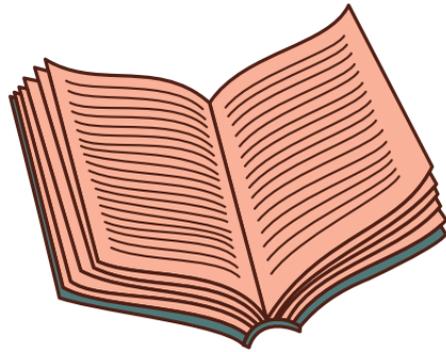


MAGNUS  
CHURCH OF ENGLAND  
ACADEMY

# The Magnus Canon



## Year 9 Guide



## Welcome to the Magnus Canon

This is a list of books we have created for you to read throughout your time at Magnus, helping to develop a broad perspective of the world around you, increase and improve your vocabulary and give you the chance to unwind with a great story.

The wide range of books on the list will count towards your Magnus Graduation target. Genres include Science Fiction, Mystery, Historical, Dystopian, and Fantasy. The list has some amazing BAME authors, a great selection of Non Fiction titles as well as some wonderful play scripts – there really is something for everyone.

Some of these books will be read during Prep sessions or studied in your English lessons, these are highlighted in this guide.

We want to challenge you to read as many books off this list as possible before Graduation in the Summer.

There will be short quizzes for you to complete with Mrs Jackson in the Library, so make sure you take your time, really enjoy each story and get the most out of each book.

### **Here is the full Year 9 list...**

I am Malala – Malala Yousafzai

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time – Mark Haddon (Prep text)

Refugee Boy – Benjamin Zephaniah

Blood Brothers – Willy Russell

Great Expectations – Charles Dickens

Mortal Engines – Phillip Reeve (Prep text)

Now is the Time for Running – Michael Williams

Of Mice and Men – John Steinbeck (Prep text)

Across the Barricades – Joan Lingard

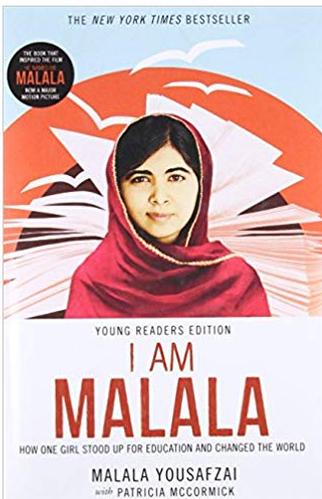
A Christmas Carol – Charles Dickens (Studied in English)

The Giver – Lois Lowry

Macbeth – William Shakespeare (Studied in English)

The Book Thief – Markus Zusak

*Have a look at the following pages for more information on each book. For more details on how to complete The Magnus Canon for graduation, see your English teacher or Mrs Jackson.*



Malala Yousafzai was only ten years old when the Taliban took control of her region. They said music was a crime. They said women weren't allowed to go to the market. They said girls couldn't go to school.

Raised in 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.

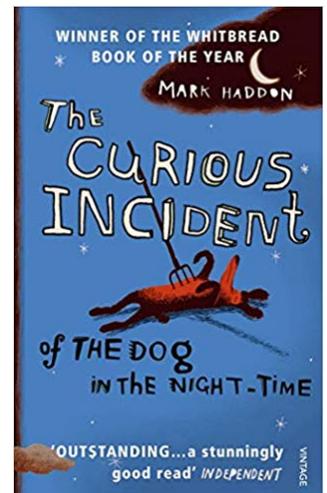
Now she is an international symbol of peaceful protest and the youngest-ever Nobel Peace Prize nominee.

This is the remarkable story of a girl who knew from a young age that she wanted to change the world-and did. It will open your eyes to another world and will make you believe in hope, truth, miracles, and the determination of one person to inspire change.

### Non-fiction / Topical issues

The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time is a murder mystery novel like no other. The detective, and narrator, is Christopher Boone. Christopher is fifteen and has Asperger's Syndrome. He knows a very great deal about maths and very little about human beings. He loves lists, patterns and the truth. He hates the colours yellow and brown and being touched. He has never gone further than the end of the road on his own, but when he finds a neighbour's dog murdered he sets out on a terrifying journey which will turn his whole world upside down.

