The one book you must read this summer! Bingley Grammar teachers give their recommendations.

'Sophie's World' by Jostein Gaardner is the story of a fourteen-year-old girl who tries to solve a mystery. However, the twists and turns in the plot raise much bigger questions about who she is and, ultimately, the meaning of life. It's a fascinating book that will introduce you to all sorts of philosophical ideas.

https://us.macmillan.com/author/josteingaarder/

Recommended by Ms Nawaz

When Hitler Stole Pink Rabbit - Judith Kerr and The Borribles - Michael de Larrabeiti.

https://www.sevenstories.org.uk/collection/collection-highlights/judith-kerr


Recommended by Ms Cartledge

The Magic of Reality by Richard Dawkins (suitable for aged 14+ readers). As someone fascinated by science but with a limited grasp of its complexities I found this book a wonderful, rich and entertaining introduction to the magical world of scientific reality.


Recommended by Mr Crawford

My favourite book is The Great Gatsby by F Scott Fitzgerald... because it's perfect.

http://www.fscottfitzgeraldsociety.org/

Recommended by Ms Lazenby
I recommend **Sophie's World** by Jostein Gaarder - it's a great introduction to philosophy for teenage readers. It's a great book!

[https://us.macmillan.com/author/josteingaarder/](https://us.macmillan.com/author/josteingaarder/)

*Recommended by Ms Wright*

**A Monster Calls** by Patrick Ness

[https://patrickness.com/](https://patrickness.com/)

*Recommended by Ms Mawson*

**The Graveyard Book** by Neil Gaiman where Bod is an unusual boy who grows up in an unusual place - he's the only living resident of a graveyard. Raised from infancy by ghosts. Great characters and full of tension!


*Recommended by Ms Wooding*

"**The Little Prince**" is my recommendation, it teaches you to appreciate the little things in life, to accomplish what you enjoy in life and that it’s real friends in life that count; not those who pretend to be. We must always cherish those few true friends that we have.

[https://www.thelittleprince.com/](https://www.thelittleprince.com/)

*Recommended by Ms Perretta*

**Watership Down** by Richard Adams (suitable for readers aged 13+) - a great read and study on relationships, survival and adventure.

[https://www.theguardian.com/books/2015/jan/04/richard-adams-watership-down-interview](https://www.theguardian.com/books/2015/jan/04/richard-adams-watership-down-interview)

*Recommended by Mr Greenwood*
To Kill a Mocking Bird (suitable for readers aged 14+)

https://www.smithsonianmag.com/arts-culture/harper-lees-novel-achievement-141052/

Recommended by Mr Davenport

I read The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood (suitable for aged 16+ readers) as a teenager and it remains my favourite book to this day. Be warned, it is very dark and not for the faint-hearted.

The novel is set in North America, where the majority of people have been left infertile by nuclear toxicity and a fundamentalist Christian regime has taken over, forming a totalitarian state called Gilead where women have no rights, freedom is a thing of the past, and people are tortured or executed for the most minor infringements.

Offred is a 'Handmaid'- a fertile women who is owned by a high ranking official and forced to provide babies for his family.

'The Handmaid's Tale' tells Offred's story; grim, disturbing, shocking and menacing are some words that have been used to describe it, but it is also incredibly though-provoking and un-putdownable!

The world created by Atwood in this book is horrifying, but the most frightening thing is how plausible it is. The way she describes how the regime took over and how people adapted to their new way of life so quickly serves as a warning of how easily it could happen to us.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Handmaid%27s_Tale

Recommended by Ms Sands

The Hobbit by Tolkien. Pure escapism and a personal favourite since primary school!

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Hobbit

Recommended by Ms Webster
I rather love **The Daily Stoic** by Ryan Holiday (suitable for aged 14+ readers).

https://dailystoic.com/

*Recommended by Ms Chambers*

I love **The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks** by Rebecca Skloot (suitable for aged 14+ readers).

After hearing a Radio 4 programme about Henrietta Lacks and the injustice of her legacy, for her and her family, I bought the book. It’s incredibly disturbing about the level of perceived entitlement adopted by the medical/science professions. The racism and greed was awful. From a scientific perspective, I found it fascinating and how one individual’s cells could transform research into curing/treating disease. The amount of knowledge obtained has been momentous but the very human and abusive story of the origins of how this knowledge was obtained was the most shocking aspect.

