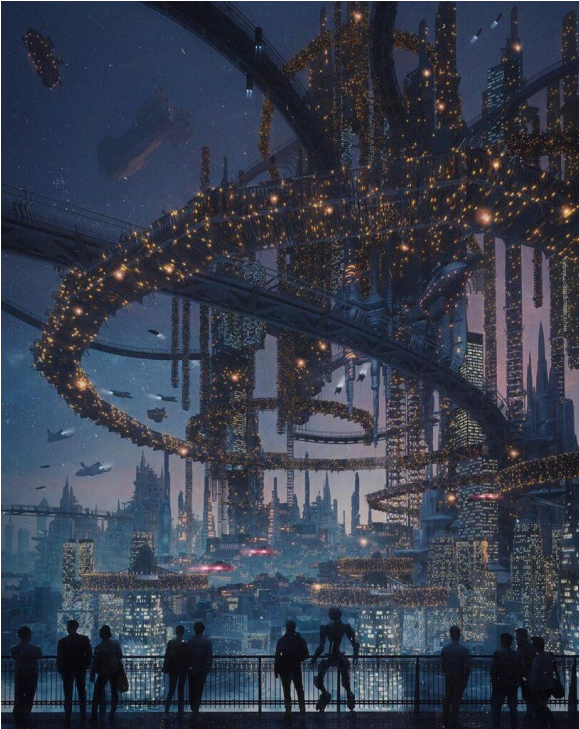


YEAR 8 WIDER READING

Core Text

Dystopian Fiction Anthology



This unit exposes students to a wide range of dystopian texts to explore how writers create setting, characters and narratives in their stories. Students will read extracts from stories about survival, inequality, corruption from both modern and classic texts.

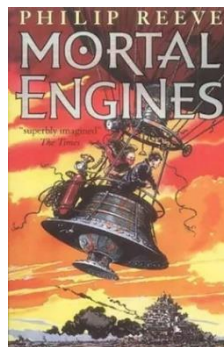
Key Themes: Dystopia, survival, narrative writing, writers' craft

Recommended Wider Reading



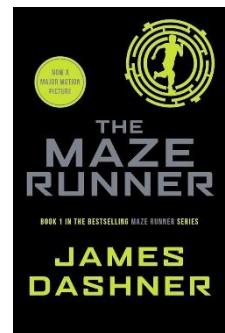
Ready Player One – Ernest Cline

In a future where people escape reality through a virtual world called the OASIS, teenager Wade joins a global treasure hunt. As he competes against powerful corporations, he must use his knowledge and determination to survive. The novel explores technology, identity and the dangers of escapism.



Mortal Engines – Philip Reeve

In a world of moving cities, Tom and Hester uncover a plot that threatens humanity. Their journey reveals the consequences of greed and the struggle for survival. The novel combines action with themes of environmental destruction and power.



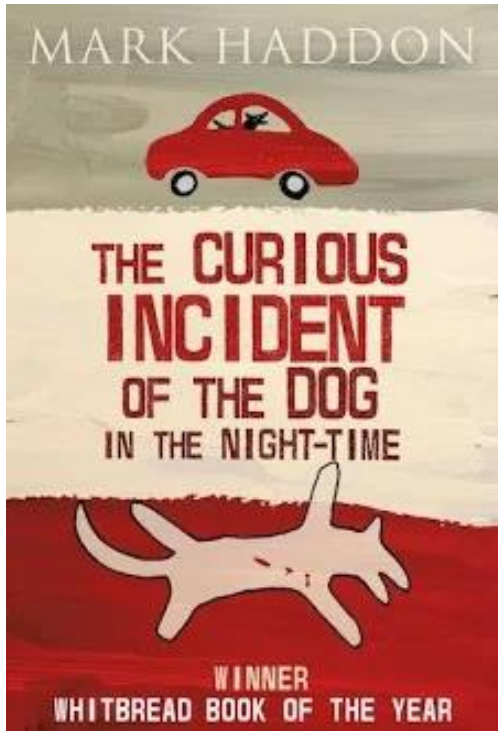
The Maze Runner – James Dashner

A group of teenagers must survive within a constantly shifting maze filled with danger. As they search for answers, they begin to question who put them there and why. The novel explores trust, leadership and the human instinct to survive.

