

# Woodhouse College Summer Reading List

Read two or more titles from anywhere in this list over the summer. Many of these titles will be available in your local library.

## Classics

### **Heart of Darkness, Joseph Conrad**

It shows both an understanding of the moral bankruptcy of colonial administrations and explores the frail veneer of European 'civilisation'. It is complex, dense, highly structured – a bit like a rainforest.

### **Crime and Punishment, Fyodor Dostoevsky**

What are you prepared to do to achieve greatness? Can murder ever be justified? Enter the dark, warped and paranoid world of Raskolnikov, the protagonist of this tense, gripping psychological thriller from one of the Russian masters.

### **The Great Gatsby, F Scott Fitzgerald**

A classic love story.... or is it? Set in the roaring 1920s, this book is full of parties, glamour and corruption, yet at the heart of the story is a young man with a dream of being with a beautiful girl. You will find yourself following Gatsby's quest to be with Daisy Fay and questioning whether or not he really is 'great'. Fitzgerald's writing is beautifully nuanced, one of the best pieces of writing you could read!

### **Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen**

It is a truth universally acknowledged, that anyone wanting to read a good book will not be disappointed by 'Pride and Prejudice'. This classic love story features a heroine that Jane Austen herself described as "as delightful a creature as ever appeared in print" and introduced Mr Darcy, Mr Collins and Lady Catherine de Bourgh to the world. So sit back and enjoy the excitement of the militia regiment coming to Meryton and the shame of an elopement, and take pity on Mr Bennet whose wife's nerves have been his 'old friends' for the past twenty years.

### **1984, George Orwell**

Orwell's masterpiece. This book will have you sobbing with grief and laughing out loud. A must-read.

### **The Remains of the Day, Kazuo Ishiguru**

Booker prize-winning novel is a story of unspoken love for anyone who's ever held their true feelings back. A subtle masterpiece about the private agonies of an ageing butler, which is so well written, so moving and so perceptive, you will want to tell all your friends to read it.

### **Anna Karenina, Leo Tolstoy**

Tolstoy's classic story of doomed love is one of the most admired novels in world literature.

### **The Colour Purple, Alice Walker**

The classic tale of Celie, a young black girl born into poverty and segregation in the American deep South. One of the most haunting books you could ever wish to read. It is stunning, moving, exciting, and wonderful.

### **Things fall Apart, Chinua Achebe**

One of the most widely read novels from Nigeria's most famous novelist, *Things Fall Apart* is a gripping study of the problem of European colonialism in Africa.

### **I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, Maya Angelou**

Maya Angelou's seven volumes of autobiography are a testament to the talents and resilience of this extraordinary writer. Loving the world, she also knows its cruelty. As a Black woman she has known discrimination and extreme poverty, but also hope, joy, achievement and celebration. In this first volume of her six books of autobiography, Maya Angelou beautifully evokes her childhood with her grandmother in the American south of the 1930s.

### **The Handmaid's Tale, Margaret Atwood**

The Republic of Gilead offers Offred only one function: to breed. If she deviates, she will, like dissenters, be hanged at the wall or sent out to die slowly of radiation sickness. But even a repressive state cannot obliterate desire – neither Offred's nor that of the two men on which her future hangs. Brilliantly conceived and executed, this powerful vision of the future gives full rein to Margaret Atwood's irony, wit and astute perception.

### **Lord of the Flies, William Golding**

A plane crashes on an uninhabited island and the only survivors, a group of schoolboys, assemble on the beach and wait to be rescued. William Golding gives the traditional adventure story an ironic, devastating twist. The boys' delicate sense of order fades, and their childish fears are transformed into something deeper and more primitive. Their games take on a horrible significance, and before long the well-behaved party of schoolboys has turned into a tribe of faceless, murderous savages.

### **Middlemarch, George Eliot**

Arguably the best Victorian novel. A tale of idealism, disillusion, profligacy, loyalty and frustrated love. A penetrating analysis of the life of an English provincial town during the time of social unrest in the early 19<sup>th</sup> century.

