

30 BOOKS TO READ IN SIXTH FORM

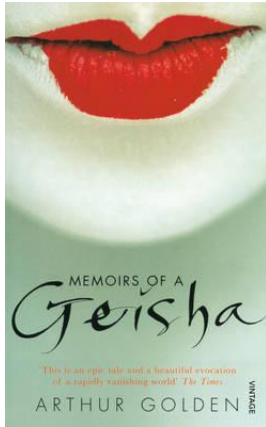


Do you want to make a good impression in an interview, or on a CV?

One very good way of achieving this is by showing that you have read widely. Why not make a start by selecting one or two books from this list? It includes classic novels, old and new and a mix of genre types. Hopefully there is something for everyone.

All the titles are normally available from the school library and should also be readily available from public libraries and good bookshops.

If you would like a more extensive reading list please ask the Librarian.



Memoirs of a Geisha by Arthur Golden

From a small fishing village in 1929, the story moves to Kyoto in the 1930s, where a young peasant girl is sold as servant and apprentice to a renowned geisha house. Telling her story many years later each page exquisitely evokes another culture, and conjures up the perfection and the ugliness of life behind rice-paper screens, where young girls learn the arts of geisha.



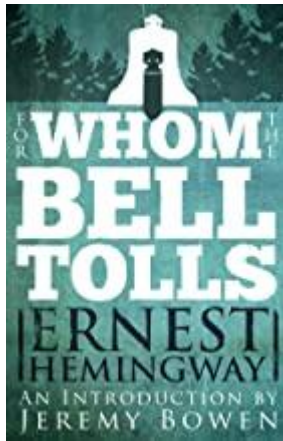
Girl With the Pearl Earring by Tracy Chevalier

Johannes Vermeer can spot exceptional beauty. When servant girl Griet catches his eye, she soon becomes both student and muse. But then he gives her his wife's pearl earrings to wear for a portrait, and a scandal erupts that could threaten Griet's future...



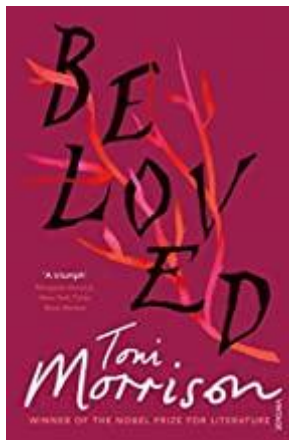
Brighton Rock by Graham Greene

A gang war is raging through the dark underworld of Brighton. Ruthless seventeen-year-old Pinkie, has killed a man. Believing he can escape retribution, he is unprepared for the courageous, life-embracing Ida Arnold.



For Whom the Bell Tolls by Ernest Hemingway

The story of loyalty and courage, love and defeat, and the tragic death of an ideal. Robert Jordan, a young American in the International Brigades is attached to an antifascist guerilla unit in the mountains of Spain.



Beloved by Toni Morrison

Sethe is now miles away from Sweet Home - the farm where she was kept as a slave for many years. Unable to forget the unspeakable horrors that took place there, Sethe is haunted by the violent spectre of her dead child, the daughter who died nameless and whose tombstone is etched with a single word, 'Beloved'.



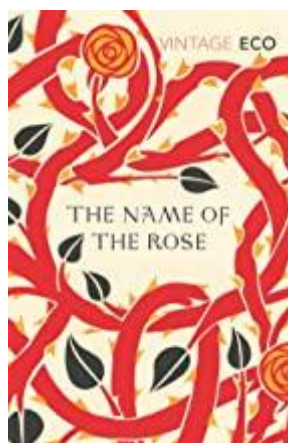
Joy Luck Club by Amy Tan

In 1949 four Chinese women, recent immigrants to San Francisco, meet weekly to play mahjong and tell stories of what they left behind in China. They call themselves the Joy Luck Club. Their daughters, who have never heard these stories and, think their mothers' advice is irrelevant to their modern American lives - until their own inner crises reveal how much they've unknowingly inherited.



