

KS4 / 5 Recommended Reading List

Historical & War

The Lonely Londoners - Sam Selvon

Both devastating and funny, *The Lonely Londoners* is an unforgettable account of immigrant experience - and one of the great twentieth-century London novels.

At Waterloo Station, hopeful new arrivals from the West Indies step off the boat train, ready to start afresh in 1950s London. There, homesick Moses Aloetta, who has already lived in the city for years, meets Henry 'Sir Galahad' Oliver and shows him the ropes. In this strange, cold and foggy city where the natives can be less than friendly at the sight of a black face, has Galahad met his Waterloo? But the irrepressible newcomer cannot be cast down. He and all the other lonely new Londoners - from shiftless Cap to Tolroy, whose family has descended on him from Jamaica - must try to create a new life for themselves. As pessimistic 'old veteran' Moses watches their attempts, they gradually learn to survive and come to love the heady excitements of London.

Pachinko - Min Jin Lee

Yeongdo, Korea 1911. In a small fishing village on the banks of the East Sea, a club-footed, cleft-lipped man marries a fifteen-year-old girl. The couple have one child, their beloved daughter Sunja. When Sunja falls pregnant by a married yakuza, the family face ruin. But then Isak, a Christian minister, offers her a chance of salvation: a new life in Japan as his wife.

Following a man she barely knows to a hostile country in which she has no friends, no home, and whose language she cannot speak, Sunja's salvation is just the beginning of her story.

Through eight decades and four generations, *Pachinko* is an epic tale of family, identity, love, death and survival.

Hamnet - Maggie O'Farrell

On a summer's day in 1596, a young girl in Stratford-upon-Avon takes to her bed with a fever. Her twin brother, Hamnet, searches everywhere for help. Why is nobody at home?

Their mother, Agnes, is over a mile away, in the garden where she grows medicinal herbs. Their father is working in London. Neither parent knows that one of the children will not survive the week.

Hamnet is a novel inspired by the son of a famous playwright. It is a story of the bond between twins, and of a marriage pushed to the brink by grief. It is also the story of a kestrel and its mistress; flea that boards a ship in Alexandria; and a glovemaker's son who flouts convention in pursuit of the woman he loves. Above all, it is a tender and unforgettable reimagining of a boy whose life has been all but forgotten, but whose name was given to one of the most celebrated plays ever written.

The Marriage Portrait - Maggie O'Farrell

Winter, 1561. Lucrezia, Duchess of Ferrara, is taken on an unexpected visit to a country villa by her husband, Alfonso. As they sit down to dinner it occurs to Lucrezia that Alfonso has a sinister purpose in bringing her here. He intends to kill her.

Lucrezia is sixteen years old, and has led a sheltered life locked away inside Florence's grandest palazzo. Here, in this remote villa, she is entirely at the mercy of her increasingly erratic husband.

What is Lucrezia to do with this sudden knowledge? What chance does she have against Alfonso, ruler of a province, and a trained soldier? How can she ensure her survival.

The Marriage Portrait is an unforgettable reimagining of the life of a young woman whose proximity to power places her in mortal danger.

Small Island - Andrea Levy

It is 1948, and England is recovering from a war. But at 21 Nevern Street, London, the conflict has only just begun. Queenie Bligh's neighbours do not approve when she agrees to take in Jamaican lodgers, but Queenie doesn't know when her husband will return, or if he will come back at all. What else can she do?

Gilbert Joseph was one of the several thousand Jamaican men who joined the RAF to fight against Hitler. Returning to England as a civilian he finds himself treated very differently. It's desperation that makes him remember a wartime friendship with Queenie and knock at her door.

Gilbert's wife Hortense, too, had longed to leave Jamaica and start a better life in England. But when she joins him she is shocked to find London shabby, decrepit, and far from the golden city of her dreams. Even Gilbert is not the man she thought he was...

Remembrance - Theresa Breslin

1915 - Scotland. A group of teenagers from two families on a picnic.

