided she follows her benefactor's rules.
- Zephaniah, B.** **Gangsta Rap**
Based on Benjamin's own troubled experience of school and the music business, his passionate, immediate voice will appeal to all his fans.

Moving on...



- Buchan, J** **The Thirty Nine Steps**
A mystery story. A short and exciting read.
- Bronte, C.** **Jane Eyre**
The story of a young girl who has a miserable childhood, but then falls in love, while working as a governess, for the sardonic Mr Rochester.
- Conrad, Joseph** **Lord Jim**
An English boy in a simple town has dreams bigger than the outdoors and embarks at an early age into the sailor's life. Deals with the repercussions of a disaster at sea, burden of guilt, atonement, retribution.

- Crane, Stephen** **The Red Badge of Courage**
This book deals with the American Civil War, seen through the eyes of a young private in the Union Army. An American classic which explores the themes of heroism and courage.
- Christie, A.** **Murder on the Orient Express**
So many to choose from. Begin at the beginning with Poirot.
- Conan Doyle, Sir Arthur** **The Hound of the Baskervilles**
An early classic from the creator of the detective story.
- Fleming, I.** **Casino Royale**
The first of the James Bond novels. 007 faces a mysterious private banker to world terrorism and poker player.
- Dickens** **Oliver Twist**
The classic story of a young boy who seeks his fortune on the streets of London.
Great Expectations
The one with Miss Havisham – probably the greatest character in literature.
- Doyle, R** **Paddy Clark Ha Ha Ha**
The story of an Irish lad growing up and his exploits.
- Du Maurier, D.** **Rebecca**
Reworking of Jane Eyre. A young wife returns with her husband to his old home to realise the spirit of his dead wife has never left it.
- Fitzgerald, F.S** **The Great Gatsby**
This novel contains some of the best parties you'll ever experience. A story of money, love, power and what remains unattainable.
- Golding, W** **Lord of the Flies**
The classic tale of a group of school boys stranded on an island after a plane crash.
- Harris, R.** **Pompeii**
Marcus Attilius lives under the shadow of Mount Vesuvius, too involved in his career and his own concerns to consider the danger he is in.
- Hill, S.** **I'm the King of the Castle**
The story of the struggle between two 11 year old boys who become enemies as soon as they meet.
The Woman in Black
Do not read this when you are home alone!
The Mist in the Mirror
Equally terrifying!

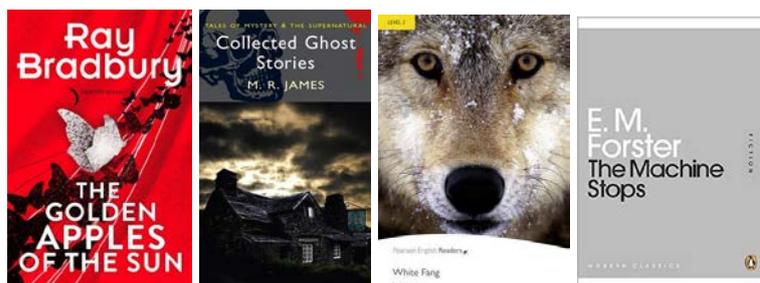
- Hines, B.** **A Kestrel for a Knave**
Billy Casper, a disillusioned teenager growing up in a small Yorkshire village finds Kes, a kestrel hawk, and he discovers a passion in life.
- Lee, H.** **To Kill a Mocking Bird**
Moving account of two children growing up in a small town environment of prejudice and violence. Set in the Deep South of the thirties.
- Lee, Laurie.** **Cider with Rosie**
Evocative account of the childhood of Laurie Lee, who grew up in a rural landscape that has essentially disappeared.
- McEwan, I.** **Saturday** – A brilliant, thrilling page turner that will keep readers on the edge of their seats.
Atonement – large country house, war looming, a budding romance and an innocent child who sees something she shouldn't.
- Mitchell, M.** **Gone with the Wind.**
It's long, but it's an epic journey and it's worth it.
- Orwell, G.** **1984**
The beginning of Big Brother, Room 101. A totalitarian future society where to fall in love is to rebel.
- Pratt, N.** **Remix**
Modern story of teenagers who head to a summer music festival.
- Shelley, M.** **Frankenstein**
Classic tale of one man's creation of a monster. Haunting.
- Süskind, P** **Perfume**
This classic novel provokes a terrifying examination of what happens when one man's indulgence in his greatest passion — his sense of smell — leads to murder.
- R.L.S** **Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde**
Stevenson's dream of gothic horror. Short and disturbing.
Kidnapped
Boy's adventure story. A classic and utterly readable.
The Master of Ballantrae
Another gripping adventure by Stevenson.
- Stoker, B.** **Dracula**
Forget Twilight. *The* gothic horror classic.
- Twain, Mark** **The Adventures of Tom Sawyer**
Story of a mischievous (but likeable) boy growing up on the Mississippi towards the end of the 19th Century.