### **Bleak House, Charles Dickens**

Dickens' masterpiece, with the best opening page and the richest plot, part detective story, part attack on the abuses of the legal system and sexual hypocrisy as he lays out the condition of England, moving from child workers to comfortable aristocrats.

### **The Stranger by Albert Camus**

The opening lines—"Mother died today. Or, maybe, yesterday. I can't be sure"—epitomize Camus's celebrated notions of "the absurd." His narrator, Meursault, a wretched little Algerian clerk sentenced to death for the murder, feels nothing: no remorse, love, guilt, grief, or hope. But he's not a sociopath; he's just honest. An embodiment of existential philosophy, he believes in no higher power and accepts that we are born only to die. Our only choice is to act "as if" life has meaning and thereby gain some freedom.

### **One Hundred Years of Solitude by Gabriel Garcia Marquez**

One of the 20th century's enduring works, *One Hundred Years of Solitude* is a widely beloved and acclaimed novel known throughout the world, and the ultimate achievement in a Nobel Prize-winning career. It is a rich and brilliant chronicle of life and death, and the tragicomedy of humankind. In the noble, ridiculous, beautiful, and tawdry story of the Buendía family, one sees all of humanity, just as in the history, myths, growth, and decay of Macondo, one sees all of Latin America. Love and lust, war and revolution, riches and poverty, youth and senility — the variety of life, the endlessness of death, the search for peace and truth — these universal themes dominate the novel.

### **Don Quixote, Miguel de Cervantes**

Don Quixote is regarded as the greatest work of literature in the Spanish language. Alonso Quixano, a retired country gentleman in his fifties, lives in an unnamed section of La Mancha with his niece and a housekeeper. He has become obsessed with books of chivalry, and believes their every word to be true, despite the fact that many of the events in them are clearly impossible. Quixano eventually appears to other people to have lost his mind from little sleep and food and because of so much reading.

## Young Adult Fiction

### **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time, Mark Haddon**

This is a wonderful book, a real (and surprising) page turner. It is a diary or chronicle of the life of 15 year old Christopher John Francis Boone, who loves animals, puzzles, is amazingly good at maths... and has ASD

### **The Perks of Being a Wallflower, Stephen Chbosky**

The critically acclaimed debut novel from Stephen Chbosky follows observant "wallflower" Charlie as he charts a course through the strange world between adolescence and adulthood. First dates, family drama, and new friends. Sex, drugs, and The Rocky Horror Picture Show. Devastating loss, young love, and life on the fringes.

### **The Wall, William Sutcliffe**

A powerful, searing story of a divided city - where one boy strays on to the wrong side of the wall, and finds his life changed forever . . . A disturbing and thought-provoking book which simmers with heat, anger and fear.

## General Science Books

### **Longitude, Dava Sobel**

The True Story of a Lone Genius Who Solved the Greatest Scientific Problem of His Time. As exciting as a thriller. Full of heroism and chicanery, brilliance and the absurd, Longitude is also a fascinating brief history of astronomy, navigation and clockmaking.

### **Almost a whale, Steve Jones**

A modern introduction to Charles Darwin's Origin of Species. reargued using the twentieth century's astonishing advances. From AIDS to dinosaurs, from conservation to cloned sheep, bursting with anecdotes, jokes and irresistible facts, Almost Like a Whale is a popular account of the science that makes biology make sense.

### **Fermat's last theorem, Simon Singh**

The best popular maths book ever written, Singh has crafted a remarkable tale of intellectual endeavour spanning three centuries, and a moving testament to the obsession, sacrifice and extraordinary determination of Andrew Wiles: one man against all the odds.

### **A short history of nearly everything, Bill Bryson**

The ultimate eye-opening journey through time and space, A Short History of Nearly Everything is the biggest-selling popular science book of the 21st century.

### **The selfish gene, Richard Dawkins**

The million copy international bestseller, critically acclaimed and translated into over 25 languages. As influential today as when it was first published, The Selfish Gene has become a classic exposition of evolutionary thought.

## History

### **The Plantagenets, Dan Jones**

Dan Jones brings you a new vision of this battle-scarred history. From the Crusades, to King John's humbling over Magna Carta and the tragic reign of the last Plantagenet, Richard II – this is a blow-by-blow account of England's most thrilling age.