Mostly romance is on their minds, but the peace is shattered by the sound of a plane flying overhead. All too soon the horror of The Great War engulfs them, their friends and the whole village. From the horror of the trenches to the devastating reality seen daily by those nursing the wounded, they struggle to survive. All but one return home, but they know that nothing will ever be the same again.

The Girl With the Pearl Earring - Tracy Chevalier

Delft in the seventeenth century. This book suggests the story behind the famous painting by Vermeer, from the point of view of a servant girl in his household who poses for the painting.

A Tale of Two Cities - Charles Dickens

Traces the private lives of a group of people caught up in the cataclysm of the French Revolution and the Terror. Dickens based his historical detail on Carlyle's great work, "The French Revolution," and also on his own observations and investigations during numerous visits to Paris.

Jamaica Inn - Daphne Du Maurier

On a bitter November evening, young Mary Yellan journeys across the rainswept moors to Jamaica Inn to honour her mother's dying request. The warning of the coachman echoes in her memory as, terrified of the inn's brooding power, she becomes ensnared in the dark schemes enacted behind its walls.

The Three Musketeers - Alexandre Dumas

The young Gascon d'Artagnan and the legendary musketeers Athos, Porthos and Aramis are ready to sacrifice everything for love, glory and the common good. The wicked machinations of Cardinal Richelieu and his accomplice, the magnetic Milady de Winter, propel the devoted friends across seas and battlefields from masked balls to a remote convent, in order to defend the honour of the Queen and the life of Constance Bonacieux, d'Artagnan's true love. Dashing, knockabout, romantic, violent, chilling and tragic.

The Familiars - Stacey Halls

In a time of suspicion and accusation, to be a woman is the greatest risk of all . . .

Fleetwood Shuttleworth is 17 years old, married, and pregnant for the fourth time. But as the mistress at Gawthorpe Hall, she still has no living child, and her husband Richard is anxious for an heir. When Fleetwood finds a letter she isn't supposed to read from the doctor who delivered her third stillbirth, she is dealt the crushing blow that she will not survive another pregnancy.

Then she crosses paths by chance with Alice Gray, a young midwife. Alice promises to help her give birth to a healthy baby, and to prove the physician wrong. As Alice is drawn into the witchcraft accusations that are sweeping the north-west, Fleetwood risks everything by trying to help her. But is there more to Alice than meets the eye?

Soon the two women's lives will become inextricably bound together as the legendary trial at Lancaster approaches, and Fleetwood's stomach continues to grow. Time is running out, and both their lives are at stake.

Fatherland - Robert Harris

Fatherland is set in an alternative world where Hitler has won the Second World War. It is April 1964 and one week before Hitler's 75th birthday. Xavier March, a detective of the Kriminalpolizei, is called out to investigate the discovery of a dead body in a lake near Berlin's most prestigious suburb. As March discovers the identity of the body, he uncovers signs of a conspiracy that could go to the very top of the German Reich. And, with the Gestapo just one step behind, March, together with an American journalist, is caught up in a race to discover and reveal the truth - a truth that has already killed, a truth that could topple governments, a truth that will change history.

The Kite Runner - Khaled Hosseini

Twelve-year-old Amir is desperate to win the approval of his father and resolves to win the local kite-fighting tournament. His loyal friend Hassan promises to help him, but this is 1970s Afghanistan and Hassan is merely a low-caste servant who is jeered at in the street, although Amir still feels jealous of him. But neither of the boys could foresee what would happen to Hassan on the afternoon of the tournament, which was to shatter their lives. After the Russians invade and the family is forced to flee to America, Amir realises that one day he must return, to find redemption.

Wolf Hall (also the sequels 'Bring Up the Bodies' and 'The Mirror and the Light') - Hilary Mantel

Winner of the Man Booker Prize 2009. England, the 1520s. Henry VIII is on the throne, but has no heir. Cardinal Wolsey is his chief advisor, charged with securing the divorce the Pope refuses to grant. Into this atmosphere of distrust and need comes Thomas Cromwell, first as Wolsey's clerk, and later his successor. Cromwell is a wholly original man: the son of a brutal blacksmith, a political genius, a briber, a charmer, a bully, a man with a delicate and deadly expertise in manipulating people and events. The book peels back history to show us Tudor England as a half-made society, moulding itself with great passion, suffering and courage.