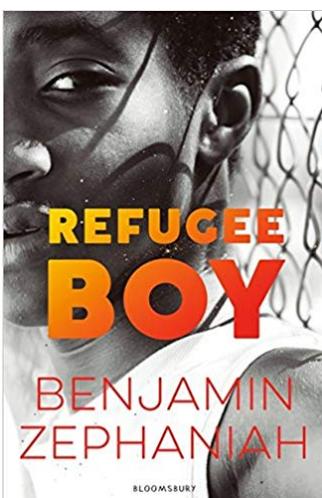
### Mystery / Prep text



Life is not safe for Alem. His father is Ethiopian, his mother is Eritrean and with both countries at war, he is welcome in neither place.

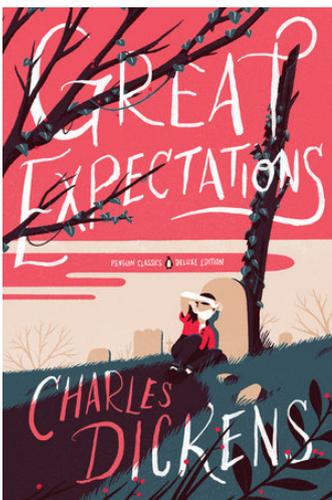
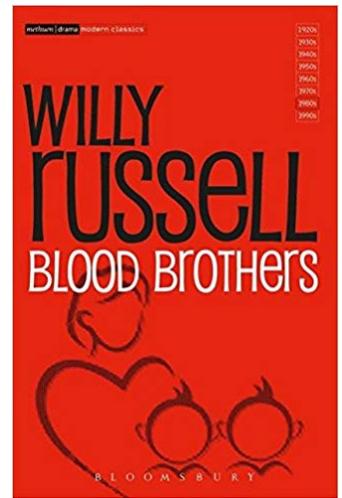
So his father does an astonishing thing, which at first appears callous, but is in fact the ultimate gift of love from a parent to a child...

### BAME author / Topical issues



A Liverpoolian West Side Story: twin brothers are separated at birth because their mother cannot afford to keep them both. She gives one of them away to wealthy Mrs Lyons and they grow up as friends in ignorance of their fraternity until the inevitable quarrel unleashes a blood-bath.

**Drama text / Family**

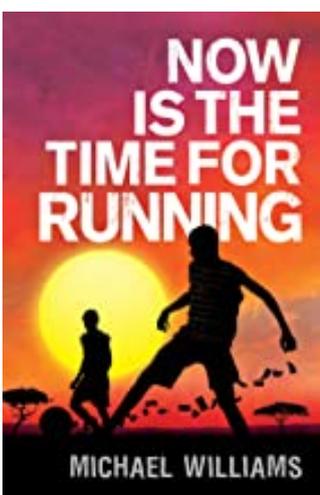
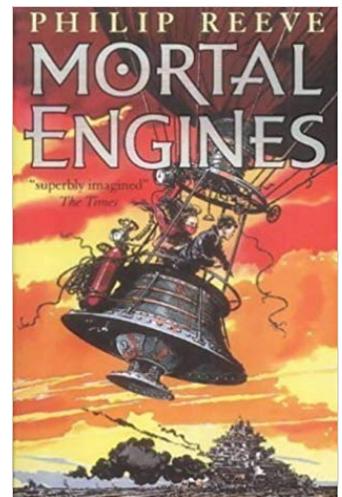


Dickens's haunting late novel depicts the education and development of a young man, Pip, as his life is changed by a series of events - a terrifying encounter with an escaped convict in a graveyard on the wild Kent marshes; a summons to meet the bitter, decaying Miss Havisham and her beautiful, cold-hearted ward Estella; the sudden generosity of a mysterious benefactor - and he discovers the true nature of his 'great expectations'.

**19th Century / Bildungsroman**

London is on the move again. In the distant future, cities on wheels fight each other for survival. As London pursues a small town, young apprentice Tom is flung out into the wastelands, where a terrifying cyborg begins to hunt him down.

