

# Diversity

*Reading Lists & Media Resources*



*Furze Platt Senior School*

*2020*

A portrait photograph of Nelson Mandela, showing him from the chest up, wearing a dark shirt and a patterned tie. He is smiling slightly and looking towards the camera.

Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world.

— Nelson Mandela —

AZ QUOTES

## KS3 Reading List

Text	Overview	Culture/ Themes Explored
<i>Haroun and The Sea of Stories</i> by Salman Rushdie	Focuses on a young boy, Haroun, whose father is a legendary storyteller. When his father suddenly loses his ability to tell stories, Haroun heads out on an epic and surreal adventure that takes him through many strange realms until he confronts the villain who stole his father's creativity.	Southern Asia Magic Realism
<i>Fire of Life</i> by Salman Rushdie	This breathtaking new novel centers on Luka, Haroun's younger brother, who must save his father from certain doom.	Southern Asia Magic Realism
<i>No Use Crying</i> by Zannah Kearns	Secrets, secrets, secrets ... just another word for lying. Following a sudden move to London, Niki has to learn quickly to fit in and survive in the school halls and on the tough streets. But when Niki suddenly discovers her mum's biggest lie of all, could it change their relationship - and Niki's own sense of identity - for good?	Inner City Multi-culturalism
<i>Pigeon English</i> by Stephen Kelman	Recounts eleven-year-old Harrison (Harri) Opoku's move with his mother and older sister from Ghana to England, where they go to live in a working-class apartment complex in a London estate, a tough environment plagued by crime and violence.	African
<i>Apache</i> by Tanya Landman	Following the vicious murder of her brother, orphan Siki vows to become an Apache warrior to take revenge upon her brother, Tazhi's, killers.	Mexican
<i>(Un)arranged Marriage</i> by Bali Rai	This highly personal story was partly influenced by Bali Rai's own experiences. It looks at the impact cultural traditions can have on young people growing up in modern times and the book will resonate with all who have experienced the pressure of expectation at the hands of their family.	Southern Asia (Pakistan)
<i>Refugee Boy</i> by Benjamin Zephaniah	Thrilled to have left his home country of Ethiopia for the first time, Alem is excited to be spending a holiday with his father in London. Happiness turns to despair, however, when he discovers that his father has left him alone in an unfamiliar country...	African
<i>Half Caste and Other Poems</i> by John Agard	The poems in this highly original collection, penned by John Agard, uncover a wealth of human experience and on differences in race.	Guyana
<i>Boy Overboard</i> by Morris Gleitzman	Jamal and sister Bibi want to lead Australia to victory in the World Cup, but that entails a journey from their homeland, Afghanistan where their family has upset the authorities, and a lengthy voyage overseas.	Afghanistan/Australasia
<i>The Island</i> by Armin	The poignancy of the pictures in this story about a man washed up on an island beach and outcast by its community explores intolerance and is a	Refugees/xenophobia/multi-