All Quiet on the Western Front - Erich Maria Remarque

This is a devastating war story. Unusually, it tells the tale of a group of young German recruits during World War I. A tragic classic.

Crime, Thrillers & Mystery

The Secret History - Donna Tartt

'Everything, somehow, fit together; some sly and benevolent Providence was revealing itself by degrees and I felt myself trembling on the brink of a fabulous discovery, as though any morning it was all going to come together - my future, my past, the whole of my life - and I was going to sit up in bed like a thunderbolt and say oh! oh! oh!'

Under the influence of a charismatic classics professor, a group of clever, eccentric misfits at a New England college discover a way of thought and life a world away from their banal contemporaries. But their search for the transcendent leads them down a dangerous path, beyond human constructs of morality.

Shrines of Gaiety - Kate Atkinson

From the inimitable bestselling author, Kate Atkinson, a mesmerising novel set in the glittering world of Soho in the 1920s - a place of gangsters and showgirls, Bright Young Things and one remarkable woman.

1926, and in a country still recovering from the Great War, London has become the focus for a delirious new nightlife. In the clubs of Soho, peers of the realm rub shoulders with starlets, foreign dignitaries with gangsters, and girls sell dances for a shilling a time. At the heart of this glittering world is notorious Nellie Coker, ruthless but also ambitious to advance her six children, including the enigmatic eldest, Niven whose character has been forged in the crucible of the Somme.

But success breeds enemies, and Nellie's empire faces threats from without and within. For beneath the dazzle of Soho's gaiety, there is a dark underbelly, a world in which it is all too easy to become lost. With her unique Dickensian flair, Kate Atkinson brings together a glittering cast of characters in a truly mesmeric novel that captures the uncertainty and mutability of life; of a world in which nothing is quite as it seems.

Wuthering Heights - Emily Bronte

Wuthering Heights is Emily Brontë's first and only published novel, written between October 1845 and June 1846, and published in 1847 under the pseudonym Ellis Bell; Brontë died the following year, aged 30. The decision to publish came after the success of her sister Charlotte's novel, Jane Eyre. After Emily's death, Charlotte edited the manuscript of Wuthering Heights, and arranged for the edited version to be published as a posthumous second edition in 1850. Wuthering Heights is the name of the farmhouse where the story unfolds. The book's core theme is the destructive effect of jealousy and vengefulness both on the jealous or vengeful individuals and on their communities.

The Woman in White - Wilkie Collins

'In one moment, every drop of blood in my body was brought to a stop... There, as if it had that moment sprung out of the earth, stood the figure of a solitary Woman, dressed from head to foot in white'

The Woman in White famously opens with Walter Hartright's eerie encounter on a moonlit London road. Engaged as a drawing master to the beautiful Laura Fairlie, Walter becomes embroiled in the sinister intrigues of Sir Percival Glyde and his 'charming' friend Count Fosco, who has a taste for white mice, vanilla bonbons, and poison. Pursuing questions of identity and insanity along the paths and corridors of English country houses and the madhouse, *The Woman in White* is the first and most influential of the Victorian genre that combined Gothic horror with psychological realism.

Rebecca - Daphne Du Maurier

"Last night I dreamt I went to Manderley again... "

Working as a lady's companion, the heroine of 'Rebecca' learns her place. Life begins to look very bleak until, on a trip to the South of France, she meets Maxim de Winter, a handsome widower whose sudden proposal of marriage takes her by surprise. She accepts, but whisked from glamorous Monte Carlo to the ominous and brooding Manderley, the new Mrs de Winter finds Max a changed man. And the memory of his dead wife Rebecca is forever kept alive by the forbidding Mrs Danvers...

The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes - Sir Arthur Conan Doyle

'The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes' is a collection of twelve short stories by Arthur Conan Doyle, featuring his fictional detective Sherlock Holmes. These exciting and intriguing stories are related in first-person narrative from Doctor Watson's point of view, as he and Holmes investigate a series of crimes and mysteries together.

