

Rector's Summer Book Challenge

The recent murder of George Floyd and the Black Lives Matter Movement has challenged us all to take responsibility for becoming better informed outwith our own comfort zones and spheres. With the help of Mrs Tevendale and the school Librarian Ms Lloyd Wiggins, we have put together a Summer Reading list which focuses on the writing and experiences of Black, Asian Minority Ethnic Groups. Please note that many of these titles contain themes which whilst thought provoking are by their nature challenging and may be upsetting to some.

Form 4, 5, 6 and Adults

The books with a * beside them are the ones we will be discussing in a virtual book group, led by the Rector, next term.

Red Dust Road by Jackie Kay ** will be the first book discussed next session. This will be for anyone who wants to be involved: pupils, parents and staff. We will be looking for further recommendations so that we can add to our Library Collection. Please send these to librarian@highschoolofdundee.org.uk

Things Fall Apart by Chinua Achebe: A book about the way in which change affects the world of Okonkwo, a warrior. One of the most important books of the 20th Century.
Available as a library ebook.

Half of a Yellow Sun by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: a novel about Africa set against the background of the Biafran famine and war.

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou. A memoir of a childhood in the American south of the 1930s. Fierce, brave and moving.

Queenie by Candice Carty-Williams. Dark, funny and the most extraordinary central character; her name does not reflect her place in the world she tries to navigate.

Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race by Reni Eddo-Lodge. A handbook to help you to navigate your way around race relations in Britain.*

Girl, Woman, Other by Bernardine Evaristo. The story of 12 people on their journeys through the Britain of the last 100 years. A hymn of praise to black women and a compelling read.

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini. Growing in up in Afghanistan, the story of a friendship between two boys and its repercussions many years later.*

A Pale View of Hills by Kazuo Ishiguro. The Nobel Prize Winner's first novel, telling the story of a Japanese woman, living in Britain and her experiences after the bombing of Nagasaki.

Red Dust Road by Jackie Kay. Our Machair's memoir of growing up black in Edinburgh, realising that she is different and her journey to find her roots in the Highlands, and Nigeria. **

Black and British: A Forgotten History by David Olusoga. The history of the links between Britain and the people of Africa and the Caribbean.*

Midnight's Children by Salman Rushdie. The story of a child growing up alongside the new independent nation of India. *Available as a library ebook.*

The Help by Kathryn Stockett. When "a terrible bad thing" is done, we cheer. A novel about being black in the South in the 1960s in the voices of the black women who raise the white children and the racism they face, every day. *Available as a library ebook.*

The Underground Railroad by Colson Whitehead. The story of Cora, a slave, and her attempts to escape.*

L7 and Forms 1, 2 and 3

English teachers and others will provide an opportunity to discuss some of these books, or write about them, next term.

The Crossover by Kwame Alexander. A book in free verse and hip-hop poetry that tells the story of 12-year-old twins who are completely obsessed with basketball.

Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman. What if the Crosses ran the world and the Noughts had nothing? Romeo and Juliet retold in a world divided by race. *Available as a library ebook.*

To Sir with Love by ER Braithwaite. The story of an ex-RAF pilot who ends up, because no one else will employ him, working in a tough school.

The Belles by Dhionelle Clayton. What happens in a world where some people get to decide what is beautiful? A dystopian novel set in New Orleans and part of a trilogy.

Their Eyes Were Watching God by Zora Neale Hurston. Published recently, but written in 1937, this is the record of interviews of the last survivor of the Atlantic Slave trade: Cudjo Lewis.

Allegedly by Tiffany D Jackson. 16-Year-old black girl convicted of murdering a white baby when she was nine. After 6 years in jail now she's got her own baby, and the state is threatening to take it away.

Legend by Marie Lu. Dystopian thriller similar to "The Hunger Games" and "Divergent" and part of a heart-pounding trilogy.

Guantanamo Boy by Anna Perera. Khalid, 15, is abducted from a family holiday and sent to Guantanamo Bay where he is treated as a terrorist. A fictional story of two years in captivity; a book that shows that hate is never the solution. *Available as a library ebook.*

The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Rauf. Ahmet is a refugee from war and his new friends come up with a way to help him to belong.

Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry by Mildred D Taylor. Education in the Deep South is very different when you are black, and poor. *Available as a library e-audiobook.*

The Hate U Give by Angie Thomas. It is difficult to grow up poor and black and go to a school full of rich, white people. Even more so when you are the witness to a crime in a world that does not deliver justice equally. *Available as a library ebook.*

Chinese Cinderella by Adeline Yen Mah. An autobiographical account of growing up in Shanghai in the 1940s in a family where she is mistreated by her step-mother, father and siblings.

I am Malala by Malala Yousafzai. The story of one girl's determination to fight for an education and the people who tried to stop her. There are different versions of this text which are suitable for those with different reading levels.

Refugee Boy by Benjamin Zephaniah. Alem is from Ethiopia but one day he is abandoned in London by his Dad and has to find his way.