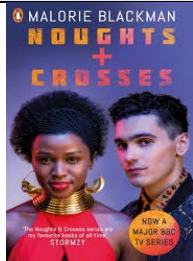

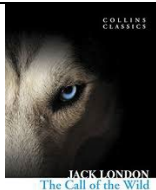
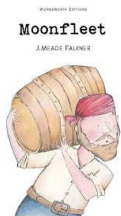
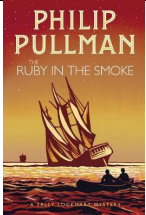
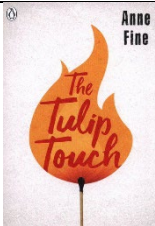

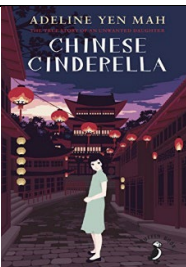
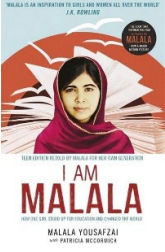
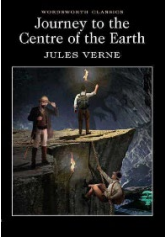

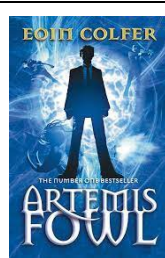


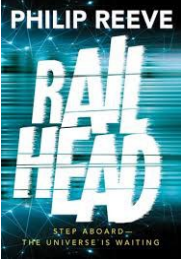
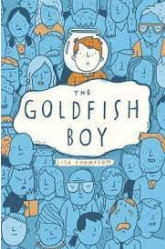
Coombeshead Academy – Registration and the Tutor Reading Programme

At Coombeshead, form tutors read to all students from Years 7 to Year 10 every morning. The books have been chosen to introduce our students to a diverse and challenging literary canon. Here is a list of the books for **Year 8**, together with some information about each one.

| Book Title and Author | Cover | Synopsis |
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| <i>Noughts and Crosses</i> by Malorie Blackman |  | Published in 2001 and set in an alternative 21 st century London, in Albion, this story explores racial injustice and the danger of inter-racial relationships. Sephy is a Cross: dark-skinned, beautiful, privileged. But she burns with injustice at the world she sees around her. Callum is a Nought: pale-skinned, poor, less than nothing - a blanker, there to serve Crosses. Noughts and Crosses are fated to be bitter enemies but friends since childhood they choose to love each other, leading them into terrible danger . . . |
| <i>The Wee Free Men</i> by Terry Pratchett |  | A fantasy novel set in the Discworld universe created by Terry Pratchett. Tiffany wants to be a witch when she grows up. A proper one, with a pointy hat. A witch has always protected Tiffany's land, to stop the nightmares getting through. Now the nightmares have taken her brother, and it's up to her to get him back, with the help of the Nac Mac Feegle, a horde of unruly fairies. Tiffany is the twentieth granddaughter of her Granny Aching: Tiffany Aching. Now <i>there's</i> a rather good name for a witch. |
| <i>The Call of the Wild</i> by Jack London |  | A story of nature vs. nurture, loyalty, love and the fight for survival. Half St. Bernard, half sheepdog, Buck is stolen away from his comfortable life as a pet in California and sold to dog traders. He soon finds himself aboard a ship, on its way to The Klondike, Northern Canada. Surrounded by cruelty, Buck's natural instincts and behaviour begin to emerge as he works as a mail carrying sled dog, scavenging for food, protecting himself against other dogs and sleeping out in the cold snow. |
| <i>Moonfleet</i> by J. Meade Falkner |  | Published at the close of the 19 th century this novel is set in 18 th century Dorset where smuggling and superstition are rife, and crime is harshly punished. When fifteen-year-old orphan John Trenchard is banished by his Aunt Jane, he goes to live at the local inn with the mysterious Elzevir Block, whose son has been killed by Customs Officers. Unofficially adopted by Block, John comes to learn the reasons for the noises in the graveyard at night, of 'Blackbeard' Mohune's lost treasure and Elzevir Block's secret. |