### **If This Is a Man, Primo Levi**

This book describes Levi's arrest as a member of the Italian anti-fascist resistance during the Second World War, and his incarceration in the Auschwitz concentration camp from February 1944 until the camp was liberated on January 27, 1945. *If This Is a Man* is miraculous, finding the human in every individual who traverses its pages. Levi's voice is especially affecting, so clear, firm and gentle, yet humane and apparently untouched by anger, bitterness or self-pity.

### **Restoration, Rose Tremain**

The bestselling and much-loved classic from Orange Prize-winning Rose Tremain, *Restoration* introduces us to the young Robert Merivel and his rise and fall through glittering seventeenth-century society.

### **And Quiet Flows the Don, Mikhail Sholokhov**

The epic novel of love, war and revolution from Mikhail Sholokhov, winner of the Nobel Prize in Literature. An extraordinary Russian masterpiece, *And Quiet Flows the Don* follows the turbulent fortunes of the Cossack people through peace, war and revolution - among them the proud and rebellious Gregor Melekhov, who struggles to be with the woman he loves as his country is torn apart. A searing portrait of a nation swept up in conflict, with all the tragic choices it brings.

### **Economics**

#### **23 Things They Don't Tell You About Capitalism, Ha-Joon Chang**

In this revelatory book, Ha-Joon Chang destroys the biggest myths of our times and shows us an alternative view of the world. "A masterful debunking of some of the myths of capitalism ... Witty, iconoclastic and uncommonly commonsensical" – The Observer.

#### **The Undercover Economist, Tim Harford**

Ever wondered why the gap between rich and poor nations is so great, or why it's so difficult to get a foot on the property ladder, or where the banks went wrong? This book offers the hidden story behind these and other forces that shape our day-to-day lives, often without our knowing it.

### **Classical Civilisation**

#### **Homer: The Odyssey**

**Ovid: Metamorphoses** (students can read as many chapters as they wish and here is a link to an online version: <http://ovid.lib.virginia.edu/trans/Ovhome.htm> )

**The Roman Republic: A Very Short Introduction** by David M. Gywnn

**Classics: A Very Short Introduction** by Mary Beard

### **Sociology**

#### **Watching the English, Kate Fox**

Kate Fox takes a revealing look at the quirks, habits and foibles of the English people. She puts the English national character under her anthropological microscope, and finds a strange and fascinating culture, governed by complex sets of unspoken rules and byzantine codes of behaviour.

#### **Gang Leader for a Day, Sudhir Venkatesh**

Sudhir Venkatesh describes his time living with the gangs on the Southside of Chicago and answers the question: what's it like to live in hell?

#### **Chavs The Demonisation of the Working Class, Owen Jones**

Bestselling investigation into the myth and reality of working-class life in contemporary Britain.

#### **Angry White People: Coming Face-to-Face with the British Far Right, Hsiao-Hung Pai**

Hsiao-Hung skilfully draws out the sense of abandonment by mainstream politicians that has led some people to support the EDL and others to favour the UK Independence Party

## Philosophy

### **The Pig who didn't want to be eaten, Julian Baggini**

100 thought experiments - short scenarios which pose a problem in a vivid and concrete way - and invites the reader to think about possible answers for him/herself. Experiments cover identity, religion, art, ethics, language, knowledge and many more.

### **A Little History of Philosophy, Nigel Warburton**

Philosophy begins with questions about the nature of reality and how we should live. These were the concerns of Socrates, who spent his days in the ancient Athenian marketplace asking awkward questions, disconcerting the people he met by showing them how little they genuinely understood. This engaging book introduces the great thinkers in Western philosophy and explores their most compelling ideas about the world and how best to live in it.

### **The Cloud Atlas, David Mitchell**

Winner of the Richard & Judy Best Read of the Year ...Six interlocking lives - one amazing adventure. In a narrative that circles the globe and reaches from the 19th century to a post-apocalyptic future, Cloud Atlas erases the boundaries of time, genre and language to offer an enthralling vision of humanity's will to power, and where it will lead us.

