

Transition Year Reading List 2017/18

Welcome to your reading list!

Teachers from different subject areas have contributed to this list and we hope that you enjoy reading a selection from the variety of books that follow.

- ◆ All transition year students are asked to read and review at least three books this year.
- ◆ Two books from section one; Fiction, and one book from section two; Non Fiction which includes Biography, History, Science and Inspiring Stories.
- ◆ Your English teacher may help you choose and give you more information on the books listed.
- ◆ You do not have to buy these books . You can borrow them from your local or school library. If you own one of the books perhaps you could pass it on to another T.Y. student.
- ◆ You will be asked to present the three reviews at the end of Transition Year at your interview.
- ◆ This presentation will count for your overall grade .
- ◆ The review templates are at the back of the list.

Enjoy your reading!

Section 1 Fiction

You must read at least two novels from this section

Book Title	Author	Description
The Help	Kathryn Scott	Current Best seller Black nannies in 60's America write about the white families they work for, not too heavy an entertaining read.
A Star Called Henry	Roddy Doyle	Part of a trilogy set in Ireland before 1916. Some great historical detail, may interest history fans.
Circle of Friends	Maeve Binchy	Adolescent friends grow up in 60's Ireland; their loves and heart breaks.
A Slipping Down Life	Anne Tyler	A story of love and loss in a small high school in a small town in middle America. An easy read.
Wuthering Heights	Emily Bronte	A classic tale of passion and heartbreak in the moors of Yorkshire.
To School Through The Fields	Alice Taylor	An enjoyable read about growing up in the countryside in 50's Ireland,
The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night Time	Mark Haddon	A boy with autism sets out on an adventure to discover who killed the neighbour's dog. Quirky popular story a very enjoyable read.
The Girl With The Pearl Earring	Tracy Chevalier	A beautiful historical love story about a servant girl and the famous artist Vermeer. For those who love art and unusual love stories.
Water For Elephants	Sarah Gruen	A story of a travelling circus during the great Depression in 1930's.

Sophie's World	Jostein Gaarder	A teenager discovers philosophy and learns about herself, love and the world, an original read.
Lord Of The Rings (a trilogy; you can read <u>one</u> as part of T.Y. reading) or The Hobbit	J.R. Tolkein	The classic fantasy. An epic story of a fight against evil domination includes little furry hobbits, lots of magic and mystery and most importantly an all powerful ring.
Jane Eyre	Charlotte Bronte	A classic English love story between a lowly but independent nanny and the master of the house.
The Road To Memphis	Mildred Taylor	A continuation of the story of Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry, Cassie Logan is now a young women . May interest those who studied Roll Of Thunder.
The Book Thief	Markus Zusak	A great story, award winning tale of a 15 year old German girl who is a tom boy and who manages to survive many perils in Nazi Germany and learns about friendship, identity and love.
Lean On Pete	Willy Vlautin	Recommended to those who like an uplifting story and horses!. 15 year old Charly is the son of a single father and works at a local race track where he befriends Pete one of the horses.
Birdsong	Sebastian Faulks	A story of conflict on the battle field and in the heart. May interest history students.
Pillars Of The Earth	Ken Follett	Historical novel set in the middle of 12 th century in the fictionalised priory of Knightsbridge in England. It traces the development of gothic architecture for those who like art and a thriller!