Greder	powerful and moving conversation starter for discussions around acceptance.	culturalism
<i>Journey to Jo'Burg</i> by Beverley Naidoo	A deeply affecting modern classic about a brother and sister who journey through the South Africa of Apartheid in a race against time to find their mother thereby saving their poorly baby sister, Dineo.	South Africa
<i>Little Leap Forward</i> by Guo You	This semi-autobiographical tale looks at Little Leap Forward, a boy who grew up in the hutongs of Beijing during the Cultural Revolution in China.	Chinese
<i>Oranges in No Man's Land</i> by Elizabeth Laird	Ayesha lives in war-torn Beirut, a city divided by conflict. When Ayesha's granny falls ill, she must cross the barricades into deadly no-man's land to try to get the medication that is so badly needed.	Beirut
<i>A Nest of Vipers</i> by Catherine Johnson	The youngest member of a collective of pick pockets and con-artists in 18th century London, Cato Hopkins appears at risk of paying penance for his crimes with his life...and so the gang set about bringing ruin upon Captain Walker, a proud and cruel slave captain, who deserves to be taught a lesson or two ...	Slavery
<i>Talking Turkeys</i> by Benjamin Zephaniah	A thought-provoking and wide reaching collection of poetry for children that explodes from the page, begging to be read aloud.	Jamaican/ inner city multi-culturalism
<i>Tall Story</i> by Candy Gourlay	Quirky, unusual and filled with affectionate humour, this story looks at the relationship between Andi, who is short, and her long lost, enormous half-brother Bernardo who comes to live in London from the Philippines.	Phillipino
<i>Too Much Trouble</i> by Tom Avery	A fast-paced read about brothers Em and Prince who struggle to make a life and home for themselves on the streets of London. Winner of the Diverse Voices award 2010.	Central Africa / Inner city multi-Culturalism
<i>Trash</i> by Andy Mulligan	Raphael is a dumpsite boy whose days are spent sifting through rubbish and whose nights are spent sleeping beside it. This deeply affecting story tells how one fateful moment – the discovery of a small leather bag – can radically change one's fortunes...	Childhood poverty and injustice
<i>The Trouble With Donovan Croft</i> by Bernard Ashley	Keith's new foster brother, Donovan, won't speak to anybody, will Keith be able to uncover the reasons why and help Donovan to open up?	Childhood racism
<i>The Unforgotten Coat</i> by Frank	This acutely perceptive, gem of a book recounts how Julie tries to help two Mongolian refugees who are struggling to fit in with their new classmates in Liverpool and movingly describes why their friendship ended unexpectedly...	Mongolia

Cottrell Boyce		
<i>The Wheel of Surya</i> by Jamila Gavin	The violence and danger of India during the Independence movement and its partition from Pakistan acts a catalyst for Jaspal and Marvinder to flee from their village in an effort to reunite with their father who is a student in England.	Southern Asia
<i>City of the Beasts</i> by Isabel Allende	Isabel Allende's novel <i>City of the Beasts</i> tells the story of Alex Cold, a fifteen-year-old boy from California who accompanies his journalist grandmother on a life-altering journey through the Amazon (sequels: <i>Kingdom of the Golden Dragon</i> and <i>Forest of the Pygmies</i> .)	Chile
<i>Mister Pip</i> by Lloyd Jones	<i>Mister Pip</i> opens with a description of the last white person left in a village on the island of Bougainville, near mainland Papua New Guinea. Fourteen-year-old Matilda, the narrator, explains that everybody calls this man Pop Eye and that he looks like somebody who has "seen or known great suffering." Adding to the curiosity surrounding him as the island's sole non-black resident, Pop Eye often wears a red clown's nose and walks through town in a white linen suit while pulling his wife Grace—who is from the village—in a small trolley. As the older townspeople look on in bewilderment, children fall in line behind Pop Eye and Grace, creating an odd procession nobody understands.	Australasia

## KS4 Reading List

Text	Overview	Culture/ Themes Explored
<i>The Weight of Water</i> by Sarah Crossan	Poetic and reflective, the story tells how Kasienka comes to England from Gdansk in Poland with her mother, a suitcase and a laundry bag full of clothes, desperate to search for her father.	Eastern Europe
<i>Persepolis I and II</i> by Marjane Satrapi	This eye-opening graphic novel about author Marjane Satrapi's childhood growing up in Tehran uncovers the way a country's politics, religion, history and traditions, influence a sense of identity.	Iran
<i>The Arrival</i> by Shaun Tan	This wordless graphic novel explores the many reasons that lead people to leave their old lives and homes behind and set out upon the journey entailed in starting afresh	Migration
<i>Artichoke Hearts</i> by Sita Brahmachari	Aged 12, Mira's life changes when her Nana Josie becomes ill and Mira begins to learn about the secrets of her family and loved ones in this emotionally honest novel.	Multi-culturalism and diversity
<i>Blood</i>	A skin-crawling novel about Marshall O'Connor who lives in the "Finger", a	Stigma and