The Talented Mr Ripley - Patricia Highsmith

Tom Ripley is chosen by the wealthy Herbert Greenleaf to retrieve his son, Dickie, from his sojourn in the sun in Italy with his girlfriend. Mr. Greenleaf needs him back in New York. With an allowance and a new purpose, Tom leaves behind his dismal city apartment to begin his career as a return escort. But Tom, too, is captivated by Italy, wealth and sophistication...

Fantasy & Science Fiction / Dystopia

Kindred - Octavia Butler

In 1976, Dana dreams of being a writer. In 1815, she is assumed a slave.

When Dana first meets Rufus on a Maryland plantation, he's drowning. She saves his life - and it will happen again and again. Neither of them understands his power to summon her whenever his life is threatened, nor the significance of the ties that bind them.

And each time Dana saves him, the more aware she is that her own life might be over before it's even begun.

Octavia E. Butler's ground-breaking masterpiece is the extraordinary story of two people bound by blood, separated by so much more than time.

The MaddAddam Trilogy - Margaret Atwood

Across three stunning novels - *Oryx and Crake*, *The Year of the Flood*, and *Maddaddam* - the best-selling, Booker Prize-winning novelist projects us into a near future that is both all too familiar and beyond our imagining.

In *Oryx and Crake*, a man struggles to survive in a world where he may be the last human. In search of answers, he embarks on a journey through the lush wilderness that was so recently a great city, until powerful corporations took mankind on an uncontrolled genetic engineering ride. In *The Year of the Flood* the long-feared waterless flood has occurred, altering Earth as we know it and obliterating most human life. And in *Maddaddam* a small group of survivors band together with the Children of Crake: the gentle, bioengineered quasi-human species who will inherit this new earth.

Set in a darkly plausible future shaped by plagues, floods, and genetic engineering, these three novels take us from the end of the world to a brave new beginning. Thrilling, moving, and a triumph of imagination, the Maddaddam Trilogy confirms the ultimate endurance of humanity, community, and love.

2001: A Space Odyssey - Arthur C Clarke

When a monolith is found, scientists are amazed to discover that it's 3 million years old. A manned spacecraft is sent to investigate. Its crew is assisted by a self-aware computer, HAL 9000. But HAL's programming is too similar

to the human mind. He is capable of guilt, neurosis, even murder. The crew must overthrow this digital psychotic if they hope to meet the entities that are responsible not just for the monolith, but maybe even for human civilization.

Brave New World - Aldous Huxley

Into the neatly programmed world of test-tube babies and drug-controlled happiness, misfit Bernard Marx brings the innocent Savage. Aldous Huxley's famous version of the future is also a chilling comment on the present.

The Wall - John Lanchester

Kavanagh begins his time patrolling the Wall.

If he's lucky, if nothing goes wrong, he only has to do two years of this. 729 more nights.

The best thing that can happen is that he survives and gets off the Wall and will never have to spend another day of his life anywhere near it.

But what if something did happen - if the Others came, if he had to fight for his life?

Thrilling and heartbreaking, *The Wall* is about a troubled world you will recognise as your own - and about what might be found when all is lost.

It Can't Happen Here - Sinclair Lewis

It Can't Happen Here is a semi-satirical 1935 novel published during the rise of fascism in Europe. The novel describes the rise of Berzelius "Buzz" Windrip, a politician who defeats Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) and is elected President of the United States, after fomenting fear and promising drastic economic and social reforms while promoting a return to patriotism and "traditional" values. After his election, Windrip takes complete control of the government and imposes a plutocratic/totalitarian rule with the help of a ruthless paramilitary force, in the manner of Adolf Hitler and the SS. The novel's plot centres on journalist Doremus Jessup's opposition to the new regime and his subsequent struggle against it as part of a liberal rebellion.

The Road - Cormac McCarthy

A disturbing post-apocalyptic tale of a man and his son travelling across a devastated landscape and trying to survive by any means possible.