A Thousand Splendid Suns	Khaled Hosseini	The story of a women's fight for dignity and human rights in Taliban controlled Afghanistan, recommended by 6 th years.
The Alchemist	Paolo Coelho	A fantasy quest for truth and love.
I know Why The Caged Bird Sings	Maya Angelo	With a similar setting to To Kill A Mocking Bird and Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry, this is an inspirational story of the resilience of black women in the face of racism.
The Map Of Love	Ahal Soueif	A love story set in the age of British colonial imperialism and the rise of Egyptian nationalism.
Catcher In The Rye	J.D. Salinger	Award winning novel about teenager's self discovery in 50's America.
I'm Not Scared	Niccolo Ammaniti	A thriller told from a nine year old's perspective in rural Italy.
The Almond Picker	Simonetta Agnello Hornby	A thriller deals with issues of identity; a love story and a social commentary as well.
The Speckled People	Hugo Hamilton	A story of a family divided with an Irish father and a German mother, autobiographical memoir.
Girls' Night Out	Carole Matthews (editor)	Collection of short stories about single girls their friendships, their parties and their heart breaks. Funny and an easy read.
Twilight Trilogy (you can read <u>one</u> as part of T.Y. reading)	Stephanie Meyer	The popular story of vampires, love and American teenagers made even more popular with the release of recent movies.
Angela's Ashes	Frank McCourt	A story of growing up in poverty stricken Limerick in 1930's and 40'. Very popular autobiographical book

Ender's Game	Orson Scott Card	A science fiction novel. Set in earth's future humankind has barely survived two conflicts and now faces a third from an alien race. Recommended by a Transition Year.
The Van	Roddy Doyle	A humorous story of a Dublin chip van and those who fry the fish ! For those who like Dublin wit
Watermelon	Marian Keyes	A "Chick lit" favourite. At 29 Claire seems to have it all until her husband leaves her the day her first baby is born. Then her adventure truly begins
Home Before Night	Hugh Leonard	A funny Dublin tale about the author's adopted family.
Atonement	Ian McEwan	A brilliant story of forbidden love and jealousy during World War 1. Ciara Knightly stars in the film version.
The Secret Scripture	Sebastian Barry	A brilliant story set in Dublin, award winning novel.
Love and Summer	William Trevor	A great love story for those who like a good plot.
The Oxford Book Of Irish Short Stories	William Trevor (editor)	A brilliant collection of the best short stories from Ireland.
Pompeii	Robert Harris	A gripping mystery set around the eruption of Vesuvius. For those who like a good tale and some history.
The Jane Austen Book Club	Karen Joy Fowler	A fun read about a book club and their own interpretation of reading Jane Austen. A light read.
Double helix	Werlin Nancy	A thriller involving genetic engineering. A great plot with a bit of science thrown in!

Animal Farm	George Orwell	A story which tells of a fictional farm where the animals organize themselves, take over the farm from the cruel farmer and set up a new society. But their ideal world of equality quickly becomes a world where some animals are "more equal than others". A classic tale of corruption and power.
At A Time Like This	Catherine Dunne	A popular "chick lit" author Dunne tells the story of four women who have been friends for 25 years and as they meet up to celebrate their friendship they soon realise they don't know each other as well as they had thought.
Slam <u>Or</u> Story Of A Boy	Nick Hornby	A very funny story of a teenage pregnancy told from the perspective of the teenage boyfriend Or A story of two boys, one is 38 and never grew up who spends his time avoiding commitment and living a lazy spoilt life. The other an awkward 12 year old who grew up too quickly caring for his depressed mother. The film of the same name stars Hugh Grant. A very funny read
No Time For Goodbye	Linwood Barclay	A superb thriller. On an ordinary day a girl's family go missing without a trace.
The Island	Victoria Hislop	Historical fiction that powerfully evokes suffering, love and family relationships set on a Greek leper colony.
Mister Pip	Lloyd Jones	An inspiring teacher sets a young boy's imagination alight. For those who like inspiring stories and a tear jerker

