



Year 10 & Year 11

If a child is a reader by Year 10 then they won't really need recommendations. If they're not, and they're playing catch up, it's probably better to start with the books mentioned earlier.

Postcards from No-man's Land: Aidan Chambers. This is the start of a collection of novels, linked by theme rather than plot or characters. They deal with adult themes: growing up, sexuality and identity. They're a challenging read but highly acclaimed and brilliantly written. My personal favourite is the last in the series, The Pillowbook of Cordelia Kahn.

Looking for Alaska / The Fault In Our Stars: John Green. Lovely American High School books about growing up and love. I particularly like Stars but it is very very sad.

The Woman In Black: Susan Hill. A classic ghost story, very scary, and now you can watch the film too!

The Bell Jar: Sylvia Plath. Esther Greenwood's descent into madness and what happens when she comes out the other side.

There is no dog: Meg Rosoff. If God were a teenage boy. Engaging and funny.

The Passage: Justin Cronin. The start of what will be a trilogy, written for adults it's really complex in terms of plot... But wow, what a story! A genetic mutation goes wrong creating some sort of uber vampires.

The Road: Cormac McCarthy. More dystopia. Quite a simple looking book, very bleak. Very good.

The Catcher In the Rye: J. D. Salinger. I'm putting this on the list not because I love it (I don't) but if you're going to read it, it should probably be around now!