<i>Donors</i> by Steve Tasane	block of flats with a deep, dark and deadly secret. This distinctive, fresh and decidedly creepy novel explores stigma and prejudice.	Prejudice
<i>Moonfleece</i> by Philip Ridley	A playscript that explores the tensions between two groups of teenagers who come to learn the way party politics influence the everyday lives of individuals and the devastating impact this can have.	Racism and homophobia
<i>The Breadwinner</i> by Deborah Ellis	Kept house-bound by the Taliban's law that women and girls should not leave the house on their own, Parvana, her mother and sisters are in danger of starvation when their father is arrested.	Afghanistan
<i>Noughts and Crosses</i> by Malorie Blackman	Sephya and Callum live in a world of split communities and civil unrest. Can their feelings for one another grow and blossom against this backdrop and what will occur if those feelings are discovered?	Racism/ Violence/ Discrimination
<i>Palestine</i> by Joe Sacco	An extraordinary piece of current affairs reportage told in graphic novel form and recounting the conflict in the West Bank and Gaza strip.	Israel/ Palestine
<i>The Life of Stephen Lawrence</i> by Verna Allette Wilkins	Full of life and potential, Stephen Lawrence was a boy with huge hopes for the future. Murdered in 1993, the book looks at prejudice, injustice and a family's fight to uncover the truth.	Black British
<i>The Hate U Give</i> by Angie Thomas	Starr Carter is torn between two worlds, the poor mostly black neighbourhood in which she lives and the wealthy, mostly white, prep school she attends. This is until her best friend is fatally shot by the police, Starr must now find her voice and stand up for what is right.	African American
<i>The Help</i> by Kathryn Stockett	Tells the story of black maids working in white Southern homes in the early 1960s in Jackson, Mississippi. Miss Eugenia 'Skeeter' Phelan, a 22-year-old, who returns to her family's cotton plantation to find that her beloved maid and nanny, Constantine, has left and no one will tell her why	African American
<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> By Harper Lee	Tells the story of Atticus Finch's attempts to prove the innocence of Tom Robinson, a black man who has been wrongly accused of raping a white woman in 1930s Alabama.	African American

<i>The Alchemist</i> by Paulo Coelho	<i>The Alchemist</i> follows a young Andalusian shepherd in his journey to the pyramids of Egypt, after having a recurring dream of finding a treasure there.	South American (Brazil) Allegory
--------------------------------------	---	-------------------------------------

<i>Axolotl</i> by Julio Cortázar	One of Cortazar's most famous stories, it is told by a man who has been transformed into an axolotl, a species of salamander, after spending many hours watching axolotls in an aquarium. As an axolotl, the man still sees the human he used to be and hopes the human will write a story about a man who becomes an axolotl. Many critics find the axolotl's final comment to be the pervading theme of Cortazar's short fiction - that through art one can become another and communicate on behalf of all creatures, so that none may feel the terror of isolation and imprisonment.	South America (Argentina)  Fascination/ magical realism
--	--	---

## KS5, Staff, Parents and Carers Reading List

Text	Overview	Culture/ themes Explored
<i>My Sister, The Serial Killer</i> by Oyinkan Braithwaite	Set in Lagos, Nigeria, tells the story of beautiful serial killer Ayoola through the eyes of her protective older sister Korede as she struggles to keep her sister's murderous habit in check.	Nigeria
<i>Purple Hibiscus</i> by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	Explores the themes of religious hypocrisy, finding one's voice, and the persistence of love through the story of Kambili Achike, a young Nigerian woman struggling to find her way in a world beset with conflict and strife.	Nigeria
<i>Half of a Yellow Sun</i> by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	Tells the story of the Biafran War through the perspective of the characters Olanna, Ugwu, and Richard.	Nigeria
<i>Home Fire</i> by Kamila Shamsie	The novel follows the Pasha family: twin siblings Aneeka and Parvaiz and their older sister Isma, who has raised them in the seven years since the siblings were orphaned by the death of their mother; their jihadi father, whom the twins never knew, is also dead. Parvaiz attempts to follow in his father's footsteps by joining ISIS in Syria, but when he decides he has made a serious mistake, his twin sister attempts to help him return to Britain	Syrian/ British
<i>On Beauty</i> by Zadie Smith	Following the lives of a mixed-race British-American family living in the United States, dealing with the ethnic and cultural differences between the two countries, the nature of beauty, and the ongoing clash between liberal	Mixed race British/ American

