

RET Staff Summer reading challenge:

The reading suggestions below include subject-related Young Adult fiction and non-fiction. The list is far from exhaustive, but includes some recent publications, as well as established favourites. Much contemporary YA fiction provides an engaging quick read for adults as well, so we hope this list might offer some ideas for relaxing summer reading for staff.

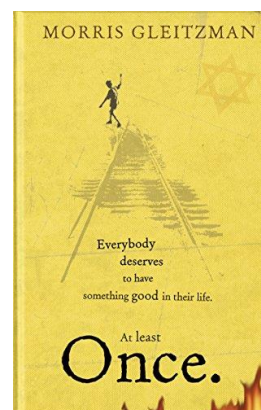
We can extend this list for future years with your suggestions. All books are suitable for KS3 unless otherwise marked; some are written with less able readers in mind (*).

Highly regarded contemporary YA fiction may well have references to drugs, swearing, sex and violence, so please do bear this in mind as you select them for yourself or others if you feel this may be an issue.

To join the national challenge and register online go to: <https://teachersreadingchallenge.org.uk/> or you may just wish to read for your own pleasure and leave the notion of 'challenge' behind for the summer!

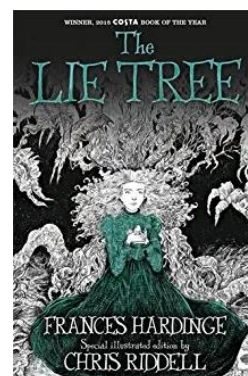
RE, Philosophy and Ethics

- 'I am Thunder' by Muhammad Khan (KS4)
- 'Homefire' by Kamilla Shamsie (KS4+-5) (modern consideration of radicalisation – cleverly based on the Greek tragedy Antigone)
- 'The Magic of Reality' by Richard Dawkins (nf)
- 'Sophie's World' by Jostein Gaarder
- 'Millions' by Frank Cottrell Boyce
- 'Once' by Morris Gleizman (series. Jewish experience)
- 'The Good Man Jesus and the Scoundrel Christ' by Philip Pullman (KS4+/5)
- 'In the Days of Rain' by Rebecca Stott (KS4+/5) (Plymouth Brethren)
- 'Blame' by Simon Mayo (heritage crime)
- 'The Lie Tree' by Frances Hardinge



History and Politics

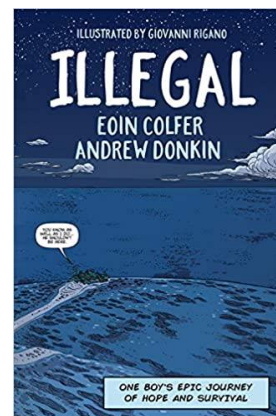
- 'Once' by Morris Gleizman (series. Jewish experience)
- 'The Boy at the Top of the Mountain' by John Boyne
- 'The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas' by John Boyne
- *'D Day Dog' by Tom Palmer
- 'The Somerset Tsunami' by Emma Carroll (James I and witchcraft)
- 'The True Story of my Family in World War II' by Michael Rosen (nf)
- 'Coram Boy' by Jamilla Gavin
- 'Cutting Through the Crap' by Bali Rai (nf)
- 'Hitler's Canary' by Sandi Toksvig
- 'Cane Warriors' by Alex Wheatle
- 'The Dark Lady' by Akala
- 'The Lie Tree' by Frances Hardinge
- 'Cowards' by Marcus Sedgwick (nf – conscientious objectors during WW1)
- 'Witch Child' by Celia Rees
- '1984' by George Orwell (KS4/5)
- 'Animal Farm' by George Orwell
- 'Arctic Zoo' by Robert Muchamore
- 'Noughts and Crosses' by Malorie Blackman (series –civil rights/race)



Geography

- *'Lark' (series) by Anthony McGowan
- 'Dark Matter' by Michelle Paver (KS4-5)
- 'Crongton Knights' by Alex Wheatle (inner city crime)
- 'The Hate you Give' by Angie Thomas (inner city crime)
- 'The Boy at the Back of the Class' by Onjali Rauf (Refugee experience)

'The Unforgotten Coat' by Frank Cottrell Boyce (refugee experience/Mongolia)
 'Ashfall' (series) by Mike Mullin
 'The Supreme Lie' by Geraldine McCaughrean (environment/climate)
 'Noone is too small to make a difference' by Greta Thunberg (nf)
 'Refugee Boy' by Benjamin Zephaniah
 'Now is the Time for Running' by Michael Williams (Zimbabwe/Refugee experience)
 'High Rise Mystery' by Sharna Jackson (inner city crime setting)
 'Illegal' by Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin (graphic novel, based on refugee experiences, Africa)
 'The Other Side of Truth' by Beverley Naidoo (Nigeria, refugee experience)
 'Revolver' by Marcus Sedgwick (the Arctic, gun crime)
 'Chinese Cinderella' by Adeline Yen Mah (China and culture)
 'How to Change Everything' by Naomi Klein (nf)
 'Touching the Void' by Joe Simpson (nf)