<p>The Great Gatsby</p>	<p>F.Scott Fitzgerald</p>	<p>After the war, the mysterious Jay Gatsby, a self made millionaire pursues wealth, riches and the lady he lost to another man with stoic determination. When Gatsby finally does reunite with Daisy Buchanan, tragic events are set in motion. Told through the eyes of his detached and omnipresent neighbour and friend, Nick Carraway, Fitzgerald's succinct and powerful prose hints at the destruction and tragedy that awaits.</p>
<p>The Postmistress</p>	<p>Sarah Blake</p>	<p>The wireless crackles with news of blitzed-out London and of the war that courses through Europe, leaving destruction in its wake. Listening intently on the other side of the Atlantic, newly-wed Emma considers the fragility of her peaceful married life as America edges closer to the brink of war. As the reporter's distant voice fills the room, she sits convincing herself that the sleepy town of Franklin must be far beyond the war's reach. But the life of American journalist Frankie, whose voice seems so remote, will soon be deeply entangled with her own. With the delivery of a letter into the hands of postmistress Iris, the fates of these three women become irrevocably linked. But while it remains unopened, can Iris keep its truth at bay?</p>
<p>The Secret Life Of Bees</p>	<p>Sue Monk</p>	<p>Fans of the Help will love Sue Monk Kidd's Southern coming of age tale. It tells the story Lily Owens, whose life has been shaped around the blurred memory of the afternoon her mother was killed. When Lily's fierce-hearted black "stand-in mother", Rosaleen, insults three of the town's most vicious racists, Lily decides they should both escape to Tiburon, South Carolina - a town that holds the secret to her mother's past. They are taken in by an eccentric trio of black beekeeping sisters who introduce Lily to a mesmerizing world of bees, honey and the Black Madonna who presides over their household.</p>

Just Henry	Michelle Magorian	<p>The Second World War has ended, but Henry is fighting his own battles. He misses his father who died a war hero, and his only distraction is the cinema. But everything is about to change. When Henry develops an old camera film he uncovers a mystery & events spiral until his life resembles the drama of the big screen. Like a bomb waiting to explode, Henry's discovery will change his world.</p>
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Title	Author	Description
Girl, Aloud	Emily Gale	A funny easy read. The story of a girl that had such a proud Dad that he signed her up for X Factor.
Artemis Fowl	Eoin Golfer	Fantasy, an easy read. A child criminal mastermind tries to steal gold from the Irish fairies. Who will win?
Marked	PC and Kristin Cast	The first in the series of "House of Night" books. A school for young vampires similar to The Vampire Diaries.
Skulduggery Pleasant	Derek Landy	Very popular first in the series. The unusual witty story of a powerful detective and wise cracking protector who is already dead!
The Young Rebels	Morgan Llywelyn	Historical Fiction. A story based around Padraic Pearse 's school St Enda's and some young students who become revolutionaries.
In the Shadow of the Lamp	Susanne Dunlap	Molly Fraser takes the opportunity to go and work with Florence Nightingale on the battlefields . The job is demanding and gruelling. But Molly also falls in love with two men, a handsome doctor and a soldier who has risked all for her. Who will she choose?

The Remarkable Life and Times of Eliza Rose	Mary Hooper	Set in London 1670 Eliza has been thrown in to prison for stealing a pastry. She is rescued by a grubby old women called Old Ma Gwyn but she her relief turns to horror when she realises what Old Ma wants her to do.
Candour	Pam Bachorz	An easy read. In a small town in Florida everyone wants to be Oscar Bates , he leads the perfect life. But what if his life is surrounded by a huge lie?
A Knife of Never Letting Go (you may read any one of the Chaos Walking series for you TY reading)	Patrick Ness	The first in the popular Chaos walking series. A fantasy story that follows the story of the last boy on earth in a world of men. We see his amazement when he enters a world where there are men and women.
Savoy	Celia Rees	Set in 16 th Century France during the French Revolution this is a tale of highway robbery and spies.
City of Bones	Cassandra Clare	One of the Mortal Instrument Series. A story set in a fantasy world of Shadowhunters and other mythical creatures. Clary gets sucked into a world she never even knew existed.
A Gathering Light	Jennifer Donnelly	A murder mystery which a sixteen year old decides to solve.
Tomorrow When the World Began	John Marsden	An easy read. Ellie Linton and her friends want one last camping trip before school starts. However on returning home they realise something is wrong. It's deserted!