## Geography / Politics

### **Prisoners of Geography: Ten Maps That Tell You Everything You Need to Know About Global Politics Tim Marshall**

A book which shows what's going on beneath the headlines when countries form alliances or become 'enemies'. It sheds light on how much of global politics is about jockeying to control land and maintain access to the sea.

## Politics

### **From the Ruins of Empire: The Revolt Against the West and the Remaking of Asia - Pankaj Mishra**

Pankaj Mishra's provocative account of how China, India and the Muslim World are remaking the world in their own image - shortlisted for the Orwell Prize 2013

Viewed in the West as a time of self-confident progress, the Victorian period was experienced by Asians as a catastrophe. As the British gunned down the last heirs to the Mughal Empire or burned down the Summer Palace in Beijing, it was clear that for Asia to recover a new way of thinking was needed. Pankaj Mishra re-tells the history of the past two centuries, showing how a remarkable, disparate group of thinkers, journalists, radicals and charismatics emerged from the ruins of empire to create an unstoppable Asian renaissance, one whose ideas lie behind everything from the Chinese Communist Party to the Muslim Brotherhood, and have made our world what it is today.

### **Destined for War: can America and China escape Thucydides's Trap?**

#### **China and the United States are heading toward a war neither wants. - Graham Allison**

The reason, argues Harvard scholar Graham Allison in this razor-sharp analysis, is Thucydides's Trap. This phenomenon, as old as history itself, is named for the Greek historian's assessment of why the Peloponnesian War broke out: a rising power threatened to displace a ruling one.

Over the past 500 years, such a struggle has occurred between major powers just sixteen times. In twelve cases, it resulted in war.

Today, as an unstoppable China approaches an immovable America, and both Xi Jinping and Donald Trump promise to make their countries 'great again', the seventeenth case looks grim. Unless China scales back its ambitions or the US accepts becoming number two in the Pacific, a trade conflict, cyber attack, or accident at sea could soon escalate.

### **Easternisation: War and Peace in the Asian Century - Gideon Rachman**

The West's domination of world politics is coming to a close. The flow of wealth and power is turning from West to East and a new era of global instability has begun.

Easternisation is the defining trend of our age – the growing wealth of Asian nations is transforming the international balance of power. This shift to the East is shaping the lives of people all over the world, the fate of nations and the great questions of war and peace. A troubled but rising China is now challenging America's supremacy, and the ambitions of other Asian powers – including Japan, North Korea, India and Pakistan – have the potential to shake the whole world. Meanwhile the West is struggling with economic malaise and political populism, the Arab world is in turmoil and Russia longs to reclaim its status as a great power. We are at a turning point in history: but Easternisation has many decades to run. Gideon Rachman offers a road map to the turbulent process that will define the international politics of the twenty-first century.

### **Inglorious Empire: What the British Did to India - Shashi Tharoor**

In the eighteenth century, India's share of the world economy was as large as Europe's. By 1947, after two centuries of British rule, it had decreased six-fold. The Empire blew rebels from cannon, massacred unarmed protesters, entrenched institutionalised racism, and caused millions to die from starvation.

British imperialism justified itself as enlightened despotism for the benefit of the governed, but Shashi Tharoor takes demolishes this position, demonstrating how every supposed imperial 'gift' - from the railways to the rule of law - was designed in Britain's interests alone. He goes on to show how Britain's Industrial Revolution was founded on India's deindustrialisation, and the destruction of its textile industry. In this bold and incisive reassessment of colonialism, Tharoor exposes to devastating effect the inglorious reality of Britain's stained Indian legacy.

### **The World America Made - Robert Kagan**

Upon its initial publication, *The World America Made* became one of the most talked about political books of the year, influencing Barack Obama's 2012 State of the Union address and shaping the thought of both the Obama and Romney presidential campaigns. In these incisive and engaging pages, Kagan responds to those who anticipate—or even long for—a post-American world order by showing what a decline in America's influence would truly mean for the United States and the rest of the world, as the vital institutions, economies, and ideals currently supported by American power wane or disappear. As Kagan notes, it has happened before: one need only to consider the consequences of the breakdown of the Roman Empire and the collapse of the European order in World War I. This book is a powerful warning that America need not and dare not decline by committing preemptive superpower suicide.