Machines Like Me - Ian McEwan

Charlie, drifting through life and dodging full-time employment, is in love with Miranda, a bright student who lives with a terrible secret.

When Charlie comes into money, he buys Adam, one of the first batch of synthetic humans. With Miranda's assistance, he co-designs Adam's personality.

This near-perfect human is beautiful, strong and clever, and soon a love triangle forms, which leads Charlie, Miranda and Adam to a profound moral dilemma. Can you design the perfect partner? What makes us human? Our outward deeds or our inner lives?

Provocative and moving, *Machines Like Me* explores whether a machine can ever truly understand the human heart.

Nineteen Eighty-Four - George Orwell

Winston Smith works for the Ministry of Truth in London. Big Brother stares out from every poster; the Thought Police uncover every act of betrayal. Winston and Julia begin to question the Party. Yet Big Brother will not tolerate dissent - even in the mind. For those with original thoughts they invented Room 101. A terrifying vision of a totalitarian future in which everything and everyone is slave to the regime.

The Fellowship of the Ring - J.R.R. Tolkien

Continuing the story begun in *The Hobbit*, this is the first part of Tolkien's epic masterpiece, *The Lord of the Rings*, featuring an exclusive cover image from the film, the definitive text, and a detailed map of Middle Earth.

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 - H.G. Wells

When a Victorian scientist propels himself into the year 802,701 AD, he is initially delighted to find that suffering has been replaced by beauty and peace. Entranced by the Eloi, he soon realises that this beautiful people are simply remnants of a once-great culture, now weak and childishly afraid of the dark. In deep tunnels beneath their paradise lurks another race descended from humanity - the sinister Morlocks. And when the scientist's time machine vanishes, he must search these tunnels to return to his own era.

The War of the Worlds - H.G. Wells

The narrator of *The War of the Worlds* is quick to discover that what appeared to be a falling star was, in fact, a metallic cylinder landing from Mars. Six million people begin to flee London in panic as tentacled invaders emerge and overpower the city. With their heat-ray, killing machines, black gas, and a taste for fresh human blood, is there anything that can be done to stop the Martians?

Prize Winners & Shortlisted Titles

What You Are Looking For Is In The Library - Michiko Aoyama

What are you looking for?

So asks Tokyo's most enigmatic librarian, Sayuri Komachi.

But she is no ordinary librarian.

Sensing exactly what someone is searching for in life, she provides just the book recommendation to help them find it.

We meet five visitors to the library, each at a different crossroads:

- The restless retail assistant eager to pick up new skills
- The mother faced with a demotion at work after maternity leave
- The conscientious accountant who yearns to open an antique store
- The gifted young manga artist in search of motivation

- The recently retired salaryman on a quest for newfound purpose

Can she help them find what they are looking for?

The Lincoln Highway - Amor Towles

In June 1954, eighteen-year-old Emmett returns home to his younger brother Billy after serving fifteen months in a juvenile facility for involuntary manslaughter. They are getting ready to leave their old life behind and head out to sunny California.

But they're not alone. Two runaways from the youth work farm, Duchess and Woolly, have followed Emmett all the way to Nebraska with a plan of their own, one that will take the four of them on an unexpected and fateful journey in the opposite direction - to New York City.

Lessons in Chemistry - Bonnie Garmus

Your ability to change everything, including yourself, starts here

Chemist Elizabeth Zott is not your average woman. In fact, she would be the first to point out that there is no such thing. But it's the early 1960s and her all-male team at Hastings Research Institute take a very unscientific view of equality.

Forced to leave her job at the institute, she soon finds herself the reluctant star of America's most beloved cooking show, Supper at Six. But as her following grows, not everyone is happy. Because as it turns out, Elizabeth Zott isn't just teaching women to cook.

She's daring them to change the status quo. One molecule at a time.

Tomorrow and Tomorrow and Tomorrow - Gabrielle Zevin

This is the story of Sam and Sadie. It's not a romance, but it is about love.

When Sam catches sight of Sadie at a crowded train station one morning he is catapulted straight back to childhood, and the hours they spent immersed in playing games.