The One Dollar Horse	Lauren St John	The story of a girl and her horse . Adventure.
Life of Pi	Yann Martel	Take one sixteen year old boy and cast him away on at sea in a life boat with a large (and sea sick) Bengal tiger. Imagine the scene 227 days later.
Angela's Ashes	Frank McCourt	A popular book, funny and sad. The story of a young boy growing up in poverty in Limerick overcoming life to emigrate to America.
Star of the Sea	Joseph O' Connor	Winter 1847 during the Famine hundreds of fleeing refugees are aboard a boat to America .People's lives begin to connect more deeply than they ever thought.
Stormbreaker	Antony Horowitz	An easy read. An action packed book about a young boy who becomes a British spy. A teenage James Bond story.
The Fault in Our Stars	John Green	A funny, thrilling and tragic story of life, illness and being in love. A heart warming tale of teenager Hazel and her Cancer Support Group. An easy funny read but don't forget the tissues!
Into Thin Air	Jon Krakauer	A breath taking book about the deadliest season in the history of Everest. A thrilling account of an adventure, a terrifying trip to the pinnacle of the world's highest mountain and the disaster that unfolded. Gripping!

<p>My Sister's Keeper</p>	<p>Jodi Picoult</p>	<p>The story of Anna who refuses to allow her parents use her as a bone marrow donor for her sister Kate even if it will save her sister's life. A story of growing up, love, loss and families. Recommended by previous TYs, a very popular and easy read, the plot is unexpected!</p>
<p>Strumpet City</p>	<p>James Plunkett</p>	<p>One of the greatest novels about Dublin. This commemorates the 1913 Lockout and was the Dublin City Library choice for One City, One Book 2013. From the destitute Rashers Tierney to the aristocratic Mr. Yearling this novel gives us a portrait of Dublin society at this intense historic moment of chance. A great read. Great Dublin characters and dialogue.</p>
<p>The Storyteller</p>	<p>Jodi Picoult</p>	<p>The story of Sage Singer a young woman, a baker, who is the grand daughter of a Holocaust survivor. By chance she meets Josef who was in charge of the concentration camp that her grandmother escaped from. A take about recovering the past and remembering. The story line is gripping and it has lots of unexpected twists that will shock you. History students will enjoy this read.</p>

Americanah	Chimamanda Nguzi Adichie	A young Nigerian woman moves to the USA. Her experiences are logged in a series of blogs. A love story
The Sky is Everywhere	Jandy Nelson	A girl's sister dies and she wants to kiss her dead sister's boyfriend. A stunning novel about love, grief and laughter.
The Color Purple	Alice Walker	A graphic novel of a young girl's abuse and her courage to break free. Powerful!
The Mountains Echoed	Khaled Hasseini	A shining insight into families torn between nations and generations. Beautifully written.
The Cuckoo Calling	Roberth Galbraith	J K Rowling writes under a pseudonym. A superb crime novel. A must for all Potter fans.
Ketchup Clouds	Annabel Pitcher	A girl dates 2 brothers. Who will she choose? It's bound to end in tragedy
My sister lives on the Mantlepiece	Annabel Pitcher	A young boy coping with a drunk, racist dad and a home without a mother. But he finds love in a most unexpected place.
The Kite Runner	Khaled Hasseini	A powerful book about 2 young boys growing up in war torn Iraq. A tragic incident leads to a chain of events
Boys Don't Cry	Malorie Blackman	On the day of his A-level results, a teenager gets a big surprise. A baby arrives at his door. And he's the DAD.

Part 2 Non Fiction

including History, Science, Business, Music , Dance and Stories
to Inspire!

You must read at least one from this section

A Short History Of Nearly Everything	Bill Bryson	The world of science presented in an entertaining and understandable way.
Scientist Anonymous; Great Stories Of Women In Science	Patricia Farg	Shows how women despite their achievements have been overlooked in the world of science.
Ryanland	Philip Nolan	A humorous travel book for those who like an adventure on the cheap! This journey across Europe's Ryan air destinations may give you itchy feet.
Wild Dublin; Exploring Nature In The City	Eanna Ni Lamhna	A beautiful guide to finding everything from foxes to ladybirds in Dublin. Beautiful photography and easy to read information. For those interested in photography or wild life.
The Future Of Life	Edward O. Wilson	Beautifully written overview of the importance of biodiversity and what humans need to do to preserve nature.
Guns, Germs and Steel	Jared Diamond	Explains clearly how the west came to dominate the world from a biologist's perspective.

