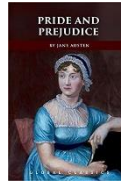


St Joseph's Classics: the story



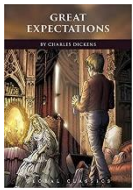
***Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen (1813)**

Austen gives you brave and good heroes and heroines, despicable villains, a decent dose of comic relief, a great and complex plot, and plenty of suspense of the mostly restrained, emotional variety. Austen's clever observations and dialogue contribute to her brilliance in developing fully formed characters, despite the polite manners throughout. Elizabeth Bennet and Mr. Darcy are two of the most romantic and memorable characters in the whole of English literature, and their story never fails to entertain.



***Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* by Lewis Carroll (1865)**

'I had sent my heroine straight down a rabbit-hole . . . without the least idea what was to happen afterwards,' wrote Lewis Carroll, describing how Alice was conjured up one 'golden afternoon' to entertain a young girl. His dream worlds of nonsensical Wonderland and the back-to-front Looking-Glass kingdom depict order turned upside-down: a baby turns into a pig; time is abandoned at a disordered tea-party and a seven-year-old girl is made Queen.



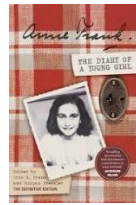
***Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens (1860)**

The novel is set in Kent and London in the early to mid-19th century and contains some of Dickens's most celebrated scenes, starting in a graveyard, where the young Pip is accosted by the escaped convict Abel Magwitch. *Great Expectations* is full of extreme imagery – poverty, prison ships and chains, and fights to the death – and has a colourful cast of characters who have entered popular culture. These include the eccentric Miss Havisham, the beautiful but cold Estella, and Joe, the unsophisticated and kind blacksmith.



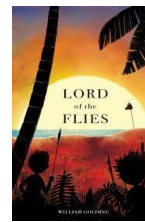
***The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Arthur Conan Doyle (1901)**

Sherlock Holmes, the great detective, and his companion Dr. Watson are consulted by a country doctor who fears for the safety of aristocratic Sir Henry Baskerville when he arrives to inherit the rich family estate on the Devonshire Moors. A family legend claims a monstrous phantom dog comes to kill all male Baskervilles, but Holmes notices that someone very real also seems to be following Sir Henry around London with sinister intent. Holmes sends Watson to watch over Sir Henry in the creepy countryside, where a menacing, ragged man is lurking amidst the old ruins and people have indeed heard a howling hound in the night.



The Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank

In 1942, during the Nazi occupation of Holland, a Jewish girl named Anne Frank receives a blank diary for her 13th birthday. Treating the empty book like an imaginary friend named "Kitty," Anne writes faithfully, describing her fondest wishes and feelings. When her family is forced into hiding to avoid capture by the German police, the book becomes like a lifeline for Anne, who describes the fear, hunger, longing, and boredom she experiences during two years living in the place she calls the "secret annex." Trapped in cramped quarters with her parents and sister, three members of the Van Daan family, and an elderly neighbour, Mr. Dussel, Anne begins to mature, even experiencing her first love in the annex, and finds her greatest solace in the written word



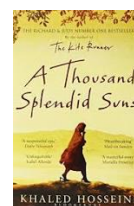
Lord of the Flies by William Golding (1954)

Marooned on a tropical island, a group of British schoolboys are left to fend for themselves, unsupervised by any adults. At first, the boys enjoy their freedom, playing and exploring the island, but soon the group splits into two factions -- those who attempt to preserve the discipline and order they had learned from society, and those who choose to give in to every instinct and impulse, no matter how barbaric.



The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon (2004)

This is a murder mystery novel like no other. The detective, and narrator, is Christopher Boone. Christopher is fifteen and has Asperger's Syndrome. He knows a very great deal about maths and very little about human beings. He loves lists, patterns and the truth. He hates the colours yellow and brown and being touched. He has never gone further than the end of the road on his own, but when he finds a neighbour's dog murdered, he sets out on a terrifying journey which will turn his whole world upside down.



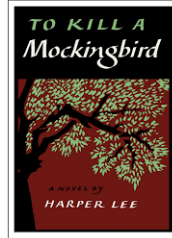
A Thousand Splendid Suns by Khaled Hosseini (2007)

A breath-taking story set against the volatile events of Afghanistan's last thirty year from the Soviet invasion to the reign of the Taliban and on to post-Taliban re-building. It presents the violence, fear, hope, and faith of this country in intimate, human terms. It is a tale of two generations of characters brought jarringly together by the tragic sweep of war.



