

Social Sciences Key Stage 5 Reading List

Every year I start my lower sixth lessons with the same question to each student...“What have you read over the summer?” It is a great way to engage students who have read and to discuss books with them. However, there are always a significant number of students who haven't coloured in a book, let alone read one.

The list is not exhaustive. If you come across a book you really enjoyed, then let us know so we can share it with others. What the following books have in common is that they are about people – just like Social Sciences!

I did intend to make each book subject specific, but decided to just list them and to get you to talk to your teachers about them and what they are about.

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| Lord of the Flies | William Golding |
| 1984 | George Orwell |
| Animal Farm | George Orwell |
| The Incomplete Truth | Al Gore |
| He kills Coppers | Jake Arnott |
| The Long Firm | Jake Arnott |
| One flew over the cuckoo's nest | Ken Kesey |
| The Crash of '79 | Paul Erdman |
| Last Days of America | Paul Erdman |
| Grapes of Wrath | John Steinbeck |
| A day in the life of Ivan Denisovich | Alex Solzhenitsyn |
| Brave New World | Aldous Huxley |
| The Heart of the Matter | Graham Greene |
| Brighton Rock | Graham Greene |
| The Great Gatsby | F Scott Fitzgerald |
| Slaughterhouse-Five | Kurt Vonnegut |
| Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy | Douglas Adams |
| Fahrenheit 451 | Ray Bradbury |
| Watership Down | Richard Adams |
| The Silence of the Lambs | Thomas Harris |
| Red Dragon | Thomas Harris |
| The Godfather | Mario Puzo |
| The Day of the Jackal | Frederick Forsyth |
| The 39 Steps | John Buchan |
| Gorky Park | Martin Cruz Smith |
| The Firm | John Grisham |
| Rumpole of the Bailey | John Mortimer |
| The Name of the Rose | Umberto Eco |
| In Cold Blood | Truman Capote |
| The Talented Mr Ripley | Patricia Highsmith |

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| The Boys from Brazil | Ira Levin |
| The Catcher in the Rye | J D Salinger |
| A Clockwork Orange | Anthony Burgess |
| Being There | Jerry Kosinski |
| Birdsong | Sebastian Faulks |
| Charlie and the Chocolate Factory | Roald Dahl |
| War and Peace | Leo Tolstoy |
| A Town like Alice | Nevil Shute |
| Great Expectations | Charles Dickens |
| The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists | Robert Tressell |
| King Rat | James Clavell |
| The Color Purple | Alice Walker |
| High Fidelity | Nick Hornby |
| Papillion | Henri Charriere |
| Trainspotting | Irving Walsh |
| Deliverance | James Dickey |
| A Very British Coup | Chris Mullins |
| The Curious incident of the dog in the night time | Mark Haddon |

My favourite author is Raymond Chandler ('The Big Sleep'...) and in the same genre is Dashiell Hammett ('The Maltese Falcon'). My favourite book is 'Catch 22' by Joseph Heller, but the book I turn to for inspiration when I feel low is (on the face of it!) a kid's book – 'The Phantom Tollbooth' by Norton Juster. Read it.

I would love to share with you in September your thoughts of any of the above, or indeed anything else you have read. Indeed, I would love to see anything you have managed to colour in and display it in F4.

When a person starts to read, their education really begins. Believe me.

I have enjoyed thinking about this.

Martin Grisley
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