

www.englishbiz.co.uk  
Cool Reads for Cool Teens

READING KEY: \* = enjoyable reading; \*\*\*\* = enjoyable but challenging

... books are yours,  
Within whose silent chambers treasure lies  
Preserved from age to age; more precious far  
Than that accumulated store of gold  
And orient gems, which, for a day of need,  
The Sultan hides deep in ancestral tombs.  
(William Wordsworth - *The Excursion* 4.564-69)

	<b>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*</b> Mark Haddon	A murdered dog, a 15-year-old boy, a broken family... lead to a very unusual detective adventure story with a twist. The 'detective' is a fifteen-year-old lad who will capture your interest from page one. If you enjoy this, you will surely also like <b>Vernon God Little**</b> by the curiously named DBC Pierre – it's been likened to the <i>The Osbournes</i> inviting <i>The Simpsons</i> round for root beer!
	<b>The Life of Pi**</b> Yann Martell	Yann Martell will tempt you to ponder life's big issues as you accompany an orang utan, zebra, tiger, and a sixteen-year-old Indian boy trapped in a lifeboat adrift on the Pacific Ocean... This is a wackily imaginative yet thought-provoking adventure story that is also, at times, rather gruesome and disturbing. You will want to try Sue Monk Kidd's <b>The Secret Life of Bees**</b> if you enjoyed having your thoughts provoked by this author!
	<b>Lord of the Flies***</b> William Golding	A plane crashes on a desert island; all adults are killed; a group of teenage boys are forced to survive alone... All hell breaks loose. A very disturbing tale that has become a modern classic from one of our acknowledged best writers. If you enjoy this, a more challenging read that also delves into the dark side of human nature is Joseph Conrad's <b>Heart of Darkness****</b> – an acknowledged world classic.
	<b>The Lovely Bones**</b> Alice Sebold	A murdered girl looks back on her family as they try to cope and uncover her murderer. The stuff of fiction, of course, but totally gripping! If you enjoy harrowing autobiographical stories you'll want to read this author's other very popular novel, <b>Lucky**</b> – adult themes in both stories.
	<b>Brighton Rock****</b> Graham Greene	Sunny Brighton as you've never known it! This is a subtle and dark look at life in violent gangland. A modern classic from one of the undoubted greats of British literature. If you enjoy sophisticated reading of this sort, you might easily find yourself hooked on Greene's style and want to try his other classics including <b>The Heart of the Matter****</b> , <b>The Quiet American****</b> or his acknowledged masterpiece, <b>The Power and the Glory****</b> .
	<b>The Godfather***</b> Mario Puzo	A big, exciting story about the Corleone family and their mafia lifestyle. Exciting reading that grips and entertains from beginning to end. Puzo is famous for his fast-paced writing. Make sure you see the three films, too – real entertainment. If you're hooked, try his <b>Omerta***</b> , another five-star crime story.
	<b>Fever Pitch*</b> Nick Hornby	A football obsessed bloke has difficulties dealing with relationships and life. Still a top seller. If you like Hornby's fast-paced style, you'll enjoy his other best seller, the "guy's novel", <b>High Fidelity*</b> .
	<b>Heart of Darkness****</b> Joseph Conrad	A river-boat journey into Africa as a symbol for the darkness of the human soul. This is a subtle and sophisticated classic of English literature that offers good readers a challenge. When you've read it, be sure to see <b>Apocalypse Now</b> – the film based on Conrad's classic tale. If you like your reading to be this sophisticated, you might also enjoy James Joyce's <b>The Dubliners****</b> – a classic and quite brilliant short-story collection by Ireland's famed writer.
	<b>The Da Vinci Code***</b> Dan Brown	A page-turning adventure story that will provide food for thought – not to everyone's taste but a current best seller. Well plotted and with very short chapters make this a quick and easy read. If you like page-turners, you might also enjoy P J Tracy's <b>Want to Play***</b> .