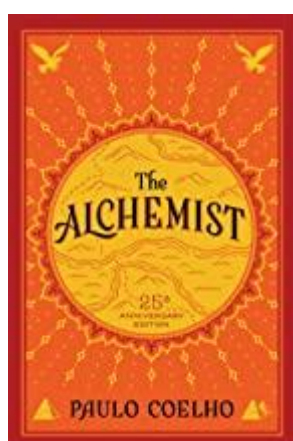
Midwich Cuckoos by John Wyndham

In the sleepy English village of Midwich, a mysterious silver object appears and all the inhabitants fall unconscious. A day later the object is gone and everyone awakens unharmed - except that all the women in the village are discovered to be pregnant. The resultant children of Midwich do not belong to their parents: all are blonde, all are golden eyed. and exhibit frightening abilities that give them control over others.



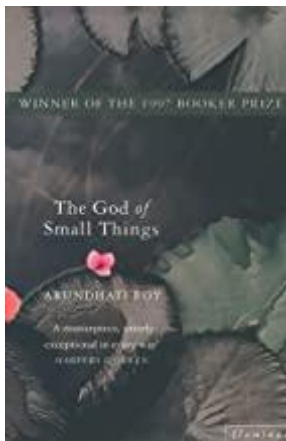
The Name of the Rose by Umberto Eco

The year is 1327. Franciscans in a wealthy Italian abbey are suspected of heresy, and Brother William of Baskerville arrives to investigate. When his delicate mission is suddenly overshadowed by seven bizarre deaths, Brother William turns detective.



The Alchemist by Paulo Coelho

Mystical story of Santiago, an Andalusian shepherd boy, who yearns to travel in search of a worldly treasure. His quest will lead him to riches far different—and far more satisfying—than he ever imagined.



God of Small Things by Roy Arundhati

This is the story of Rahel and Estha, twins growing up among the banana jam vats and peppercorns of their blind grandmother's factory, and amid scenes of political turbulence in Kerala. Armed only with the innocence of youth, they fashion a childhood in the shade of the wreck that is their family and their sworn enemy, Baby Kochamma (ex-nun, incumbent grand-aunt).



Brick Lane by Monica Ali

An engrossing portrait of contemporary British Asian life. Nazneen finds herself in an arranged marriage with a disappointed man who is twenty years older. Away from the mud and heat of her Bangladeshi village, home is now a cramped flat in a high-rise block in London's East End.



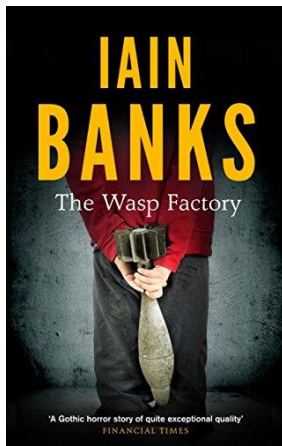
The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood

The Republic of Gilead offers Offred only one function: to breed, but even a repressive state cannot obliterate desire - neither Offred's, nor that of the two men on which her future hangs.



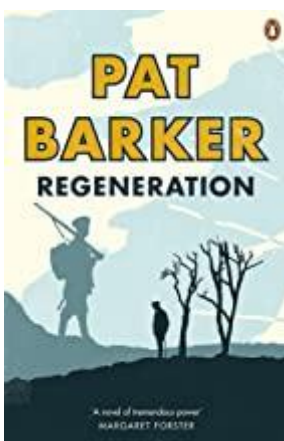
Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen

The romantic clash between the opinionated Elizabeth and the proud and distant, Mr. Darcy. A splendid performance of civilized sparring making this book the most excellent comedy commentary of manners of Regency England.



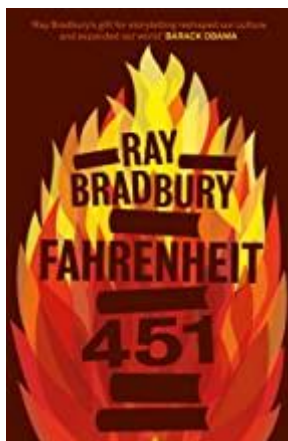
The Wasp Factory by Iain Banks

'Two years after I killed Blyth I murdered my young brother Paul, for quite different reasons than I'd disposed of Blyth, and then a year after that I did for my young cousin Esmerelda, more or less on a whim. That's my score to date.