## Law

### **Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do, Michael Sandel**

This spellbinding book invites readers of all ages and political persuasions on a journey of moral reflection, and shows how reasoned debate can illuminate our lives.

## Computing

### **The Code Book, Simon Singh**

From the best-selling author of *Fermat's Last Theorem*, *The Code Book* is a history of humanity's urge to uncover the secrets of codes, from Egyptian puzzles to modern day computer encryptions. Free download:

<https://archive.org/details/SimonSinghTheCodeBookTeenageVersion>

**CS4FN (Computer Science for Fun)** is a magazine on computer science aimed at school students "Explore how computer science is also about people, solving puzzles, creativity, changing the future and, most of all, having fun." It is printed twice a year and has an associated website with additional articles.

### **Computational Fairy Tales by Jeremy Kubica**

An overview of the principles of computational thinking, illustrating high-level computer science concepts, the motivation behind them, and their application via the medium of a fairy tale.

## Psychology

**Boys Don't Cry: why I hid my depression and why men need to talk about mental health, Tim Grayburn**

## Medicine

**Do no Harm : Stories of Life, Death and Brain Surgery Henry Marsh**

How does it feel to hold someone's life in your hands, to cut into the stuff that creates thought, feeling and reason? How do you live with the consequences of performing a potentially life-saving operation when it all goes wrong? In neurosurgery, more than in any other branch of medicine, the doctor's oath to 'do no harm' holds a bitter irony because operations on the brain carry such grave risks. This book gives a fascinating insight to being a brain surgeon.

## Spanish

**Una promesa es una promesa / A promise is a promise: 2 Short Bilingual Stories for English**

Students of Spanish - Intermediate Level / CEFR Levels B1 - B2 (Spanish Edition)

The stories in this book are presented in an alternate Spanish/English reading format, where paragraphs written in Spanish and English can be read at the same time. Besides, two glossaries (Spanish/English and English/Spanish) are available to help readers assimilate some of the difficult words or expressions presented throughout each story.

A set of activities are included in order to ensure the understanding of the stories. These have been designed to enhance vocabulary development, reading comprehension and writing skills of the readers. In addition, keys are provided to make the most out of these activities.

**Spanish Short Stories: Cuentos En Español**

by John R King (Editor)

This is an all new version of the popular PARALLEL TEXT series, containing eight pieces of contemporary fiction in the original Spanish and in English translation. Including stories by Fuentes, Molinas, Marquez and Cortazar, this volume gives a fascinating insight into Spanish and Latin American culture and literature as well as providing an invaluable educational tool.

## French

**French short stories: Nouvelles Francaises (New Penguin Parallel Text Series): Short Stories in**

**French**

by Richard Coward (Editor)

This contains eight pieces of contemporary fiction in the original French and in English translation. Including stories by Bolanger, Cotnoir, Le Clezio and Germain, this volume gives a fascinating insight into French culture and literature.

**Nouvelles à Chute (French) Mass Market Paperback – 27 Aug 2004**

by Collectif (Author)

Sélectionnée pour la particularité de leur chute, chacune des nouvelles de ce recueil peut vous réserver une surprise si vous vous laissez guider par l'auteur - ou vous entraîner dans un véritable défi intellectuel si vous décidez de ne pas vous laisser surprendre !

## **German**

### **German Short Stories: Deutsche Kurzgeschichten (New Penguin Parallel Texts Series)**

Ernst Zillekens (Editor)

This volume of eight short stories offers students of German at all levels the opportunity to enjoy a wide range of contemporary literature in the original, with the aid of parallel translations.

### **Germany: Memories of a Nation Paperback – 7 Apr 2016**

by Dr Neil MacGregor (Author)

From the author of A History of the World in 100 Objects, this is a view of Germany like no other. For the past 140 years, Germany has been the central power in continental Europe. Twenty-five years ago a new German state came into being. How much do we really understand this new Germany, and how do its people now understand themselves?

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