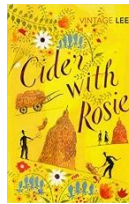
***The Jungle Book* by Rudyard Kipling (1894)**

The story of the man-cub Mowgli who is raised by wolves in the Indian jungle, guided by his mentors Baloo the bear, Bagheera the black panther and the ancient python Kaa, and who confronts his arch-enemy Shere Khan the tiger, is one of the greatest literary myths ever created.



***To Kill a Mockingbird* by Harper Lee (1960)**

Set in a small Alabama town in the 1930s, this is the story of the Finch family: 6-year-old Scout; her older brother, Jem; and their widowed lawyer father, Atticus Finch. Two parallel story lines follow Atticus' difficult decision to defend an African American man who has been accused of raping a white woman and the two young Finches' fascination with their mysterious, and rumoured-to-be-dangerous, reclusive neighbour, Boo Radley. Atticus and his children face disapproval and worse from those who believe the accused is guilty, with or without a trial. Scout and Jem discover that someone is leaving strange little gifts for them in a tree near their home.



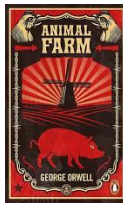
***Cider with Rosie* by Laurie Lee (1959)**

A wonderfully vivid memoir of childhood in a remote Cotswold village, a village before electricity or cars, a timeless place on the verge of change. Growing up amongst the fields and woods and characters of the place, Laurie Lee depicts a world that is both immediate and real and belongs to a now-distant past.



***War Horse* by Michael Morpurgo (1982)**

In the deadly chaos of the First World War, one horse witnesses the reality of battle from both sides of the trenches. Bombarded by artillery, with bullets knocking riders from his back, Joey tells a powerful story of the truest friendships surviving in terrible times. One horse has the seen the best and the worst of humanity. The power of war and the beauty of peace. This is his story.



Animal Farm by George Orwell (1945)

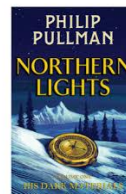
Orwell's classic novella tells the story of a group of farm animals who drive out their drunken, neglectful human farmer and take over the farm. With high hopes of building a community that works together and values equality, freedom, and happiness, the animals agree on the "Seven Commandments" -- the well-intentioned principles by which they will all live. But as the dominant pig, Napoleon and his associates exert more and more control over the farm, the Commandments are gradually undermined, and it soon becomes clear that justice and equality are giving way to totalitarianism and tyranny.



Nineteen Eighty-Four by George Orwell (1949)

'Who controls the past controls the future: who controls the present controls the past'

Hidden away in the Record Department of the sprawling Ministry of Truth, Winston Smith skilfully rewrites the past to suit the needs of the Party. Yet he inwardly rebels against the totalitarian world he lives in, which demands absolute obedience and controls him through the all-seeing telescreens and the watchful eye of Big Brother, symbolic head of the Party. In his longing for truth and liberty, Smith begins a secret love affair with fellow-worker Julia, but soon discovers the true price of freedom is betrayal.



Northern Lights by Philip Pullman (1995)

Recommended by Miss Kennedy:

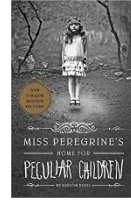
"Years ago, I went into a bookshop in Carlisle to ask for a recommendation for a book for my nephew who was then about 11 or 12.

The assistant suggested Northern Lights by Philip Pullman. The blurb on the back and the picture on the front interested me straight away, so I bought two copies, one for me and one for my nephew.

I was immediately intrigued by the story of Lyra and Roger and the powers of the alethiometer, a special instrument that Lyra uses on her dangerous travels from Oxford to other worlds.

I have read and re-read this book many times. When my children were old enough, I read it to them. This is a book for children and adults alike. I admire the love and friendship the humans and daemons have for each other. I love the way Lyra and later Will develop as characters and I love exploring the strange worlds they travel through. There are two further books that follow Lyra's adventures and in recent years new books tell the story of how Lyra arrived in Oxford. All of them are wonderful. The stories are easy to follow but rich in feelings and descriptions. They feature bad and good people but are full of tales of friendship. I have lent my copy to all my friends and given the book as presents to other children. I know they all loved it."

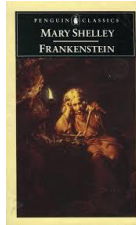
St Joseph's Classics: the story



Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children by Ransom Riggs (2012)

A mysterious island. An abandoned orphanage. A strange collection of very curious photographs.

An unforgettable novel that mixes fiction and photography in a thrilling reading experience. As our story opens, a horrific family tragedy sets sixteen-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. As Jacob explores its abandoned bedrooms and hallways, it becomes clear that the children were more than just peculiar. They may have been dangerous. They may have been quarantined on a deserted island for good reason. And somehow, impossible though it seems, they may still be alive.