Wells, H.G

The War of the Worlds

The whole of human civilisation is under threat, as powerful Martians build gigantic killing machine.

Short Stories



Bradbury, R.

The Golden Apples of the Sun

Twenty two stories from tales of small towns, spaceships, and even sea serpents, Bradbury conjures up a wealth of images with which to astound us.

Dahl, R.

Tales of the Unexpected

‘Lamb to the Slaughter,’ ‘The Landlady’ to name but a few.
Kiss Kiss

Eleven devious and shocking stories with adult themes.

Forster, E.M.

‘The Machine Stops’

The Machine Stops is a short science fiction story. It describes a world in which almost all humans have lost the ability to live on the surface of the Earth. Mandatory reading.

James, M.R.

Ghost Stories

Spine-chilling stories from early 1900s.

London, J.

**‘The Call of the Wild’ / ‘White Fang’ (novels)
‘To Build a Fire’ and other stories.**

Man amidst vast and frightening landscape.

MacLaverty, B.

The Best of Bernard MacLaverty: short stories

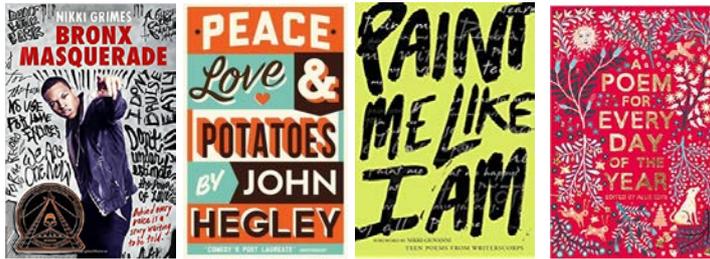
Strikingly perceptive short stories from well-known author. School, family, relationship stories.

Slater, N.

Toast

Simply a wonderful book. Probably best enjoyed by foodies.

Poetry for Pleasure



Aguando, B.

Paint Me Like I Am

The diverse voices of teenagers everywhere.

Grandits, J.

Blue Lipstick: Concrete Poems

A 15-year-old girl named Jessie voices typical—and not so typical—teenage concerns in this unique, hilarious collection of poems.

Esiri, A.

A Poem for Every Day of the Year

Super collection of familiar favourites and exciting new discoveries.

Grimes, N.

Bronx Masquerade

Inner city kids are asked by their teacher to write poems - a rich chorus of eighteen voices, singing openly about ideas, feelings, and questions--things that open minds, invite debate, provide release.

Hegley, J.

Peace, Love and Potatoes

Funny, witty and quirky poems to be read out loud.

Kay, J.

Red Cherry Red

A wonderful introduction to poetry, full of music and movement.

Tolkien, J.R.

Bilbo's Last Song

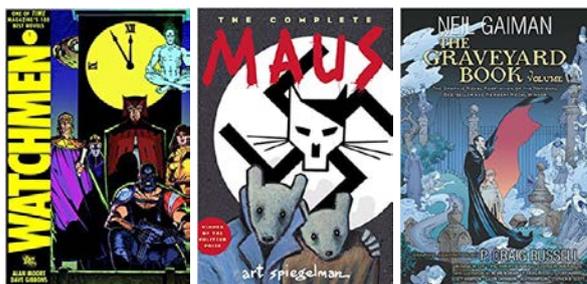
Poignant and lyrical, the song is both a longing to set forth on Bilbo's ultimate journey and a farewell to friends left behind. A must for **Lord of the Rings** fans.