Their spark is instantly reignited and sets off a creative collaboration that will make them superstars. It is the 90s, and anything is possible.

What comes next is a decades-long tale of friendship and rivalry, fame and art, betrayal and tragedy, perfect worlds and imperfect ones. And, above all, our need to connect: to be loved and to love.

A Gathering Light - Jennifer Donnelly (Carnegie Winner)

When Mattie Gokey is given a bundle of letters to burn she fully intends to execute the wishes of the giver, Grace Brown. When Grace is found drowned the next day in Big Moose Lake, Mattie finds that it is not as easy to burn those letters as she had thought. And, as she reads, a riveting story emerges - not only Grace Brown's story but also Mattie's hopes and ambitions for the future and her relationships with her friends and family. This wonderful novel, part murder mystery and part coming-of-age story, is an astounding and accomplished piece of literature.

Never Let Me Go - Kazuo Ishiguro (Booker Shortlist)

In one of the most acclaimed and strange novels, Ishiguro imagines the lives of a group of students growing up in a darkly skewed version of contemporary England. Narrated by Kathy, now 31, it hauntingly dramatises her attempts

to come to terms with her childhood at the seemingly idyllic Hailsham School, and with the fate that has always awaited her and her closest friends in the wider world. A story of love, friendship, loss and memory.

Pigeon English - Stephen Kelman (Booker Shortlist)

Eleven-year-old Harrison Opoku, the second-best runner in Year 7, races through his new life in England with his personalised trainers - the Adidas stripes drawn on with marker pen - blissfully unaware of the very real threat around him. Newly arrived from Ghana with his mother and older sister Lydia, Harri absorbs the many strange elements of city life, from the bewildering array of Haribo sweets, to the frightening, fascinating gang of older boys from his school. But his life is changed forever when one of his friends is murdered.

The Knife of Never Letting Go - Patrick Ness (Guardian Winner)

This is an unflinching novel about the impossible choices of growing up. Imagine you're the only boy in a town of men. And you can hear everything they think. And they can hear everything you think. Imagine you don't fit in with their plans... Todd Hewitt is just one month away from the birthday that will make him a man. But his town has been keeping secrets from him. Secrets that are going to force him to run... First in a trilogy.

Simon vs. the Homo Sapiens Agenda - Becky Albertalli

Sixteen-year-old and not-so-openly gay Simon Spier prefers to save his drama for the school musical. But when an email falls into the wrong hands, his secret is at risk of being thrust into the spotlight. Now Simon is actually being blackmailed: if he doesn't play wingman for class clown Martin, his sexual identity will become everyone's business. Worse, the privacy of Blue, the pen name of the boy he's been emailing, will be compromised.

With some messy dynamics emerging in his once tight-knit group of friends, and his email correspondence with Blue growing more flirtatious every day, Simon's junior year has suddenly got all kinds of complicated. Now, change-averse Simon has to find a way to step out of his comfort zone before he's pushed out - without alienating his friends, compromising himself, or fumbling a shot at happiness with the most confusing, adorable guy he's never met.

The Vanishing Half - Brit Bennett (Women's Prize for Fiction)

The Vignes twin sisters will always be identical. But after growing up together in a small, southern black community and running away at age sixteen, it's not just the shape of their daily lives that is different as adults, it's everything: their families, their communities, their racial identities. Ten years later, one sister lives with her black daughter in the same southern town she once tried to escape. The other secretly passes for white, and her white husband knows nothing of her past. Still, even separated by so many miles and just as many lies, the fates of the twins remain intertwined. What will happen to the next generation, when their own daughters' story lines intersect?

Weaving together multiple strands and generations of this family, from the Deep South to California, from the 1950s to the 1990s, Brit Bennett produces a story that is at once a riveting, emotional family story and a brilliant exploration of the American history of passing. Looking well beyond issues of race, *The Vanishing Half* considers the lasting influence of the past as it shapes a person's decisions, desires, and expectations, and explores some of the multiple reasons and realms in which people sometimes feel pulled to live as something other than their origins.