Frankenstein by Mary Shelley (1817)

Mary Shelley's chilling Gothic tale was conceived when she was only eighteen and living with her lover Percy Shelley on Lake Geneva. The story of Victor Frankenstein who, obsessed with creating life itself, plunders graveyards for the material to fashion a new being, but whose botched creature sets out to destroy his maker, would become the world's most famous work of horror fiction, and remains a devastating exploration of the limits of human creativity.



Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck (1937)

Drifters in search of work, George and his childlike friend Lennie, have nothing in the world except the clothes on their back and a dream that one day they will have some land of their own. Eventually they find work on a ranch in California's Salinas Valley, but their hopes are dashed as Lennie, struggling against extreme cruelty, misunderstanding and feelings of jealousy, becomes a victim of his own strength. This short novel tackles universal themes of friendship and shared vision and gives a voice to America's lonely and dispossessed.



Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson (1881)

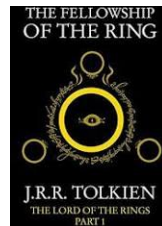
When a mysterious sailor dies in sinister circumstances at the Admiral Benbow inn, young Jim Hawkins stumbles across a treasure map among the dead man's possessions. But Jim soon becomes only too aware that he is not the only one who knows of the map's existence, and his bravery and cunning are tested to the full when, with his friends Squire Trelawney and Dr Livesey, he sets sail in the *Hispaniola* to track down the treasure. A tale of pirates, treachery and heroism!



***Anita and Me* by Meera Syal (1996)**

It's 1972. Meena is nine years old and lives in the village of Tollington, 'the jewel of the Black Country'. She is the daughter of Indian parents who have come to England to give her a better life. As one of the few Punjabi inhabitants of her village, her daily struggle for independence is different from most. She wants fishfingers and chips, not chapati and dhal; she wants an English Christmas, not the usual interminable Punjabi festivities – but more than anything, she wants to roam the backyards of working-class Tollington with feisty Anita Rutter and her gang.

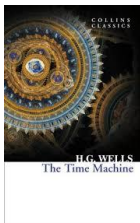
Blonde, cool, aloof, outrageous and sassy, Anita is everything Meena thinks she wants to be. Meena wheedles her way into Anita's life, but the arrival of a baby brother, teenage hormones, impending entrance exams for the posh grammar school and a motorcycling rebel without a future, threaten to turn Anita's salad days sour.



***The Lord of the Rings* by J.R.R. Tolkien (1954)**

Sauron, the Dark Lord, has gathered to him all the Rings of Power – the means by which he intends to rule Middle-earth. All he lacks in his plans for dominion is the One Ring – the ring that rules them all – which has fallen into the hands of the hobbit, Bilbo Baggins.

In a sleepy village in the Shire, young Frodo Baggins finds himself faced with an immense task, as his elderly cousin Bilbo entrusts the Ring to his care. Frodo must leave his home and make a perilous journey across Middle-earth to the Cracks of Doom, there to destroy the Ring and foil the Dark Lord in his evil purpose.



***The Time Machine* by H.G. Wells (1895)**

A scientist invents a machine for propelling himself through time, and voyages to the year AD 802,701, where he discovers a race of humanoids called the Eloi. Their gently indolent way of life, set in a decaying cityscape, leads the scientist to believe that they are the remnants of a once great civilization. He is forced to revise this assessment when he comes across the cave dwellings of threatening ape-like creatures known as Morlocks, whose dark underground world he must explore to discover the terrible secrets of this fractured society, and the means of getting back to his own time.



face
benjamin zephaniah
Entertaining ... story of a boy
and his friends in a
gang

Face by Benjamin Zephaniah (1999)

Martin seems to have it all. He's cool, funny, and he's the undisputed leader of the Gang of Three, who roam their East London estate during the holidays looking for fun. But one night after the Gang leave a late-night rap club, Martin accepts a ride from Pete, a Raider's Posse gang member. Too late, he realises that the car is stolen, and that the police are after them.

What happens next will change Martin's life and looks, and show him the true meaning of strength, courage, discrimination and friendship.



The Book Thief by Markus Zusak (2007)

HERE IS A SMALL FACT - YOU ARE GOING TO DIE

1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier. Liesel, a nine-year-old girl, is living with a foster family on Himmel Street. Her parents have been taken away to a concentration camp. Liesel steals books. This is her story and the story of the inhabitants of her street when the bombs begin to fall.

SOME IMPORTANT INFORMATION - THIS NOVEL IS NARRATED BY DEATH