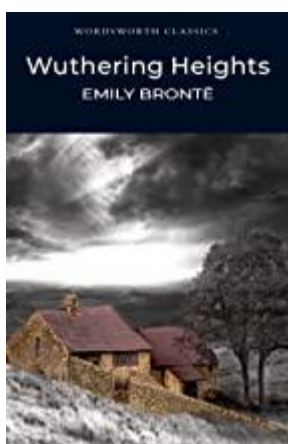
Regeneration by Pat Barker

Craiglockhart War Hospital, Scotland, 1917, and it is army psychiatrist, William Rivers' job is to make the shell-shocked men in his charge healthy enough to fight. Yet the closer he gets to mending his patients' minds the harder it becomes to make the decision to send them back to the horrors of the front.



Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury

An oppressive, futuristic world where firefighters are employed to burn books, as the government aims to control freedom of thought.



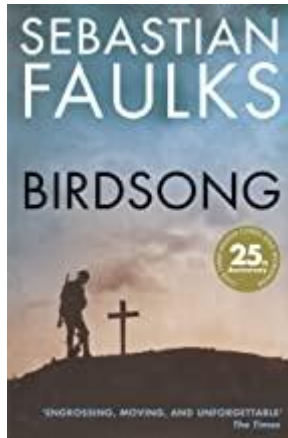
Wuthering Heights by Emily Brontë

A wild, passionate story of the intense and almost demonic love between Catherine Earnshaw and Heathcliff, a foundling adopted by Catherine's father.



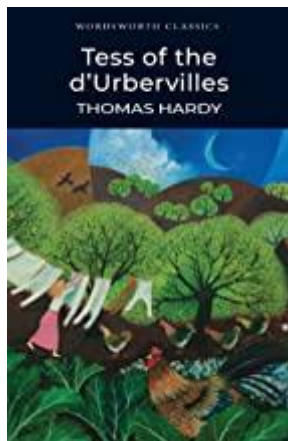
A Clockwork Orange by Anthony Burgess

Nightmare vision of the future, where the criminals take over after dark. A frightening fable about good and evil and the meaning of human freedom.



Birdsong by Sebastian Faulks

Tragic tale of soldier's tempestuous love affair with Isabelle Azaire, in France, and the dark, surreal world beneath the trenches of No Man's Land.



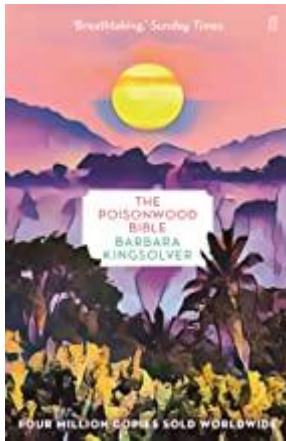
Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy

Driven by family poverty to claim kinship with the wealthy D'Urbervilles Tess' meeting her 'cousin' Alec proves to be her downfall.



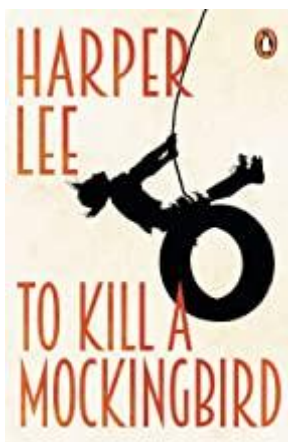
Catch-22 by Joseph Heller

A novel full of irony and black humour about the absurdity of war. From Major de Coverley, a man whose terrifying face has stopped anyone ever asking his first name; to Yossarian, a reluctant, but very fortunate pilot, who is entirely fed up with bombing the enemy.



