

<b>Title of text and author</b>	<b>One sentence synopsis</b>	<b>Why read this?</b>
The Birmingham Dispatch	An online newspaper for Birmingham -	Well written, indepth articles, good for awareness and a different style of language use. Unfortunately the website is blocked by the school server (it's published via Substack)
Rendezvous With Rama, Arthur C Clarke	A huge cylindrical object is approaching Earth from beyond the Solar System. What can the small team of astronauts sent to investigate find out about the mysterious artifact?	If you like space, physics, the search for extra terrestrial intelligence, this book might be for you! The author, Arthur C Clarke invented geostationary satellites in his books years before they were actually built!
These Violent Delights - Chloe Gong	Romeo and Juliet reimagined in a 1920s Shanghai brimming with violent gangster mayhem, a mysterious monster, and a plague-like madness.	Fabulous reimaging that keeps you entertained throughout. Setting is brilliantly realised and immersive.
The Silk Roads: A New History of the World	The silk road was a network of paths connecting civilizations in the East and West that was well traveled for approximately 1,400 years. 'The Silk Roads' reveals how connected the world was; economically, culturally and socially, during a time where travel was not as easy as it is today.	The Silk Road sheds light on a historically significant trade route that shaped much of the ancient world. It connected China via the Midden East to Europe facilitating the exchange of goods, ideas, religions and cultures. Reading this book will provide insights into how civilizations interacted and influenced one another over centuries. Reading this book will help you understand how ancient civilizations have shaped modern societies. Globalisation and cultural fusion existed long before the 21st Century.
Rosie Frost and the Falcon Queen - by Geri Halliwell-Horner	A story of empowerment and overcoming adversity in this fast-paced adventure	It is an inspiring, exciting, positive, and fun novel to read
Ada Lovelace Cracks the Code" by Emily Arnold McCully	A historical biography for young readers, highlighting the life and achievements of Ada Lovelace, the world's first computer programmer.	This book introduces young readers to Ada Lovelace, one of the pioneers of computer science. It's inspiring and offers a historical perspective that helps students understand the foundations of programming.
Blown to Bits, Harold Abelson	A deep dive into how digital technologies shape our privacy, freedom, and the balance of power in the modern world.	Potential warnings: This book delves into topics like privacy invasion, digital surveillance, and the misuse of data. While it's educational, it discusses the darker aspects of digital life, which may be unsettling for some readers.

Computational Fairy Tales, Jeremy Kubica	A collection of imaginative stories that teach fundamental computer science concepts through entertaining narrative adventures.	This is a fun, story-based way to introduce computational concepts. Each tale teaches a specific computer science concept, making it accessible and enjoyable for younger students.
Suite Francaise	Fictional stories of life in occupied France in WW2 based on the author's personal experiences	It's a very evocative way of exploring what life was like for ordinary people in occupied France, and especially poignant when you read about the context of the author's experiences.
OUTSTANDING HIGH SCHOOL SKETCHBOOKS	This book shows some amazing sketchbooks that contain some stunning use of media and techniques - really great articles to go alongside the imagery too	The examples illustrate a wide range of approaches to sketchbook content, annotation, and layout. They cover a range of disciplines, including drawing, painting, mixed media, graphic design, sculpture, 3D design, architecture, printmaking, photography, textiles, and fashion. The large-scale images show annotation and fine detail, providing excellent learning opportunities.
Noughts And Crosses by Malorie Blackman	Sephy is a Cross: she lives a life of privilege and power. Callum is a nought: he's considered to be less than nothing - a blanker, there to serve Crosses.	The examples illustrate a wide range of approaches to sketchbook content, annotation, and layout. They cover a range of disciplines, including drawing, painting, mixed media, graphic design, sculpture, 3D design, architecture, printmaking, photography, textiles, and fashion. The large-scale images show annotation and fine detail, providing excellent learning opportunities.
Stolen Focus	On average, teens pick up their phone about 200 times a day. Stolen Focus explains why technology is so addictive and offers tips on how to regain control of your screen time and improve your attention, academic performance and personal wellbeing.	
The Wych Elm by Tana French	Toby's charmed life is changed when he is attacked one night, but is the past exactly as he remembers it?	Twisty story - which asks how far you can trust the narrator.

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks	Her name was Henrietta Lacks, but scientists know her as HeLa. How her cells—taken without her knowledge—became one of the most important tools in medicine.	<p>Discover the massive impact one unknown Afro-American woman's unique biological cell structure known as HeLa, has had on scientific research since 1950 and how Henrietta's cells have facilitated research into the association of HPV and cervical cancer, the HPV vaccine, the polio vaccine, countless cancer treatments and allowed cosmetics to be tested without using animals.</p> <p>Also the injustice done to many Afro-Americans for many years especially as her family were not aware that her cells were being bought &amp; sold for use in scientific research globally</p> <p>The first “immortal” human cells grown in culture, they are still alive today, though she has been dead for more than sixty years. If you could pile all HeLa cells ever grown onto a scale, they'd weigh more than 50 million metric tons—as much as a hundred Empire State Buildings.</p> <p>Yet Henrietta Lacks remains virtually unknown, buried in an unmarked grave.</p>
Babel by Rebecca F Kuang	A magical world where words have power	If you liked His Dark Materials you will love this magical and dangerous world where the people who know the power of languages rule and some people want to challenge these rules, regardless of the danger.
The Goldfinch by Donna Tartt	New York teenager goes to live with dysfunctional father in Vegas after losing his mother in a terrorist attack	Part coming of age story, part thriller, part love story, utterly believable (and lovable) characters.
Where the Crawdads Sing - Delia Owens	A master piece of non fiction - As real as dark, cold, sticky mud between your toes!	Easy to read, taken to another time and place, believable, thought provoking and beautifully written. I still miss reading it!
The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry by Rachel Joyce	Harold Fry intends to post a letter but ends up walking 600 miles instead, a journey of self discovery, human connections and revelations.	Lovely story of self discovery, beautifully written (an easy read). You are taken along on the journey with Harold as he comes to terms with his life, love and loss and the various people he meets along the way.
The book Thief by Markus Zusak	The story of Liesel growing up in WW2 who steals books to learn to read/read as a form of escapism. 'Death' narrates the story.	Such a moving book, interestingly narrated by 'Death' (a compassionate Death who cares about the lives he takes). Covers ideas of hope, bravery and kindness during Nazi occupation.