Non-Fiction Books

- Adichie, C. N** **We Should All Be Feminists**
Adapted from Adichie's award-winning TEDx Talk of the same name (which blew up after Beyoncé sampled it), the book is a great stepping stone for discussions on gender roles and equity.
- Bryson, Bill** **Notes from a Small Island**
Bill Bryson has an insightful view of Britain and the British that can only come from living 'among us' for a considerable period.
- Durrell, G.** **My Family and other Animals**
Amusing introduction to Durrell's childhood spent on the island of Corfu.
Biography, Humour
- Ellis, D.** **The Breadwinner**
Parvana and her family live in Afganistan under Taliban rule. This is their story of how they survived.
Biography.
- Fleming, C.** **The Family Romanov: Murder, Rebellion, and the Fall of Imperial Russia**
Anyone who claims history is boring should get their hands on this book.
- Grylls, B.** **Mud, Sweat and Tears (adapted for young adults)**
This is the thrilling story of everyone's favourite real-life action man.
- Hillenbrand, L.** **Unbroken (The Young Adult Adaptation): An Olympian's Journey from Airman to Castaway to Captive**
On a May afternoon in 1943, an American military plane crashed into the Pacific Ocean and disappeared, leaving only a spray of debris and a slick of oil, gasoline, and blood. Then, on the ocean surface, a face appeared...
- Miller, S.** **The Borden Murders: Lizzie Borden and the Trial of the Century**
A fascinating account of an unsolved crime that's hard to put down.
- Slater, N.** **Toast**
Simply a wonderful book. Probably best enjoyed by foodies.
- Yousafzai, M.** **I am Malala**

The remarkable story of a girl who knew from a young age that she wanted to change the world - and did.

Graphic Novels



Gaiman, N. **The Graveyard Book**
Inventive, chilling, and filled with wonder,

Satrapi, M. **Persepolis**
Persepolis is a clever, funny and moving graphic novel based on the author's life as an ordinary Iranian girl growing up in the 1980s in the wake of the Islamic revolution.

Moore and Gibbons **Watchmen**
The story follows an ageing, now disbanded group of "super-heroes" after one of their number is murdered.

Thrash, M. **Honor Girl**
A romantic, honest, and funny account of her falling for her female summer-camp counsellor.

Non- Fiction Magazines



All About History The magazine for the burgeoning historian. Full of bloody battles and moody monarchs.

BBC Wildlife Detailed articles and images of favourite animals.

BBC Focus The science magazine for the inquisitive mind.

The Week Junior <https://theweekjunior.co.uk/> - short, colourful reports on current affairs

First News <http://www.independent.co.uk/topic/i-newspaper> – weekly newspaper for children.

Moving On...



The National Geographic

<https://www.national-geographic-magazine.co.uk>
Expertly written articles and features on wildlife, geography, popular science, history, culture, the environment and current events.

The Week

<http://www.theweek.co.uk/> - the best of news, sport, opinion

i newspaper

<http://www.independent.co.uk/topic/i-newspaper> – short summaries of articles plus longer features.

Prospect Magazine

<https://www.prospectmagazine.co.uk/> - politics, economics and debate

Listen up!



AUDIOBOOKS

Audible

<https://www.audible.co.uk> – Bestsellers for Teens - David Attenborough's **Life Stories** read by the man himself is a must!

Radio 4:

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qtlx> – Book at Bedtime and other readings. – Recently Philip Pullman was reading from his bestselling novel– **Book of Dust**.

TEDx

informative and inspiring talks for teenagers by teenagers
<http://www.tedxteen.com/talks/>

iTunes

various audio books, recordings, interviews available to download.

The ultimate reading list. Over 700 books! Need something to read? Look no further. If you read: 2 books a week, you'll finish this list in 7 1/2 years 1 book a week = 14 years 4 books a month = 16 years 3 books a month = 21 years 2 books a month = 31 years 1 book a month = 64 years. So get reading! 6,959 users · 69,754 views. made by Ellen Nicole Allen. The list of lists of "Must Read Books For Developers" isn't small either! Every book is great in its own right but there are just too many to read in one lifetime. Maybe two lifetimes even. This could get a little overwhelming and always prevented me from picking up my first book as a professional. Turns out it's not the only one. I decided to do some digging and come up with as many lists as I could (18 lists were found) and make one "ultimate" list by ranking these books by number of appearances. Reading the books on this list will not make you a great developer, but applying what you've le