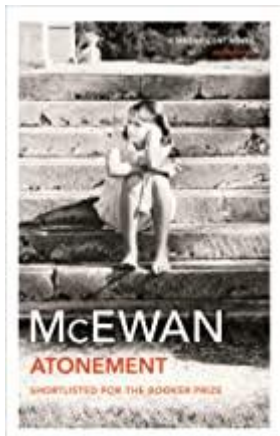
The Poisonwood Bible by Barbara Kingsolver

Nathan Price, a fierce evangelical Baptist missionary along with his wife and four daughters find their lives unravelling after they embark on a 1959 mission to the Belgian Congo.



To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee

The unforgettable novel of a childhood in a sleepy Southern town and the crisis of conscience after a rape and a trial fraught with racial inequality.



Atonement by Ian McEwan

Repercussions of a crime follow through the chaos and carnage of World War II and into the close of the twentieth century.



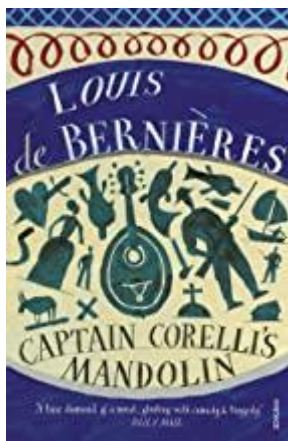
Love in the Time of Cholera by Gabriel Garcia Marquez

In their youth, Florentino Ariza and Fermina Daza fall passionately in love. When Fermina eventually chooses to marry a wealthy, well-born doctor, Florentino is devastated, but he is a romantic and fifty years, nine months, and four days after he first declared his love for Fermina, he will do so again.



The Color Purple by Alice Walker

Set in the segregated world of America's "Deep South", this work tells the story of Celie. Raped by the man she calls "father" and having had her two children taken from her, she meets Shug Avery - a glamorous singer and magic maker, and discovers the love and support of a woman.



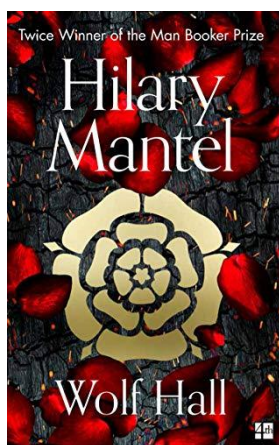
Captain Corelli Mandolin by Louis Bernieres

It is 1941 and Captain Antonio Corelli, a young Italian officer, is posted to the Greek island of Cephallonia as part of the occupying forces. When Pelagia, the local doctor's daughter and, Antonio draw close> As war approached can this fragile love survive between invader and defender.



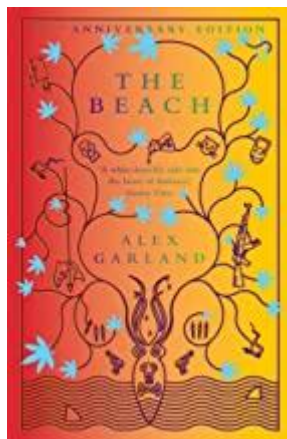
The English Patient by Michael Ondaatje

The final curtain is closing on the Second World War and in an abandoned Italian village. Hana, a nurse, tends to her sole remaining patient. Rescued from a burning plane, the anonymous Englishman is damaged beyond recognition and haunted by painful memories. The only clue Hana has to unlocking his past is a copy of The Histories by Herodotus, covered with handwritten notes detailing a tragic love affair.



Wolf Hall by Hilary Mantel

Set against the opulent, and brutal world of the Tudors this is the story of the rise and rise of Thomas Cromwell: blacksmith's son, charmer, bully, master of deadly intrigue and, finally, the most powerful man in Henry VIII's court.



The Beach by Alex Garland

Richard lands in East Asia in search of an earthly utopia. In Thailand, he is given a map promising an unknown island, a secluded beach - and a new way of life. What Richard finds when he gets there is breathtaking: more extraordinary, more frightening than his wildest dream.

The Bell Jar

Jane Eyre

Frankenstein

