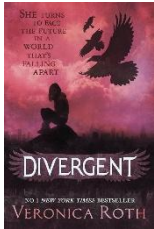
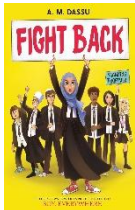
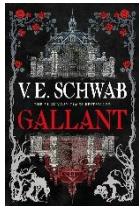
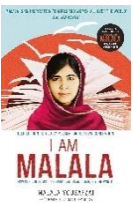
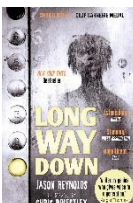
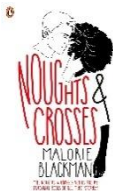
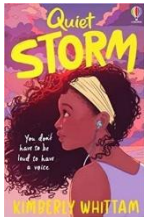
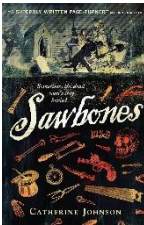


The SMC 'Just Reading' Approach – Reading List

Y9 Text Choices

Book	Plot Summary	Themes & Suggested Reading Age
 Divergent – Veronica Roth	In the future there is no war. Humanity is divided up into factions, each serving others through knowledge, truth, selflessness, protection or peace. In this way man's natural war-like tendencies are addressed. Tris does not fit into any faction, she is Divergent. Nevertheless she leaves the selflessness of her Abnegation faction and becomes a Dauntless - a fearless defender of the new order. *Winner of the Goodreads Readers Choice Award in 2011.	Themes: <i>Adventure, dystopia, friendship</i> <i>Reading Age: 10+</i> <i>Interest Age: 11+</i>
 Fight Back – A.M Dassu	Aaliyah is an ordinary thirteen-year-old living in the Midlands - she's into her books, shoes, K-pop and she is a Muslim. She has always felt at home where she lives ... until a terrorist attack in her area changes everything. As racial tensions increase and she starts getting bullied, Aaliyah decides to begin wearing a hijab - to challenge how people in her community see her. *Shortlisted for the Junior Book Awards 2023	Themes: <i>Prejudice, human rights, religion, protest</i> <i>Reading Age: 10+</i> <i>Interest Age: 10-14</i>
 Gallant – V.E Schwab	Fourteen-year-old Olivia Prior is missing three things: a mother, a father, and a voice. Her mother vanished all at once, and her father by degrees, and her voice was a thing she never had to start with. She grew up at Merilance School for Girls. Now, nearing the end of her time there, Olivia receives a letter from an uncle she's never met, her father's older brother, summoning her to his estate, a place called Gallant.	Themes: <i>Historical, thriller, family</i> <i>Reading Age: 13+</i> <i>Interest Age: 13+</i>

 Gone – Michael Grant	Fourteen year old Sam Templeton is having a completely normal day until his teacher disappears in the middle of a class. But he soon discovers that it isn't only their teacher who is gone - everyone over the age of fifteen has inexplicably disappeared from the small town of Perdido Beach.	Themes: <i>Dystopia, thriller, action</i> <i>Reading Age: 12+</i> <i>Interest Age: 14+</i>
 I Am Malala – Malala Yousafzai *Memoir	Malala was born in the Swat valley in Pakistan during turbulent times of trouble and terror. Religious fundamentalists tried to deny her and other girls an education. Targeted and shot because of her belief and bravery to stand up against this prejudice, this is the real life story of one of the most incredible and inspirational young people in the world. *Winner of Specsavers National Book Awards 2013. *Audiobook version won the Grammy Award for the Best Children's Album 2015.	Themes: <i>Coming-of-age, prejudice, religious discrimination</i> <i>Reading Age: 13+</i> <i>Interest Age: 13+</i>
 Long Way Down – Jason Reynolds	When Shawn, the beloved big brother of 15-year-old Will, is shot dead, Will is ready to follow "the rules" and get revenge. After finding his brother's gun, he gets in the lift from his home on the seventh floor with Shawn's gun –and so begins a surreal journey of discovery, guided by the ghosts of other dead people in Will's life. *Winner of the John Newbery Medal (Library Service to Children Award) and Edgar Award for Best Young Adult text 2018.	Themes: <i>Prejudice, bereavement, gang and gun crime</i> <i>Reading Age: 12+</i> <i>Interest Age: 12-16</i> *Moderate swearing
 Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children – Ransom Riggs	A family tragedy sets 16-year-old Jacob journeying to a remote island off the coast of Wales, where he discovers the crumbling ruins of Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children. As Jacob explores its abandoned bedrooms and hallways, it becomes clear that the children were more than just peculiar. They may have been dangerous. They may have been quarantined on a deserted island for good reason. And somehow - impossible though it seems - they may still be alive. *Winner of 'Best Fiction for Young Adults'	Themes: <i>Thriller, horror, Gothic</i> <i>Reading Age: 12+</i> <i>Interest Age: 14+</i>