**Prep text / Dual narrative / Dystopian / Science fiction**



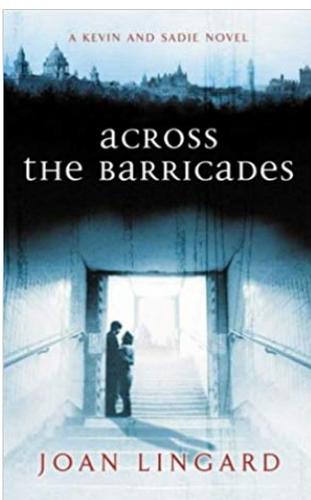
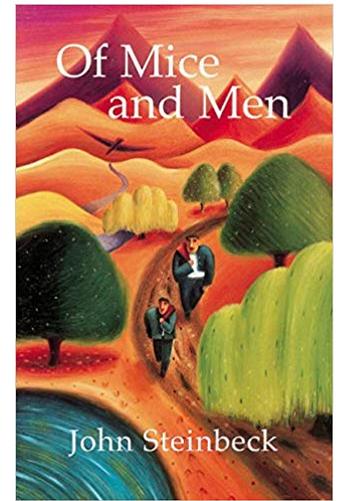
On the dusty fields of Zimbabwe, Deo and Innocent are playing football. Then the soldiers arrive, looking for food and traitors – destroying the only home the boys have ever known. Now they have nothing but each other, and a football stuffed with a billion worthless dollars. And so starts a journey of a lifetime, to find safety with a father they have never met. But with soldiers everywhere, they have only one chance to cross the border, one chance to escape.

**Adventure**



George and Lennie are drifters, with nothing in the world except each other – and a dream. A dream that one day they will some land of their own, somewhere to settle and live in peace. Finding work on a ranch in California’s Salinas Valley, they hope to stay long enough to get some money together. But kind-hearted, childlike Lennie is prone to getting into trouble – unable to control either of his emotions or his enormous strength, he is a target for the casual cruelty of others. And when disaster strikes again, it seems that this time George may not be able to save his friend.

**Historical fiction / Prep text**

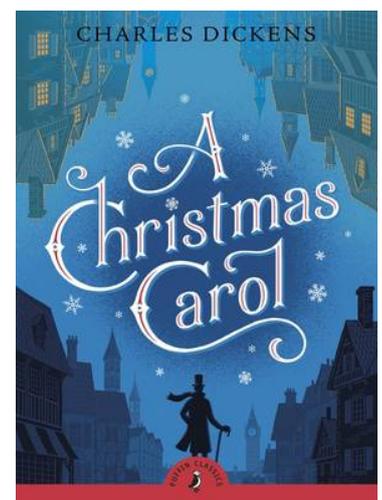


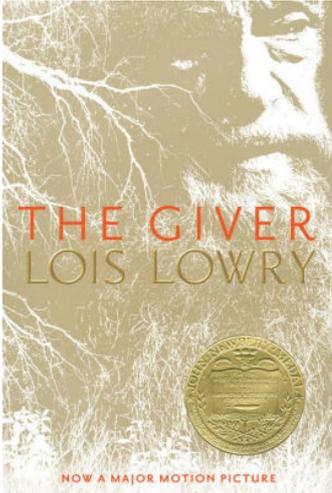
Kevin and Sadie just want to be together, but it's not that simple. Things are bad in Belfast. Soldiers walk the streets and the city is divided. No Catholic boy and Protestant girl can go out together - not without dangerous consequences . . .

**Family**

Ebenezer Scrooge is a mean, miserable, bitter old man with no friends. One cold Christmas Eve, three ghosts take him on a scary journey to show him the error of his nasty ways. By visiting his past, present and future, Scrooge learns to love Christmas and the people all around him.

**19<sup>th</sup> Century / Studied in English**





It is the future. There is no war, no hunger, no pain. No one in the community wants for anything. Everything needed is provided. And at twelve years old, each member of the community has their profession carefully chosen for them by the Committee of Elders.

