

# Introduction

The books on this list are all enjoyable and stimulating for Middle-school pupils at Wellington. They are also enjoyable and stimulating for those much older, but have been chosen because they help introduce younger adults to the more complex issues and styles encountered as we develop as readers.

Reading is not designed to offer instant gratification. Like getting to know a person, it is a complex, time-consuming affair and one which requires, above all, patience. Facebook, texting, gaming, MSN, all have their places – but if you expect reading to offer the same succession of hits and highs, it will always be a struggle. What a good book offers is a more mature, richer and, ultimately, pleasurable form of interaction – and one with life-long after-effects.

It may be helpful, if you sometimes struggle to get into a book, to do the following:

1. Do a bit of **research before you choose**: ask friends, family, teachers, librarians – and have a look online (amazon.co.uk is particularly helpful). Read the blurb on the cover – but be careful of judging too much from that...
2. Go for a **shorter book to start with**. Reading, like training, requires gradual practice. It is very satisfying to finish a book and dispiriting to abandon one: start one you feel you can finish; don't be over-ambitious at first. Short stories can often be a good place to start
3. **Your first reading session** should be a decent one in terms of length. You cannot get into a book in just a few minutes. Try to set aside at least half an hour, free from interruptions, so you can get 15 – 20 pages in and establish a sense of what is going on.
4. If the book is in chapters, **set yourself a target**; if not, use page numbers as goals.
5. Crucially, **keep the book with you as much as possible**: in your bag, on the journey to school, on the kitchen table. If you leave it abandoned, unread for a few days because it is not to hand, you will lose interest. The longer you leave it, the less you will want to pick it up. Little bursts of reading – 5 to 10 minutes at odd times of the day – all add up and keep the book fresh inside you.

Mr T. Wayman, Head of English

## FICTION

ADAMS, Douglas	The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy
ATWOOD, Margaret	The Handmaid's Tale
AUSTEN, Jane	Pride and Prejudice
BANKS, Ian	The Wasp Factory
BARKER, Pat	Regeneration
BOYNE, John	The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas
BRADBURY, Ray	Fahrenheit 451
BRONTE, Charlotte	Jane Eyre
BUCHAN, John	The 39 Steps
CHANDLER, Raymond	The Big Sleep
COELHO, Paulo	The Alchemist
COLLINS, Wilkie	The Moonstone
DICKENS, Charles	David Copperfield
DICKENS, Charles	Great Expectations
DICKENS, Charles	Oliver Twist
DOSTOEVSKY, F M	Crime and Punishment
DOYLE, Roddy	Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha
FLEMING, Ian	Casino Royale
FORSTER, E M	A Room with a View
FORSYTH, Frederick	The Day of the Jackal
FRAYN, Michael	Spies
GARCIA MARQUEZ, G	Love in the Time of Cholera
GREENE, Graham	Brighton Rock
GROSSMITH, G & W	Diary of a Nobody
HAMMETT, Dashiell	The Maltese Falcon
HARDY, Thomas	Far from the Madding Crowd
HARRIS, Robert	Fatherland
HARTLEY, L P	The Go-Between
HELLER, Joseph	Catch 22
HILL, Susan	I'm the King of the Castle
HILL, Susan	The Woman in Black
HORNBY, Nick	About a Boy
HOSSEINI, Kaled	The Kite Runner
HUXLEY, Aldous	Brave New World
KESEY, Ken	One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
KUREISHI, Hanif	Buddha of Suburbia
LAWRENCE, D H	Lady Chatterley's Lover
LEE, Harper	To Kill a Mockingbird
LESSING, Doris	The Fifth Child
MARTEL, Yann	Life of Pi
MCEWAN, Ian	Atonement
MCEWAN, Ian	Enduring Love
MORRISON, Toni	Beloved
ORWELL, George	Animal Farm
ORWELL, George	1984
PLATH, Sylvia	The Bell Jar
REMARQUE, E M	All Quiet on the Western Front

SACHER, Louis  
SALINGER, J D  
SCHLINK, Bernhard  
SHELLEY, Mary  
SPARK, Muriel  
STEINBECK, John  
SUSKIND, Patrick  
THACKERAY, William  
TWAINE, Mark  
VONNEGUT, Kurt  
WALKER, Alice  
WELLS, H G  
WHARTON, Edith  
WILDE, Oscar