	and conservative values in the same family and circle of friends.	
<i>A Fine Balance</i> by Rohinton Mistry	With a compassionate realism and narrative sweep that recall the work of Charles Dickens, this magnificent novel captures all the cruelty and corruption, dignity and heroism, of India. The time is 1975. The place is an unnamed city by the sea.	India
<i>The Namesake</i> by Jhumpa Lahiri	The story of two generations of the Gangulis, a family of Indian immigrants to the United States. This novel explores first and second generation immigration and how this affects one's identity.	First and Second Generation Indian in America
<i>Speak No Evil</i> by Uzodinma Iwaela	It is a novel about the power of words and self-identification, about who gets to speak and who has the power to speak for other people.	Second generation Nigerian in America
<i>Their Eyes Were Watching God</i> by Zora Neale Hurston	Janie Crawford, an attractive, confident, middle-aged black woman, returns to Eatonville, Florida, after a long absence. Through three marriages, Janie discovers not only what true love looks like, but she discovers herself, too.	Black American
<i>The Joy Luck Club</i> by Amy Tan	Describes the lives of four Asian women who fled China in the 1940s and their four very Americanized daughters. The novel focuses on Jing-mei "June" Woo, a thirty-six-year-old daughter, who, after her mother's death, takes her place at the meetings of a social group called the Joy Luck Club.	China
<i>The Fishermen</i> by Chigozie Obioma	The novel follows four brothers in a quiet neighbourhood of a Nigerian town, who are given a violent prophecy which shakes their family to the core. It is set in the 1990s, during the rule of Sani Abacha.	Nigeria
<i>Homegoing</i> by Yaa Gyasi	Sweeping exploration about what happens to the descendants of two African sisters separated at birth. Told through compelling chapters that follow the generations, the novel creates many opportunities for considering the legacy of enslavement for those of African descent.	African
<i>Sing, Unburied, Sing</i> by Jesmyn Ward	About a family's dynamics in the fictional town of Bois Sauvage, Mississippi. The novel received overwhelmingly positive reviews.	Multiculturalism in America
<i>Born A Crime</i> by Trevor Noah	The story of a mischievous young boy who grows into a restless young man as he struggles to find himself in a world where he was never supposed to exist.	South Africa
<i>Stay With Me</i> by Ayobami Adebayo	Deals with the marriage of Akin and Yejide, in Nigeria, who are struggling to have a child of their own and after unsuccessful attempts and huge societal pressure, bring in a new wife.	Nigeria
<i>The White</i>	The story of Balram Halwai's life as a self-declared "self-made	India

