








The Big Read

Our bespoke tutor-led reading programme.
We read so that we can experience the
world, in all its fullness.








The Big Read: Reading in Tutor Time at Sarum Academy

Year 7

Book		Pub.	SMSC / PSHCE / Themes	Summary
Millions by Frank Cottrell-Boyce		2008	Faith / Religion / Family / Loyalty / Compassion / Moral Dilemmas / Empathy	Brothers Damian and Anthony, are caught up in a train robbery during Britain's countdown to join the Euro. Torn between the vices of buying a million pizzas and the virtues of ending world poverty, the boys soon discover that being rich is a mug's game. For the clock ticking and the bungling bank robbers are closing in.
Pig Heart Boy by Malorie Blackman		2004	Ethics / Identity / Health / Family	Cameron is thirteen and in need of a heart transplant when a pioneering doctor approaches his family with a startling proposal. He can give Cameron a new heart - but from a pig. Cameron is fed up with just sitting on the side of life so becomes the pig-heart boy.
Skellig by David Almond		1998	Caring for others / Change / Self-identity / Faith Transformation	With moving house and a seriously ill sister, Michael's world seems suddenly lonely and uncertain. Then, one Sunday afternoon, he stumbles into the old, ramshackle garage of his new home, and finds something magical. A strange creature - part owl, part angel, a being who needs Michael's help if he is to survive.
Diary of Anne Frank		1947	The Holocaust / Identity / Family Isolation / Growing up	<i>The Diary of a Young Girl</i> , tells Anne's remarkable true-story; the daily life of a Jewish girl against the backdrop of the horrors of the Second World War. Adolescent issues and emotions are recorded alongside the growing powers of the Nazis and their imposition of Anti-Jewish Laws.
Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes		2020	Black Lives Matter / History / Racism / Community	Twelve-year-old Jerome is shot by a police officer who mistakes his toy gun for a real threat. As a ghost, he observes the devastation that's been unleashed on his family and community in the wake of his death. Soon Jerome meets a ghost from a very different time. Together they learn how historical racism may have led to the events that ended his life.
The Wild Way Home by Sophie Kirtley		2020	Responsibility / Family / Bravery / Adventure / Friendship	Charlie has been eagerly awaiting a baby brother for years, but when Dara is born with a serious heart condition, Charlie's world becomes scary. So, Charlie runs away and somehow stumbles into the stone age, where a boy named Harby awaits with a family tragedy of his own!







Plus "The Hunger Games" by Suzanne Collins, "Clockwork" by Phillip Pullman, "Boy Missing" by Sophie MacKenzie, "Blackberry Blue" by Jamila Gavin, "Skin" by Roald Dahl and "Unnatural Creatures" by Neil Gaiman.

Year 8







Book		Pub.	SMSC / PSHCE / Themes	Summary
Face by Benjamin Zephaniah		1999	Identity / Gangs Peer pressure / Growing up / Urban poverty	Martin seems to have it all. 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.
A Monster Calls by Patrick Ness		2011	Grief / Death Finding Strength / Coping with loss / Family	Conor's been expecting the monster from his nightmare, the one he's had nearly every night since his mother started her treatments, the one with the darkness and the wind and the screaming... The monster in his back garden, though, this monster is something different.
Animal Farm by George Orwell		1945	Power / Politics Truth and Lies / Struggle / The power of words	When the downtrodden animals of Manor Farm overthrow their master Mr Jones and take over the farm themselves, they imagine it is the beginning of a life of freedom and equality. But gradually a cunning, ruthless élite among them, masterminded by the pigs Napoleon and Snowball, starts to take control.
Stone Cold by Robert Swindell		1995	Homelessness / Crime / Ethics / Bravery/ Friends	Forced onto the street, a young homeless boy (Link) eventually finds friends on the cold pavements of London. But when a killer starts picking off the homeless of London, Link and his friends are thrown into a very different kind of danger.
Bone Talk by Candy Gourlay		2018	Colonialism / Culture/ Coming of age /Prejudice	1899; Samkad belongs to the Bontoc tribe in the Philippines and he is about to become a man, but first he must find his soul-brother, a boy called Kinyo. Kinyo, however, is now attached to the Americans who are forcing their way into the Philippines and taking over.
Boy in the Striped Pyjamas by John Boyne		2006	Holocaust / Friendship / War / Family conflict / Prejudice	Bruno is the son of a high ranking German Officer. When his father is told to take the family from their grand house in Berlin to some strange place that Bruno thinks is called "Out There" life gets very lonely. Until he meets Schmuel, a boy who wears pyjamas and lives on the other side of a fence. A young boys innocence meets the horrors of the Holocaust.
Wink by Rob Harrell		2020	Cancer / Peers / Friendship / Identity	With his recent diagnosis of a rare eye cancer, blending in is off the table for Ross. Based on Rob Harrell's real life experience, this incredibly personal and poignant novel is an unforgettable, heartbreaking, hilarious, and uplifting story of survival and finding the music, magic, and laughter in life's weirdness.

Plus "The Hunger Games" by Suzanne Collins, "Blackberry Blue" by Jamila Gavin, "Skin" by Roald Dahl and "Unnatural Creatures" by Neil Gaiman.