Summary below:

"During a college biology class about the woman whose cells became the foundation for many of the medical advances of the 20th century, science journalist Rebecca Skloot became interested in learning more about the mysterious Henrietta Lacks. This would lead her on a whirlwind tour of twentieth-century medicine as well as the intimate experiences of one African-American family.

Henrietta Lacks was born to a poor Black family on August 1, 1920. She grew up in Virginia, where most of her family were tobacco farmers. She later moved to Baltimore with her husband and had five children: Elsie, Lawrence, Sonny, Deborah, and Joe.

She developed cervical cancer around the age of 30 and was treated at Johns Hopkins Hospital. Without her consent or that of her family, doctors removed a small sample of flesh. George Gey, a scientist, was able to use this to create the first immortal cell line. Because scientists had a very difficult time keeping human cells alive in culture, this breakthrough enabled scientists to test the effects of chemicals and new technologies on cells without harming human beings. The cell line, known as HeLa (the first two syllables of Henrietta's first and last name) went on to revolutionize science.
However, Henrietta's family were never informed of their mother's contributions to science, nor did they receive any financial compensation. Instead, they struggled with her untimely death, as well as the structural factors of racism and poverty. They also endured the attempts of doctors who wanted to draw their blood to study Henrietta's genome, writers and reporters who wanted to make a buck publishing their story, and con artists who wanted to use them to exploit the medical system. The Lacks family only found out about the significance of HeLA through reading articles that other people had written, some of them with intimate details about Henrietta's death.

Throughout these struggles, the Lacks family members often did not have access to medical care, despite the fact that their mother's cells revolutionized the field.

After teaming up with Henrietta's daughter, writer Rebecca Skloot attempts to uncover the truth about who Henrietta Lacks was. Skloot also gives an important voice to the Lacks family, and highlights ongoing issues in medical ethics around patient consent and the ownership of biological materials."


**Recommended by Ms Boyd**

**The Never Ending Story** by Michael Ende: about a boy who reads a magical book that tells a story of a young warrior whose task is to stop a dark force called the Nothing from engulfing a mystical world. A favourite of mine as a child!

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/The_Neverending_Story

**Recommended by Miss Howard**

I think a must read is **Enders Game**, by Orson Scott Card (suitable for aged 14+ readers). While it is an exciting page turner of a science fiction novel, with a teenage protagonist, it also addresses some challenging political and moral issues. The end is a huge surprise as well.
**Recommended by Mr Murphy**

Tuning BL's A-series Engine by David Vizard. This is the definitive guide to tuning the original Mini. Got me interested in design, manufacture and engineering. I spent most of my spare time in the 6th form poring over it and tweaking my original Mini 998cc. Learnt a heck of a lot and most likely kept me out of trouble.


**Recommended by Mr Lockwood**

I would recommend Catch 22 by Joseph Heller for any older teenagers that enjoy irony! (Suitable for aged 14+ readers).


**Recommended by Ms Hodgson**

Nunaga by Duncan Pryde is an epic autobiography of a Scottish fur trader who lived with an Inuit tribe in the 1950’s - amazing insight into tribal culture and the fragility of life.

https://www.travelbooks.co.uk/shop-online-books/nunaga

I would also recommend The Man in the Ice (Konrad Spindler) - original book about Ozti the ice man - the story has moved on and the evidence reinterpreted but the book is still valid - a must for history/archaeology buffs.

https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/%C3%96tzi

**Recommended by Mr Allen**
The Catcher in the Rye by J D Salinger (Suitable for aged 15+ readers). Great narrative, set in New York, edgy, and a whiff of rebellion on each page. What's not to like.

https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2001/10/01/holden-at-fifty

Recommended by Mr Booth

I really like the Mortal Instruments series by Cassandra Clare, I know I have got at least three year 8s reading them now! The advent of the TV show Shadowhunters also helps.

It’s a world of mystery and magic where all the stories are true. Carefully and cleverly woven throughout different time periods this series feels very real as you read it, and the worlds build around you. The characters and their backstories are larger than life and it’s suitable for male and female audiences.

https://www.cassandraclare.com/shadowhunter-chronicles/the-mortal-instruments/

Recommended by Ms Waddington

1984 -A story about the importance of individuality, language and even more relevant for the dystopian present.


Recommended by Mr Burniston