<i>Tiger</i> by Aravind Adidas	entrepreneur": a rickshaw driver's son who skillfully climbs India's social ladder to become a chauffeur and later a successful businessman.	
<i>Brick Lane</i> by Monica Ali	The novel centers around the life of Nazneen, a Bangladeshi immigrant who marries an older man named Chanu Ahmed in an arranged marriage. She relocates to London to start her new married life with her husband.	Bangladesh
<i>Small Island</i> by Andrea Levy	Tells the story of post-war Caribbean migration through four narrators – Hortense and Gilbert, who migrate from Jamaica to London in 1948, and an English couple, Queenie and Bernard, in whose house in London they find lodgings.	Caribbean
<i>An American Marriage</i> by Tayari Jones	The novel focuses on the marriage of a middle-class African-American couple, Roy and Celestial, who live in Atlanta and whose lives are torn apart when Roy is wrongfully convicted of a rape he did not commit.	African American
<i>Inheritance of Loss</i> by Kiran Desai	Explores immigration, identity, and relationships on both the interpersonal and international scale. Spanning India, England, and the United States, the novel details the conflict between traditional Indian ways of life and the shiny opulence of Western nations.	India/England/America
<i>Natives</i> by Akala	Akala carefully picks apart two pervasive and inter-connected myths; the delusion that we live in a meritocracy and the fantasy that the exceptional achievements of some black people are proof that the obstacles of poverty and race can be overcome by all.	Race and Class in relation to the British Empire
<i>Me and White Supremacy</i> by Layla F Saad	Leads readers through a journey of understanding their white privilege and participation in white supremacy, so that they can stop (often unconsciously) inflicting damage on black, indigenous and people of color, and in turn, help other white people do better, too.	White privilege
<i>Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race</i> by Reni Eddo-Lodge	Exploring issues from eradicated black history to the political purpose of white dominance, whitewashed feminism to the inextricable link between class and race, this text offers a timely and essential new framework for how to see, acknowledge and counter racism.	Black history
<i>The Kite Runner</i> by Khaled Hosseini	The story of Amir, a Sunni Muslim, who struggles to find his place in the world because of the aftereffects and fallout from a series of traumatic childhood events.	Afghanistan
<i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i> by Khaled Hosseini	The story of Mariam and Laila, who are both forced into marriage with older abusive men. This novel tells the story of these two young girls in Afghanistan, from the 1960s through the 2000s	Afghanistan
<i>The Reluctant</i>	Takes place during the course of a single evening in an outdoor Lahore cafe, where a bearded Pakistani protagonist, Changez, tells a nervous	Pakistan

<i>Fundamentalist</i> by Mohsin Hamid	American stranger about his love affair with an American woman, and his eventual abandonment of America.	
<i>Girl, Women, Other</i> By Bernardine Evaristo	The Man Booker Prize winner of 2019- Girl, Woman, Other follows the lives and struggles of twelve very different characters. Mostly women, black and British, they tell the stories of their families, friends and lovers, across the country and through the years.	Black British
<i>Our Country's Good</i> by Timberlake Wertenbaker / <i>The Playmaker</i> by Thomas Kenneally	Our Country's Good by Timberlake Wertenbaker is the play based off the novel the Playmaker by Thomas Kenneally. The story concerns a group of Royal Marines and convicts in a penal colony in New South Wales, in the 1780s, who put on a production of The Recruiting Officer.	Australia
<i>Queenie</i> by Candice Carty	Queenie Jenkins is a 25-year-old Jamaican British woman living in London, straddling two cultures and slotting neatly into neither. She works at a national newspaper, where she's constantly forced to compare herself to her white middle class peers.	Jamaican British
<i>Girl, Woman, Other</i> by Bernardine Evaristo	Follows the lives and struggles of twelve very different characters. Mostly women, black and British, they tell the stories of their families, friends and lovers, across the country and through the years.	Black British

## Media Resources

Resource	Overview	Age
<i>Noughts and Crosses</i> - BBC Adaptation <a href="https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/p082w992/noughts-crosses?seriesId=p082w9k7">https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/p082w992/noughts-crosses?seriesId=p082w9k7</a>	In a dystopian London, Sephy and Callum fall in love despite the odds. Can they breach the divide between the black elite and white underclass? Based on Malorie Blackman's novels.	12+
13th - Netflix	Filmmaker Ava DuVernay explores the history of racial inequality in the United States, focusing on the fact that the nation's prisons	16+