Holes  
The Catcher in the Rye  
The Reader  
Frankenstein  
The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie  
The Grapes of Wrath  
Perfume  
Vanity Fair  
The Adventures of Tom Sawyer  
Slaughterhouse  
The Color Purple  
The History of Mr Polly  
Ethan Frome  
The Picture of Dorian Gray

# NON-FICTION

ARMSTONG, Lance	It's Not About the Bike: My Journey Back to Life
BAUBY, Jean-Dominique	The Diving Bell and the Butterfly
BEEVOR, Anthony	Stalingrad
BLIXEN, Karen	Out of Africa
BRITAIN, Vera	Testament of Youth
BROWN, Christy	My Left Foot
BRYSON, Bill	Notes from a Small Island (or any other works by Bryson)
CAREY, John	The Faber Book of Science
CHANG, Jung	Wild Swans
CHATWIN, Bruce	In Patagonia
COOKE, Alistair	Letter from America
DAHL, Roald	Boy: Tales of Childhood
DAHL, Roald	Going Solo
DAWKINS, Richard	Unweaving the Rainbow. Science, Delusion and the Appetite for Wonder
DIAMOND, J	Guns, Germs and Steel: A Short History of Everybody for the last 13,000 years
DUBNER, Stephen and Steven Levitt	Freakonomics
DURRELL, Gerald	The Overloaded Ark
DYLAN, Bob	Chronicles: Volume One
EGGERS, Dave	A Heartbreaking Work of Staggering Genius
FILIPOVIC, Zlata	Zlata's Diary
FRANK, Anne	The Diary of Anne Frank
FRY, Stephen	Moab is my Washpot
FUNDER, Anna	Stasiland
GRAVES, Robert	Goodbye to All That
HALEY, Alex and Malcolm X	The Autobiography of Malcolm X
HARRER, Heinrich	Seven Years in Tibet
HORNBY, Nick	Fever Pitch
LEVI, Primo	If This is a Man
LEVI, Primo	The Truce
LORENZ, Konrad	King Solomon's Ring
MANDELA, Nelson	The Long Road to Freedom
MAXWELL, Gavin	Ring of Bright Water
McCOURT, Frank	Angela's Ashes
MITFORD, Jessica	Hons and Rebels
MURAKAMI, Haruki	What I Talk About When I Talk About Running
ORWELL, George	Homage to Catalonia
PALIN, Michael	Pole to Pole
PARRIS, Matthew	Inca Kola: A Traveller's Guide of Peru
PELE	My Life and the Beautiful Game
RHODES, Richard	The Making of the Atomic Bomb
ROBB, Peter	Midnight in Sicily
SACKS, Oliver	Uncle Tungsten: Memories of a Chemical Boyhood
SAJER, Guy	The Forgotten Soldier
SEIERSTAD, Asne	The Bookseller of Kabul
SIMPSON, Joe	Touching the Void
SINGH, Simon	Fermat's Last Theorem
SPIEGELMAN, Art	Maus I A Survivor's Tale: My Father Bleeds History
THEROUX, Paul	The Great Railway Bazaar
WATSON, James D	The Double Helix
WOLFF, Tobias	This Boy's Life
YEN MAH, Adeline	Falling Leaves
ZINDEL, Paul	The Pigman and Me

# DRAMA

AYCKBOURN, Alan	The Norman Conquests
BENNETT, Alan	Talking Heads
BURKE, Gregory	Black Watch
CAMUS, Albert	Caligula
CHURCHILL, Caryl	A Number
CHURCHILL, Caryl	Top Girls
GUIRGIS, Stephen Adly	The Last Days of Judas Iscariot
JOHNSON, Terry	Hysteria
JONSON, Ben	Volpone
MAMET, David	Glengarry Glen Ross
MARBER, Patrick	Closer
MARBER, Patrick	Dealer's Choice
McDONOUGH, Martin	The Lieutenant of Inishmore
MOLIERE	The Misanthrope
ORTON, Joe	What the Butler Saw
PENHALL, Joe	Blue/Orange
REZA, Yasmina	Art
RUSSELL, Willy	Educating Rita
SOPHOCLES	Oedipus The King
STOPPARD, Tom	Arcadia
STOPPARD, Tom	Jumpers
STOPPARD, Tom	Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead
WERTENBAKER, Timberlake	Our Country's Good
WILDE, Oscar	The Importance of Being Earnest
WILDER, Thornton	Our Town