Science, Maths, Computing

'Itch' (Trilogy) by Simon Mayo
 'The Many Worlds' of Albie Bright by Christopher Edge
 'The Infinite Lives' of Maisie Day by Christopher Edge
 'Space Oddity' by Christopher Edge
 *'Gamer' by Chris Bradford
 'The Lie Tree' by Frances Hardinge
 'The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time' by Mark Haddon
 'An Abundance' of Katherine by John Green
 'Do the Maths: Secret, Lies and Algebra' by Wendy Lictman
 'She is Not Invisible' by Marcus Sedgwick
 *'Lawn Boy' by Gary Paulson
 'Clara and the Sun' by Kazuo Ishiguro (KS5 – book narrated by an AR)
 'Never Let Me Go' by Kazuo Ishiguro (KS4/5 anatomical donation)
 'Shadow of the Minotaur' (series) by Alan Gibbons (gaming)
 'The Homeward Bounders' by Dianne Wynn Jones
 *'Hacker' by Malorie Blackman
 *'Dangerous Reality' by Malorie Blackman
 'Shades Children' by Garth Nix



Music

'Solo' by Kwame Alexander
 'Swing' by Kwame Alexander
 'Chartbreak' by Gillian Cross
 'The Commitments' by Roddy Doyle (KS4-5)
 'Swingtime' by Zadie Smith (KS5)
 'Nocturnes' by Kazuo Ishiguro (KS5)
 'The Unconsoled' by Kazuo Ishiguro (KS5)
 'The Cellist of Sarajevo' by Steven Galloway (KS4-5)
 'Rock War' (Series) by Robert Muchamore

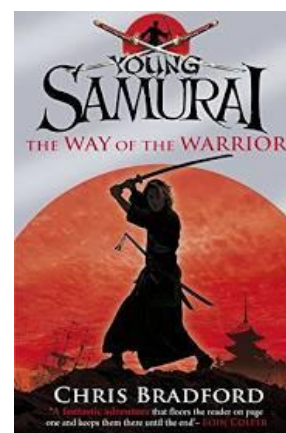
PHSE/Wellbeing

'The Boy at the Back of the Class' by Onjali Rauf
'Noughts and Crosses' by Malorie Blackman
'A Monster Calls' by Patrick Ness
'The Night Bus' by Onjali Rauf
'I am Thunder' by Muhammad Khan
'The Star Outside My Window' by Onjali Rauf
'You are the Champion' by Marcus Rashford (nf)



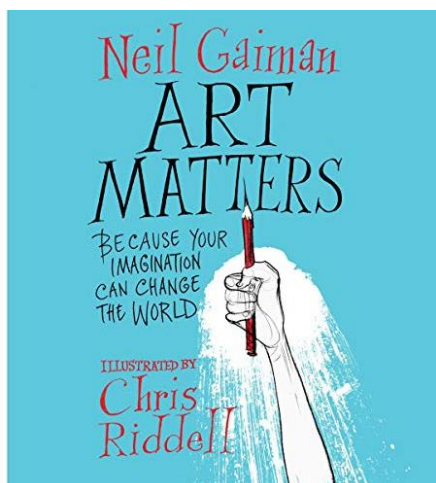
PE

'Booked' by Kwame Alexander
'Swing' by Kwame Alexander
'The Crossover' by Kwame Alexander
'Rebound' by Kwame Alexander
'You are the Champion' by Marcus Rashford (nf)
* 'Rugby Academy' by Tom Palmer (series)
* 'Football Academy' by Tom Palmer (series)
'The Young Samurai' (Series) by Christ Bradford
'The Boy Who Biked the World' by Alistair Humphries
* 'The Number 7 Shirt' by Alan Gibbons (many other football books)
* 'Over the Line' by Tom Palmer



Art/D&T/Food

'Framed' by Frank Cottrell Boyce
* 'Slog's Dad' by David Almond (illustrated edition which provides alternative commentaries and readings)
'Illegal' by Eoin Colfer and Andrew Donkin (graphic novel, based on refugee experiences, Africa)
'The Bigger Picture – women who changed the art world' by Benett and Thapp
'The Girl with the Pearl Earring' by Kate Chevalier (Y11, KS5)
'Wakenhyrst' by Michelle Paver (KS4+/5)
'Swing' by Kwame Alexander
'Art Matters' by Neil Gaiman (nf)
'Chocolat' by Joanne Harris (KS4/5)
'Mortal Engines' by Philip Reeve
'Chinese Cinderella' by Adeline Yen Mah



I DON'T THINK THERE IS SUCH A THING AS A
BAD BOOK FOR CHILDREN.
IT'S TOSH. IT'S SNOBBERY AND IT'S FOOLISHNESS.
WE NEED OUR CHILDREN TO GET ONTO THE
READING LADDER: ANYTHING THAT THEY ENJOY
READING WILL MOVE THEM UP, RUNG BY RUNG,
INTO LITERACY.