 Noughts & Crosses – Malorie Blackman	In Malorie Blackman's groundbreaking novel, the population is divided into two: the white Noughts are second-class citizens, and the black Crosses are highly-revered and perceived as the superior race. 15-year-old Callum is a Nought, and his best friend, Sephy, as well as being a Cross, is also the daughter of one of the most influential politicians in the country. The story focuses on their relationship, which is frowned upon by society, and explores the discrimination they encounter at every turn. By reversing traditional racial stereotypes and presenting the White population as the oppressed race, Blackman has cleverly shown racial prejudice from a different perspective. *Winner of The Children's Book Award *Author was the Waterstone's Children's Laureate from 2013-2015.	Themes: <i>Dystopia, race, prejudice, conflict, romance</i> <i>Reading Age: 12+</i> <i>Interest Age: 12+</i>
 Quiet Storm – Kimberly Whittam	When Storm breaks the record for the fastest Year 7 sprinter her school has ever had, she has the chance to pursue something she really loves but can she find the courage to speak up and branch out? Storm has to experience rejection, embarrassment and despair before she finally comes to realise that friends should pull one another up, not put one another down. It's a passion for sport and the camaraderie that comes with being part of a team that eventually gives her a voice. *Won the Hull Children's Book Award 2024!	Themes: <i>Friendship, bullying, sport, diversity</i> <i>Reading Age: 9+</i> <i>Interest Age: 11-14</i>
 Sawbones – Catherine Johnson	Sixteen-year-old Ezra McAdam has much to be thankful for: trained up as an apprentice by a well-regarded London surgeon, Ezra's knowledge of human anatomy and skill at the dissection table will secure him a trade for life. However, his world is turned on its head when a failed break-in at his master's house sets off a strange and disturbing series of events that involves grave robbing, body switching ... and murder. *Winner of the Young Quills Award for Best Historical Fiction for 12+.	Themes: <i>Historical, horror, murder mystery, crime</i> <i>Reading Age: 12+</i> <i>Interest Age: 13+</i>

 The Inheritance Games – Jennifer Lynn Barnes	Avery has a plan: keep her head down, work hard for a better future. Then an eccentric billionaire dies, leaving her almost his entire fortune. And no one, least of all Avery, knows why. Now she must move into the mansion she's inherited. It's filled with secrets and codes, and the old man's surviving relatives - a family hell-bent on discovering why Avery got 'their' money.	Themes: <i>Thriller, crime, family, deception</i> <i>Reading Age: 12+</i> <i>Interest Age: 13+</i>
 The Knife of Never Letting Go – Patrick Ness	Todd Hewitt, the last boy in the town, is on the brink of manhood. Forced one day to flee through a nearby swamp, he stumbles upon a patch of silence and – surprisingly – the first girl he has ever seen. Despite their initial mistrust of each other, Todd and Viola team up to evade the men who are chasing him. As they flee he discovers much about himself, his family, about friendship and about prejudice. *Winner of the 2008 BookTrust Teenage Prize	Themes: <i>Coming-of-age, dystopia, thriller, friendships</i> <i>Reading Age: 12+</i> <i>Interest Age: 12+</i>
 The Little Big Things – Henry Fraser *Memoir	Henry Fraser was 17 years old when a tragic accident severely crushed his spinal cord. Paralysed from the shoulders down, he has conquered unimaginable difficulty to embrace life and a new way of living. Through challenging adversity, he has found the opportunity to grow and inspire others. *The Sunday Times Bestseller.	Themes: <i>Disability, adversity, inspiration</i> <i>Reading Age: 14+</i> <i>Interest Age: 14+</i> *Infrequent, mild swearing
 Thirteen – Tom Hoyle	Adam was born at the stroke of midnight at the start of a new millennium. He is the target of a cult who believe boys born at that time must die before the end of their thirteenth year. Twelve boys have been killed so far. Coron, the crazed cult leader, will stop at nothing to bring in his new kingdom. And now he is planning a spectacular event to celebrate the sacrifice of his final victim. *Winner of Bolton Children's Fiction Award 2015.	Themes: <i>Thriller, mystery, action, suspense</i> <i>Reading Age: 13+</i> <i>Interest Age: 14+</i> *Infrequent, moderate swearing



Wild Song –

Candy
Gourlay

Luki has lived a tribal life in the mountains of the Philippines. Now she's growing up, she is expected to become a wife and a mother, but Luki isn't ready to give up her dream to become a hunter. When her tribe are offered a journey to America to be part of the St. Louis World's Fair, Luki will discover that the land of opportunity does not share its possibilities equally.

Themes:

*Coming-of-age,
historical, religion and
spirituality, diversity*

Reading Age: 9-11

Interest Age: 10+