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| <p><i>The Ruby in the Smoke</i> by Phillip Pullman</p> |  | <p>Combining crime, mystery and historical elements this novel, set in Victorian London, explores the opium trade and the greed it creates. Soon after Sally Lockhart's father drowns at sea, she receives an anonymous letter. The dire warning it contains makes a man die of fear at her feet. Driven by her love for her father and determined to discover the truth about his death, Sally is plunged into a terrifying mystery in the dark heart of Victorian London, at the centre of which lies a deadly blood-soaked jewel.</p> |
| <p><i>The Tulip Touch</i> by Anne Fine</p> |  | <p>A novel exploring the price of friendship and the motivation behind some abusive relationships this story considers quite how much an individual will risk to maintain that friendship. Nobody wants Tulip in their gang. She skives off school, cheeks the teachers and tells awful lies. Natalie finds Tulip exciting, she doesn't care that other people are upset and unnerved by Tulip's bizarre games, but as the games become increasingly sinister and dangerous, Natalie realises that Tulip is going too far....</p> |
| <p><i>The Secret Garden</i> by Frances Hodgson Burnett</p> |  | <p>Published in 1911 The Secret Garden is set in Yorkshire. Mary Lennox, a spoiled, contrary, solitary child raised in India, is sent to live in her uncle's manor in Yorkshire after her parents' death. Mary's chambermaid, Martha, tells Mary about Mrs. Craven's walled garden. Mary's quest to find out the garden's secrets leads her to discover other secrets hidden in the manor. Isolated and effectively abandoned to the care of servants, Mary is not the only character in search of happiness and healing.</p> |
| <p><i>Chinese Cinderella</i> by Adeline Yen Mah</p> |  | <p>This autobiographical novel is set in Tianjin, China and Hong Kong just as the Communists are beginning to gain control of China. Adeline is born into a wealthy Chinese family but, when her mother dies in childbirth, she is perceived as cursed, a symbol of bad-luck, by her siblings and others. Refused her father's affection and loathed by her step-mother and step-siblings she is sent away to school and neglected. An intelligent child, all she wants is to win her father's approval. Will her perseverance overcome her family's rejection of her?</p> |

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| <p><i>I am Malala</i> by Malala Yousafzai and Patricia McCormick</p> |  | <p>This is the remarkable story of a girl who knew from a young age that she wanted to change the world - and did. Raised in the Swat Valley, a once-peaceful area of Pakistan transformed by terrorism, Malala was taught to stand up for what she believes. So she fought for her right to be educated. And on 9 October, 2012, she nearly lost her life for the cause. She was shot point-blank on her way home from school. No one expected her to survive..... Flown to England for surgery, she continues to fight for the right to education and freedom.</p> |
| <p><i>Journey to the Centre of the Earth</i> by Jules Verne</p> |  | <p>A science fiction adventure story published in 1864. Join the intrepid and eccentric Professor Liedenbrock and his companions as they travel down a secret tunnel in a volcano in Iceland on a journey to the centre of the earth. Along the way they encounter various hazards and witness many incredible sights as they try to solve some of the mysteries of our planet. With 'scientific' discovery pitted against faith the explorers must overcome difficulties to survive their journey.</p> |
| <p><i>Black and British</i> by David Olusoga</p> |  | <p>This 2020 short essential history offers an insightful and invaluable history of the Black experience in the British Isles ranging from forgotten Africans in the Roman legions to the multicultural society of the present day. When did Africans first come to Britain? Who are the well-dressed black children in Georgian paintings? Why did the American Civil War disrupt the Industrial Revolution? It is an abridged version of the author's original Black and British – a forgotten history.</p> |
| <p><i>Artemis Fowl</i> by Eoin Colfer</p> |  | <p>The first book in a series chronicling the interactions between a young criminal genius and the world of the fairies and associated races. Rumour has it Artemis Fowl is responsible for every major crime of the early 21st century. Just twelve years old he is plotting to restore his family's fortune by kidnapping a fairy for ransom. Artemis Fowl has discovered a world below ground of armed and dangerous - and extremely high-tech - fairies. But he may have underestimated their powers. They <i>will</i> fight back. Is the boy about to trigger a cross-species war?</p> |

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| <p><i>Railhead</i> by Philip Reeve</p> |  | <p>The first in a short science fiction/dystopian series where mankind has succeeded in colonising space. Zen Starling is a petty thief, hopping on and off the sentient trains that speed across the galaxy, hoping he won't get caught by a drone or one of the Guardians. When he is approached by the mysterious Raven to infiltrate the Emperor's train, he jumps at the chance of adventure, crossing the Great Network and dodging danger at every turn. But, in his thirst for excitement, does Zen really understand what he's getting into?</p> |
| <p><i>The Goldfish Boy</i> by Lisa Thompson</p> |  | <p>The narrator of this story is Matthew, a boy battling his own demons. He is desperate to hide his increasing problems as his OCD becomes more severe, a disorder his parents are struggling to understand. However, when a toddler goes missing and everyone becomes a suspect, it is his attention to detail and obsessive record taking which helps solve the case.</p> |