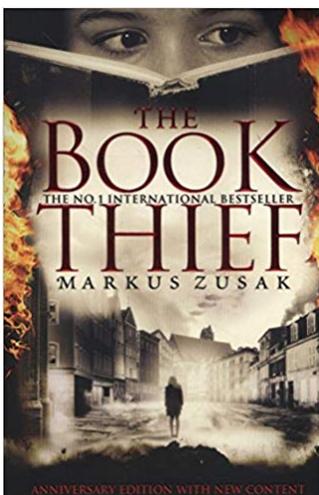
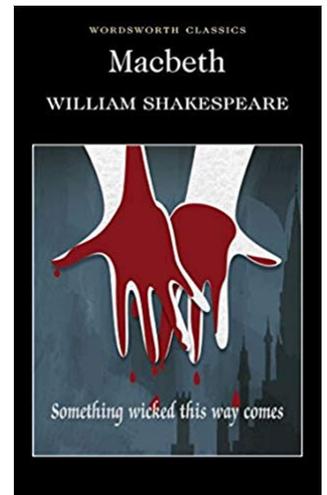
Twelve-year old Jonas has never thought there was anything wrong with his world. But from the moment he is selected as the Receiver of Memory, Jonas discovers that their community is not as perfect as it seems.

It is only with the help of The Giver, that Jonas can find what has been lost. And it is only through his personal courage that Jonas finds the strength to do what is right...

### **Dystopian / Bildungsroman**

One night on the heath, the brave and respected general Macbeth encounters three witches who foretell that he will become king of Scotland. At first sceptical, he's urged on by the ruthless, single-minded ambitions of Lady Macbeth, who suffers none of her husband's doubt. But seeing the prophecy through to the bloody end leads them both spiralling into paranoia, tyranny, madness, and murder.

### **Studied in English / Drama text**



This is the tale of the book thief as narrated by Death. And when Death tells a story, you really have to listen.

It's just a small story really – about, amongst other things: a girl, an accordionist, some fanatical Germans, a Jewish fist fighter and quite a lot of thievery.

### **Historical fiction**



### **Across the Barricades**

Penguin.co.uk - <https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/317/31782/across-the-barricades/9780141368917.html>

### **Blood Brothers**

Amazon.co.uk - <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Blood-Brothers-Methuen-Modern-Classics/dp/0413767701>

### **The Book Thief**

Amazon.co.uk - [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Book-Thief-Definitions-Young-Adult/dp/1909531618/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=the+book+thief&qid=1597321921&s=books&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Book-Thief-Definitions-Young-Adult/dp/1909531618/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=the+book+thief&qid=1597321921&s=books&sr=1-1)

### **A Christmas Carol**

Amazon.co.uk - <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Christmas-Carol-Scholastic-Classics/dp/1407172565>

### **The Curious Incident of the dog in the Night-time**

Amazon.co.uk - <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Curious-Incident-Dog-Night-time/dp/0099450259>

### **The Giver**

HarperCollins - <https://www.harpercollins.co.uk/9780007369881/the-giver-essential-modern-classics/>

### **Great Expectations**

Penguin - <https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/603/60338/great-expectations/9780141439563.html>

### **I am Malala**

Amazon.co.uk - [https://www.amazon.co.uk/Am-Malala-Stood-Education-Changed/dp/1780622163/ref=sr\\_1\\_1?dchild=1&keywords=i+am+a+malala&qid=1597324024&s=books&sr=1-1](https://www.amazon.co.uk/Am-Malala-Stood-Education-Changed/dp/1780622163/ref=sr_1_1?dchild=1&keywords=i+am+a+malala&qid=1597324024&s=books&sr=1-1)

### **Macbeth**

Goodreads.com - <https://www.goodreads.com/book/show/8852.Macbeth>

### **Mortal Engines**

Scholastic edition published 2015

### **Now is the time for Running**

Amazon.co.uk- <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Now-Time-Running-Michael-Williams/dp/1848530838>

### **Of mice and Men**

Penguin.co.uk - <https://www.penguin.co.uk/books/555/55510/of-mice-and-men/9780141396033.html>

### **Refugee Boy**

Amazon.co.uk - <https://www.amazon.co.uk/Refugee-Boy-Benjamin-Zephaniah/dp/0747550867>