	<b>(Un)arranged Marriage**</b> Bali Rai	Boy/parents culture clash... but no cheesy romance this. A top-rated story from this young new author. Don't miss <b>Rani and Sukh*</b> , too – another five-star recommended read.
	<b>Jane Eyre***</b> Charlotte Bronte	A classic of nineteenth century English Literature, <b>Jane Eyre</b> is the story of a young orphan girl, her life and search for love and happiness. Filmed for the big screen and TV several times but so much more subtle and satisfying to read. If you enjoy this, you could try <b>Villette***</b> , Bronte's darker, more mature, later story.
	<b>Northern Lights***</b> Philip Pullman	Do you enjoy a story with big themes to ponder over, all set within an enthralling quest for Good against Evil? This book – and the two others in the trilogy, <b>The Subtle Knife***</b> and <b>The Amber Spyglass***</b> are three of the best selling books of recent years. Quality reading.
	<b>How I Live Now**</b> Meg Rosoff	Set in today's England, a New York girl – 15-year-old Daisy – copes with her wacky family, love and the outbreak of war in this teen/adult novel. A gutsy work of fiction well worth your time! If you enjoy "coming of age" novels like this, you could do worse than try the two most famous of them all, J D Salinger's <b>Catcher in the Rye***</b> and Sylvia Plath's <b>The Bell Jar**</b> .
	<b>The Great Gatsby***</b> F. Scott Fitzgerald	A classic tale of wealth, power and loneliness, <b>The Great Gatsby</b> is set in 1920s New York; it captures the mood of the age to perfection. If American fiction appeals, two famous nineteenth century American stories are Nathaniel Hawthorne's <b>The Scarlet Letter****</b> and Stephen Crane's, <b>The Red Badge of Courage**</b> . For a darker view of America, John Steinbeck's <b>The Grapes of Wrath**</b> and Ken Kesey's, <b>One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest***</b> will not disappoint.
	<b>Pride and Prejudice****</b> Jane Austen	The course of true love certainly does not run smooth for Elizabeth Bennet and Mr Darcy in Austen's most famous novel written at the end of the eighteenth century. This is a tale of, erm... pride and well... prejudice! The new film with Keira Knightley and Matthew MacFadyen mustn't be missed but, for lasting pleasure, do read the book! If you enjoy Austen's writing and wry humour, try <b>Sense and Sensibility****</b> , <b>Emma****</b> and <b>Northanger Abbey***</b> - this last one a tale with a fine, ironic gothic twist.
	<b>Daydreamer*</b> Ian McEwan	Weird and wonderful, this is top quality imaginative writing from an author some say is our top contemporary writer. Surprisingly straightforward reading that you will not want to put down. If you become hooked on his style, you might want to try one of McEwan's far more sophisticated adult stories such as his outstanding <b>Atonement***</b> - challenging reading but very fine indeed.
	<b>Fahrenheit 451***</b> Ray Bradbury	At exactly 451°F paper ignites. Books burn. And in this future society books are <i>all</i> burned. This is classic American sci-fi from one of their most esteemed writers. If you enjoy this - and you surely will! - try Bradbury's enthralling and equally famous Martian short-story collection, the <b>The Martian Chronicles**</b> .
	<b>Wuthering Heights***</b> Emily Bronte	A wild and darkly disturbing tale of passion leading to madness; written in the mid-nineteenth century and considered one of the greatest tales of English Literature.
	<b>The Colour of Magic**</b> Terry Pratchett	Zany, wacky... but <i>very clever</i> : a funny and irreverent, totally w-e-i-r-d story. The book that started the continuing <b>Discworld</b> cult. A modern classic of its genre. If this hooks you into <b>Discworld</b> , you'll have no trouble choosing your next book!
	<b>Chasing Redbird*</b> Sharon Creech	Teenage angst told in an utterly compelling tale by a well respected modern writer. An emotional yet deeply honest exploration of teenage issues. If you like this, you'll surely also enjoy <b>Dear Nobody*</b> by Berlie Doherty.