	are disproportionately filled with African-Americans.	
Selma (Netflix and Amazon Prime)	<b><i>Selma</i></b> is a 2014 historical drama film directed by Ava DuVernay and written by Paul Webb. It is based on the 1965 Selma to Montgomery voting rights marches initiated and directed by James Bevel and led by Martin Luther King Jr., Hosea Williams, and John Lewis.	12+
Hidden Figures (Movie and book)	<b><i>Hidden Figures</i></b> is a 2016 American biographical drama film. It is loosely based on the 2016 non-fiction book of the same name by Margot Lee Shetterly about black female mathematicians who worked at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) during the Space Race.	PG
Moana (Disney Plus)	An adventurous teenager sails out on a daring mission to save her people. During her journey, Moana meets the once-mighty demigod Maui, who guides her in her quest to become a master way-finder. Together they sail across the open ocean on an action-packed voyage, encountering enormous monsters and impossible odds. Moana challenges the white-female Disney heroine whilst also showcasing the Polynesian community.	U
Coco (Disney Plus)	Despite his family's generations-old ban on music, young Miguel dreams of becoming an accomplished musician like his idol Ernesto de la Cruz. Desperate to prove his talent, Miguel finds himself in the stunning and colorful Land of the Dead. After meeting a charming trickster named Héctor, the two new friends embark on an extraordinary journey to unlock the real story behind Miguel's family history. This movie embraces Mexican history and customs.	U
Akeelah and the Bee	The protagonist Akeelah Anderson, an African American girl from Los Angeles, competes in the National Spelling Bee. It's a wonderfully refreshing plot that sees a smart black girl take centre stage.	PG
Pride	An inspirational sports drama based on real-life events, "Pride" is set in 1960s and 1970s North Carolina and presents racism in context from its opening scene, showing Jim Ellis (Terrence Howard) as the only African American at a swim meet. Following a scuffle, Ellis hits a white police officer. He faces more bigotry years later during his time as coach of an all-African American swim team when white competitors sabotage and ridicule his team during meets. As well as highlighting racial tension, "Pride" shows conflict between the rich and the poor.	PG
A Ballerina's Tale	"A Ballerina's Tale," the story of the life and career of Misty Copeland, the first African American principal dancer at New York's American Ballet Theater, is perfect for anyone interested in dance, but also addresses the themes of race and body image in	PG

	ballet.	
Remember The Titans	This poignant true story about a newly integrated high school football team in 1971 Alexandria, Va., provides a valuable insight into the discordance of the times. The Titans have to learn to overcome their own personal differences and play together as a team despite their town's racial tensions, which are highlighted by racial slurs, riots and public segregation.	PG
I Am Eleven	This compelling, moving film follows 11-year-olds from around the world (Australia, Bulgaria, China, France, Germany, India, Morocco, Japan, Sweden, Thailand, the United Kingdom and the United States). The youngsters share their beliefs, challenges, passions and triumphs, showing that issues like bullying and discrimination are experienced by everyone, regardless of where you come from and what you look like.	PG
Loving	"Loving" is a powerful drama inspired by the true story of an interracial couple's historic fight. Richard and Mildred Loving (played by Joel Edgerton and Ruth Negga, respectively) got married in Virginia in 1958, even though it was illegal at the time, and as a result, they are arrested and kicked out of their home.	12+
To Kill a Mockingbird	The award-winning 1962 film adaptation of the classic Harper Lee novel, a powerful evocation of racism and bigotry in the 1930s Deep South, is still relevant today.	12+
Crazy Rich Asians	With an all-Asian cast, this movie successfully showcases Asian customs – with humor too! This contemporary romantic comedy, based on a global bestseller, follows native New Yorker <b>Rachel</b> Chu to Singapore to meet her boyfriend's family.	12+
Blackkklansman	Ron Stallworth is the first African-American detective to serve in the Colorado Springs Police Department. Determined to make a name for himself, Stallworth bravely sets out on a dangerous mission: infiltrate and expose the Ku Klux Klan.	15+
The Hate U Give	The Hate U Give takes the conversation of racial inequality and police brutality to the next level, layering introspection and hope to a harsh reality.	12+
Roma	Set in Mexico City, <b>Roma</b> centered a Oaxacan domestic worker and shone a light on the complexities of Mexican identity.	15+
Yellow Rose	Musical drama <b>Yellow Rose</b> from Diane Paragas follows a young undocumented Filipina aspiring to be a country singer while on the run.	12+