Purple Hibiscus - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (Women's Prize for Fiction)

The limits of fifteen-year-old Kambili's world are defined by the high walls of her family estate and the dictates of her fanatically religious father. Her life is regulated by schedules: prayer, sleep, study, prayer.

When Nigeria is shaken by a military coup, Kambili's father, involved mysteriously in the political crisis, sends her to live with her aunt. In this house, noisy and full of laughter, she discovers life and love - and a terrible, bruising secret deep within her family.

This extraordinary debut novel from Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, author of 'Half of a Yellow Sun', is about the blurred lines between the old gods and the new, childhood and adulthood, love and hatred - the grey spaces in which truths are revealed and real life is lived.

Short Stories

Mystifying: Sinister Stories of the Unexplained - Various

Extraordinary events and mysterious circumstances fill this eerie collection of nineteen stories. Music takes a boy to a strange place, a scythe compels its users to slash on and on, a jacket is possessed and a beautiful woman turns into a vampire. Other strange and unsettling encounters grip the imagination and quicken the pulse. Including stories by Paul Jennings, Agatha Christie and Sir Arthur Conan Doyle.

M is for Magic - Neil Gaiman

In this collection of wonderful stories, which range between fantasy, humour, science fiction and a sprinkling of horror, the reader will relish the range and skill of Neil Gaiman's writing. Be prepared to laugh at the detective story about Humpty Dumpty's demise, spooked by the sinister jack-in-the-box who haunts the lives of the children who own it, and intrigued by the boy who is raised by ghosts in a graveyard, in this collection of bite-sized narrative pleasures.

The Stolen Bacillus and Other Incidents - H.G. Wells

Ranging from a plot to wipe out London through biological terrorism to an unknown creature preying on scientists at a remote astronomical observatory, these ten stories display the amazing imagination and plot twists that are characteristic of H.G. Wells. Full of youthful exuberance, each of these tales presented in their original context provide for a greater appreciation for how Wells developed his craft. Several of the brief plots laid out in this collection were subsequently expanded by the author into larger works, while others could be the basis for other writers' efforts, such as "The Flowering of the Strange Orchid", which is essentially the same story as "Little Shop of Horrors".

The World of Jeeves - P.G. Wodehouse

This is an omnibus of Jeeves and Wooster stories, specially selected and introduced by Wodehouse himself. Set in the 1920s, they show us the hilarious world of hapless upper-class buffoon Bertie Wooster and his wise manservant Jeeves. Clever understated language, very funny.

Compilation Omnibus of Twentieth Century Ghost Stories - Various

Haunted houses and demon lovers, anxious states of mind and revenge are some of the themes of the ghost story. This book is an anthology of ghost stories by authors such as Graham Greene, Dylan Thomas, Muriel Spark, John Updike, Jean Rhys and E.M. Forster.

Tales of Mystery and Imagination - Edgar Allan Poe

This collection of Poe's best stories contains all the terrifying and bewildering tales that characterize his work. As well as the Gothic horror of such famous stories as "The Pit and the Pendulum", "The Fall of the House of Usher", "The Premature Burial" and "The Tell-Tale Heart", all of Poe's Auguste Dupin stories are included.

Horror & Supernatural

The Small Hand - Susan Hill

Returning home from a visit to a client late one summer's evening, antiquarian bookseller Adam Snow takes a wrong turning and stumbles across the derelict old White House. Compelled by curiosity, he approaches the door, and standing before the entrance feels the unmistakeable sensation of a small hand creeping into his own. Intrigued by the encounter, he determines to learn more, and discovers that the owner's grandson had drowned tragically many years before...

The Turn of the Screw - Henry James

Widely recognized as one of literature's most gripping ghost stories, this classic tale of moral degradation concerns the sinister transformation of two innocent children into flagrant liars and hypocrites. The story begins when a governess arrives at an English country estate to look after Miles, aged ten, and Flora, eight. At first, everything appears normal but then events gradually begin to weave a spell of psychological terror. One night a ghost appears before the governess. It is the dead lover of Miss Jessel, the former governess. Later, the ghost of Miss Jessel herself appears before the governess and the little girl. Moreover, both the governess and the housekeeper suspect that the two spirits have appeared to the boy in private. The children, however, adamantly refuse to acknowledge the presence of the two spirits, in spite of indications that there is some sort of evil communication going on between the children and the ghosts...