YEAR 8 WIDER READING

Core Text

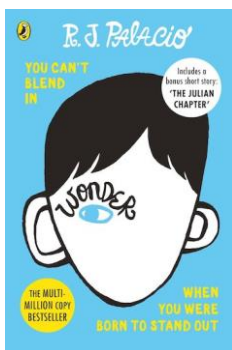
The Curious Incident of The Dog in the Night-Time



The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time by Mark Haddon is a mystery novel narrated by Christopher Boone, a 15-year-old neurodivergent boy, who investigates the murder of a neighbour's dog. His investigation uncovers family secrets, leading to a journey of self-discovery, trust, and independence.

Key Themes: Identity, Neurodiversity, Independence, Family

Recommended Wider Reading



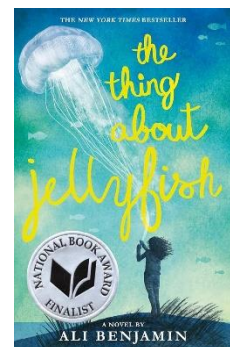
Wonder – R.J. Palacio

Auggie Pullman, a boy with a facial difference, attends school for the first time. Through multiple perspectives, the novel explores kindness, empathy and the importance of acceptance, showing how small actions can have a powerful impact on others.



Mockingbird – Kathryn Erskine

Caitlin, a girl with autism, struggles to understand the world after a family tragedy. As she searches for closure, she learns about emotions, relationships and empathy. The novel explores grief, difference and the importance of human connection.



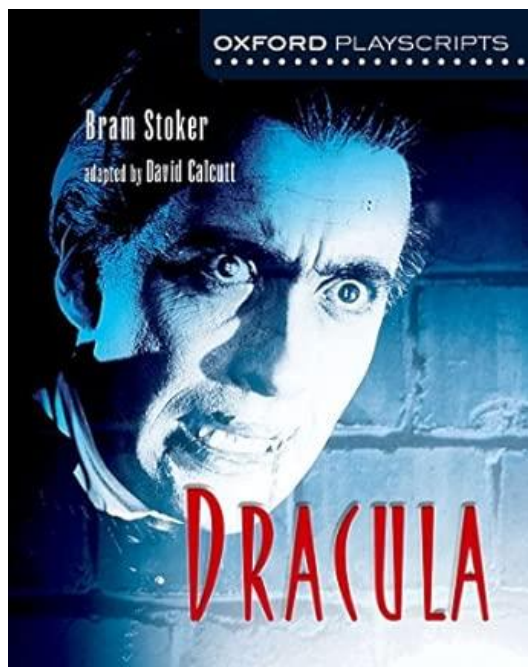
The Thing About Jellyfish – Ali Benjamin

After her best friend dies, Suzy becomes convinced it was caused by a jellyfish sting. As she investigates, she confronts grief and guilt. The novel explores loss, friendship and the ways people try to make sense of tragedy.

YEAR 8 WIDER READING

Core Text

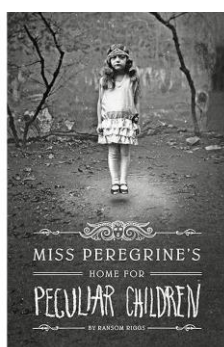
Dracula – The Play



Jonathan Harker has travelled to Romania to help an aristocrat with some legal work. Once there, he is imprisoned in Count Dracula's castle and soon realises the Count is actually some sort of monster. Meanwhile Dracula arrives in England, and starts to prey on fresh victims, including Jonathan's fiancée, Mina, and her friend, Lucy.

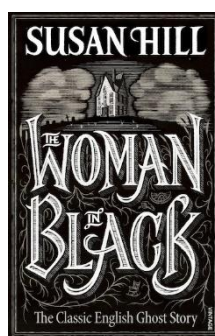
Key Themes: Gothic, Good and Evil, Supernatural

Recommended Wider Reading



Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children – Ransom Riggs

Jacob discovers a hidden world of children with extraordinary abilities, protected from dangerous creatures. As he learns the truth about his grandfather, he must decide where he belongs. The novel blends fantasy, mystery and history.



The Woman in Black – Susan Hill

A young lawyer travels to a remote village and encounters a ghostly figure linked to tragedy and revenge. The novel builds tension through atmosphere and explores fear, grief and the supernatural.



Lockwood & Co – Jonathan Stroud

In a haunted London, teenage ghost hunters risk their lives to battle dangerous spirits. Lucy joins Lockwood's team and uncovers deadly secrets. The novel combines mystery, action and supernatural horror.