Year 9

Book		Pub.	SMSC / PSHCE / Themes	Summary
Of Mice and Men by John Steinbeck		1937	Poverty / Friendship / Liberty / Dreams / Hope / Sacrifice	Set in the Great Depression in the American Mid-West the novel sees travelling companions George and Lennie start yet another short term job on a ranch. Finally it seems their life long dream of owning their own land is in sight when life throws yet more challenges at them.
The Curious Incident ... by Mark Haddon		2004	Asperger's / Autism / Family Differences / Growing Up / Trust / Honesty	Christopher is 15 and lives in Swindon with his father. He has Asperger's Syndrome, a form of autism. He is obsessed with maths, science and Sherlock Holmes but finds it hard to understand other people. When he discovers a dead dog on a neighbour's lawn he decides to solve the mystery and write a detective thriller about it.
The Bone Sparrow by Zana Frallion		2017	Asylum Seekers / Empathy / Religious persecution / Racism	Subhi is born into a refugee camp off the coast of Australia. All he has ever known is wire fences, a tent he shares with other families and heavy handed security guards. One day a local girl, Jimmie, appears with a mystery to solve which will create a link between them; a link that will bring both their damaged worlds crashing down.
Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah		1999	Acceptance / Self-worth / Pride Culture / Identity	Chinese Cinderella is the true memoir of Adeline Yen Mah's childhood, describing her life up until she is fourteen years old. Adeline is born to a wealthy family in Tianjin, China , as their fifth child. Her mother dies due to birth complications and her family thus views Adeline as "bad luck" and a curse upon them.
The Boy Who Steals Houses by C.G. Drews		2019	Homelessness / family/ poverty / identity	Sam is only fifteen but he and his autistic older brother, Avery, have been abandoned by every relative he's ever known. Sam survives by breaking into empty houses when their owners are away, until one day he's caught out when a family returns home. To his amazement this large, chaotic family takes him under their wing
When the Sky Falls by Philip Earle		2020	Animal Rights / Bravery / Honour Duty / Isolation / Identity /	It's 1940, and Joseph has been packed off to stay with Mrs F. To Joseph's amazement, she owns a rundown zoo where Joseph meets Adonis, a huge silverback gorilla. But when the bombs begin to fall, it is up to Joseph to guard Adonis's cage should it be damaged by a blast. Will Joseph be ready to pull the trigger if it comes to it?

Year 10

Book		Pub.	SMSC / PSHCE / Themes	Summary
The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas		2017	Race / Class / Culture clash / Injustice / Prejudice	Sixteen-year-old Starr lives in two worlds: the poor neighbourhood where she was born and raised and her posh high school in the suburbs. The uneasy balance between them is shattered when Starr is the only witness to the fatal shooting of her unarmed best friend, Khalil, by a police officer. Now what Starr says could destroy her community. It could also get her killed.
Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe		1958	Culture / Identity Community / Colonialism / Diff. Cultures	Set before the arrival of Europeans in what is now Nigeria, Okonkwo is the strong, warrior-leader of his village until his life unravels. Then the White Men arrive and his place in the world is thrown into even further confusion as everything he knows falls apart around him.
To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee		1960	Bravery / Racism / Segregation / Law (and challenging it) / Inequality	Scout and Jem's father is a lawyer as he represents a black man falsely charged with the rape of a white girl. Harper Lee explores the irrational attitudes to race and class in the Deep South of the 1930s. The conscience of a town steeped in prejudice, violence and hypocrisy is pricked by the stamina of one man's struggle for justice.
Things The Eye Can't See by Penny Joelson		2020	Disabilities / Crime / Secrets / Independence	A chance meeting and a secret message drags Libby into a thrilling mystery, but no one believes she can spot the clues. Can she make them realise what she is really capable of, before it's too late? Libby is visually impaired and she knows there's no way her parents would let her get involved. But what if she's the only person who can solve the mystery...?
A Change is Gonna Come by Johnston, Okwonga		2017	LGBTQ+ / BAME Love and relationships / Friendship / Mental Health	This prize winning collection of short stories and poems is penned by a wide range of young voices from different countries, social backgrounds and walks in life. Covering a huge range of topics the collections aims to reflect the challenges and joys of being a young person in a world that is fast changing around us!
Life of Pi by Yann Martel		2001	Philosophy / Truth / Environment / Independence	After the tragic sinking of a cargo ship, a solitary lifeboat remains bobbing on the wild, blue Pacific. The only survivors from the wreck are a 16 year-old boy named Pi, a hyena, a zebra (with a broken leg), a female orang-utan and a 450-pound Royal Bengal tiger. The scene is set for one of the most extraordinary and best-loved works of fiction in recent years.

Sixth Form:

The sixth form have a dedicated “University Reading List” which aims to give examples of books that will wow the admissions officer for any university course. (As well as any interviewer for any job)!

This collection is available for loan in the Sixth Form study area and includes titles such as: **The Catcher In The Rye** (Salinger), **Factfulness** (Rosling), **The Master and Magarita** (Bulgakov), **Heart of Darkness** (Conrad), **Half a Yellow Sun** (Adiche), **1984** (Orwell), **A Brief History of Everything** (Bryson), **Sapiens: A Brief History of Humankind** (Yuval Noah Harri), **100 Years of Solitude** (Garcia Marquez) and more...!