Blood Sinister - Celia Rees

No one knows what's wrong with Ellen Forrest. But she's drawn and bloodless, and the doctors can't help her. Sent off to her grandmother's house to rest, it's there that she finds an ancient leather-bound diary. Ellen's health is deteriorating by the day... Could the diary's chilling secrets reveal the key to her own deathly and mysterious illness?

Midwinterblood - Marcus Sedgwick

What would you sacrifice for someone you've loved forever? Have you ever had the feeling that you've lived another life? Been somewhere that has felt totally familiar even when you've never been there before, or felt that you've known someone even though you are meeting them for the first time? In a novel comprising seven short stories each of them influenced by a moon - flower moon, harvest moon, hunter's moon, blood moon - and travelling from 2073 back in time to the dark of the moon and the days of Viking saga, this is the story of Eric and Merle who have loved and lost one another and who have been searching for each other ever since.

Dracula - Bram Stoker

'There he lay looking as if youth had been half-renewed, for the white hair and moustache were changed to dark iron-grey, the cheeks were fuller, and the white skin seemed ruby-red underneath; the mouth was redder than ever, for on the lips were gouts of fresh blood, which trickled from the corners of the mouth and ran over the chin and neck. Even the deep, burning eyes seemed set amongst the swollen flesh, for the lids and pouches underneath were bloated. It seemed as if the whole awful creature were simply gorged with blood; he lay like a filthy leech, exhausted with his repletion.'

Thus Bram Stoker, one of the greatest exponents of the supernatural narrative, describes the demonic subject of his chilling masterpiece *Dracula*, a truly iconic and unsettling tale of vampirism.

The Silent Companions - Laura Purcell

Some doors are locked for a reason.

When Elsie married handsome young heir Rupert Bainbridge, she believed she was destined for a life of luxury. But pregnant and widowed just weeks after their wedding, with her new servants resentful and the local villagers

actively hostile, Elsie has only her late husband's awkward cousin for company. Or so she thinks. Inside her new home lies a locked door, beyond which is a painted wooden figure - a silent companion - that bears a striking resemblance to Elsie herself. The residents of the estate are terrified of the figure, but Elsie tries to shrug this off as simple superstition - that is, until she notices the figure's eyes following her.

A Victorian ghost story that evokes a most unsettling kind of fear, *The Silent Companions* is a tale that creeps its way through the consciousness in ways you least expect--much like the companions themselves.

The Lamplighters - Emma Stonex

Cornwall, 1972. Three keepers vanish from a remote lighthouse, miles from the shore. The entrance door is locked from the inside. The clocks have stopped. The Principal Keeper's weather log describes a mighty storm, but the skies have been clear all week.

What happened to those three men, out on the tower? The heavy sea whispers their names. The tide shifts beneath the swell, drowning ghosts. Can their secrets ever be recovered from the waves?

Twenty years later, the women they left behind are still struggling to move on. Helen, Jenny and Michelle should have been united by the tragedy, but instead it drove them apart. And then a writer approaches them. He wants to give them a chance to tell their side of the story. But only in confronting their darkest fears can the truth begin to surface...

The Lamplighters by Emma Stonex is an intoxicating and suspenseful mystery, an unforgettable story of love and grief that explores the way our fears blur the line between the real and the imagined.

Once Upon a River - Diane Setterfield

On a dark midwinter's night in an ancient inn on the Thames, the regulars are entertaining themselves by telling stories when the door bursts open and in steps an injured stranger. In his arms is the drowned corpse of a child.

Hours later, the dead girl stirs, takes a breath and returns to life. Is it a miracle? Is it magic? And who does the little girl belong to?

An exquisitely crafted historical mystery brimming with folklore, suspense and romance, as well as with the urgent scientific curiosity of the Victorian age.