Dreams From My Father	Barack Obama	An autobiography by President Obama, a inspiring and easy to read story. >From humble beginnings a leader was born.
Halfway Home	Ronan Tynan	An inspirational autobiography by Tynan who overcame accident and disability to achieve the unachievable in sport and medicine.
Margaret Bourke White; A Biography	Vicki Goldberg	The story of the first western woman war correspondent and photographer allowed into the Soviet Union. An inspirational role model of a woman with talent and determination. Her photos are available online as well as in this book.
Roy Keane's biography	Eamon Dunphy	Sport and football fans will find this fascinating and Keane is a controversial man, love him or hate him why not find out more!
It's A Long Way From Penny Apples	Bill Cullen	This memoir is an inspiring story of business success. Bill Cullen went from selling apples on the streets of Dublin to being head of Renault cars Ireland. Any aspiring business student would be interested.
Science; A History	John Gribben	A book for any student with a keen interest in science and how it progressed from the Renaissance to the present day.

Death Of A Naturalist <u>or</u> Human Chain	Seamus Heaney	A definitive collection of Heaney's early work or his latest collection. For the poetry fans!
The Irish Ballerina	Jean Harrington	The biography of Monica Loughman Ireland's foremost ballet dancer who trained under the famous Perm ballet in Russia. A story of determination and tutus for those interested in dance.
The First Five People You Meet In Heaven	Mitch Albom	A comforting and uplifting read from the author of Tuesdays with Morrie (read in Religion class).
Of Thee I sing; A Letter To My Daughters	Barack Obama	Collection of 13 short stories/histories about ground breaking Americans whose ideals shaped the U.S.A. Inspiring stories encouraging us to fulfil our dreams. Dedicated to Obama's daughters.
Three Cups Of Tea	Greg Mortenson	A beautiful thought provoking book about Building a school in Pakistan, the highs and lows of the project make it a thought provoking read.

The Rebel Countess	Anne Marreco	The story of the 1916 revolutionary leader and first woman M.P. may interest History students .
Good Vibrations	Evelyn Glennie	Profoundly deaf from the age of 12 Evelyn Glennie refused to accept rejection to become a solo percussionist. An inspiring story of determination and

		music!
The Tipping Point	Malcolm Gladwell	A best seller showing how in society little things can make a big difference. This original book looks at trends in society for example why was there a sudden resurgence in the popularity of Hush Puppy shoes! For those are interested in the workings of society.
This Is Your Brain On Music	Daniel Levitin	A scientific exploration of the relationship between the mind and music, it draws on neuroscience and psychology.
The Musicians of Auschwitz	Fania Fenelon	Holocaust story about musicians who were forced to play in the concentration camps while their friends and colleagues were systematically killed.

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Lifelines	Niall Mac Monagle	A popular collection of poetry picked by celebrities. Each celebrity introduces their favourite poem and explains its importance to them.
Wheels Within Wheels	Dervla Murphy	An autobiography by Ireland's foremost woman travel writer about her bicycle and her 30 years of unconventional travel.
Dear Me. A Letter To My 16 Year Old Self	Edited By Joseph Galliano	A selection of letters from celebrities written in hindsight to themselves at 16. Uplifting reading.
Double Cross	Ben Macintyre	D-Day, 6 June 1944, the turning point of the Second World War, was a victory of arms. But it was also a triumph for a different kind of operation: one of deceit. At the heart of the deceptive was the "Double Cross System", a team of double agents whose bravery, treachery, greed and inspiration succeeded in convincing the Nazis that Calais and Norway, not Normandy, were the targets of the 150,000 strong Allied invasion force. These were not conventional warriors, but their masterpiece of deceit saved thousands of lives. Their codenames were Bronx, Brutus, Treasure, Tricycle and Garbo. This is their story.