

Reading beyond the classroom RE, Years 7 – 9.

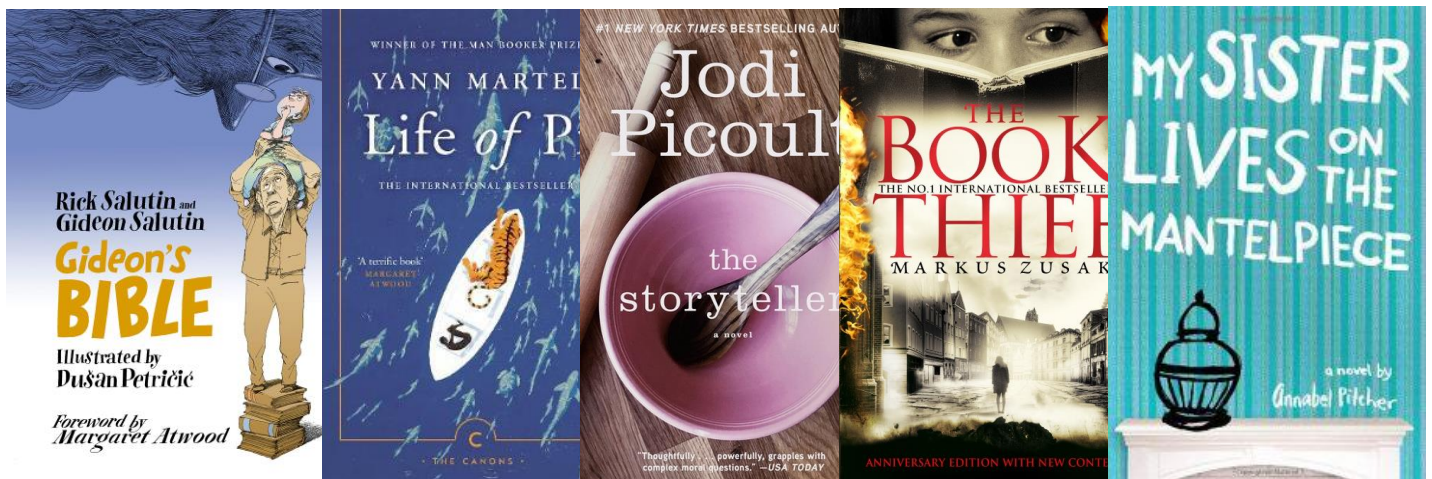
BYRCHALL
HIGH SCHOOL

While in Years 7, 8 and 9 students should try and read a wide variety of books. Students should know and learn about all religions. It teaches children how to be open-minded and accepting of other people's faiths and backgrounds. It teaches ethical values. RE helps to challenge misconceptions, prejudice and ignorance which can divide society. It's fascinating learning about other cultures and beliefs.

There are a number of high-quality websites:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/zh3rkqt>
<https://www.reonline.org.uk/>
<http://www.understandingchristianity.org.uk/>
<https://www.thebuddhistsociety.org/>
<https://www.islamicity.org/?AspxAutoDetectCookieSupport=1>
<https://www.myjewishlearning.com/>
<https://www.sikhri.org/>
<https://www.catholic.org/>
<http://www.prca.org/>

In addition to this, our recommendations follow below. These texts do not form part of our schemes of work so reading them will not spoil students' enjoyment of future lessons. They will most likely complement the work we do.



Christianity and Key Beliefs

David Wilkerson

The Cross and the Switchblade

A young preacher from the Pennsylvania hills comes to New York City and influences troubled teenagers with his inspirational message.

R. Salutin, G. Salutin et al.

Gideon's Bible

Gideon's Bible is a conversation between Rick Salutin, and his son, Gideon. It begins with Gideon as a child, asking why he was given his name. Rick says it's from the Bible and Gideon asks, "What's the Bible?"

Although the conversations portrayed in the book span all the years of Gideon's life, most of them occurred during his more recent years in high school. The book consists of 64 wildly illustrated colour pages. It is modelled on classical Jewish biblical commentaries, in which biblical text is surrounded by analysis that has been written over centuries and that explores both the text itself and the conversations that surround each passage.

C.S. Lewis

The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe

Four adventurous siblings—Peter, Susan, Edmund, and Lucy Pevensie—step through a wardrobe door and into the land of Narnia, a land frozen in eternal winter and enslaved by the power of the White Witch. But when almost all hope is lost, the return of the Great Lion, Aslan, signals a great change . . . and a great sacrifice.

Todd Burpo

Heaven is for Real

When Colton Burpo made it through an emergency appendectomy, his family was overjoyed at his miraculous survival. What they weren't expecting, though, was the story that emerged in the months that followed--a story as beautiful as it was extraordinary, detailing their little boy's trip to heaven and back.

Annabel Pitcher

My Sister Lives on the Mantelpiece

Ten-year-old Jamie hasn't cried since it happened. He knows he should have—Jasmine cried, Mum cried, Dad still cries. Roger didn't, but then he is just a cat and didn't know Rose that well, really. Everyone kept saying it would get better with time, but that's just one of those lies that grown-ups tell in awkward situations. Five years on, it's worse than ever: Dad drinks, Mum's gone and Jamie's left with questions that he must answer for himself.

This is his story, an unflinchingly real yet heart-warming account of a young boy's struggle to make sense of the loss that tore his family apart.

C.S. Lewis

The Voyage of the Dawn Treader

NARNIA... the world of wicked dragons and magic spells, where the very best is brought out of even the worst people, where anything can happen (and most often does)... and where the adventure begins.

The *Dawn Treader* is the first ship Narnia has seen in centuries. King Caspian has built it for his voyage to find the seven lords, good men whom his evil uncle Miraz banished when he usurped the throne. The journey takes Edmund, Lucy, and their cousin Eustace to the Eastern Islands, beyond the Silver Sea, toward Aslan's country at the End of the World.

Max Lucado

The Crippled Lamb

Joshua the Lamb was different, he often felt left out-like on the wintry night when he was left behind in a Bethlehem stable. Joshua was a lamb with a crippled leg who felt left out because he couldn't run and play like the other lambs. But God had a very special plan for Joshua's life, as He does for all who feel alone. Readers can expect a gentle tug on their hearts as the little lamb's prayers are answered in an amazing way.

Phyllis Reynolds Naylor

Shiloh Season

Shiloh finally belongs to Marty, but the dog's original owner, Judd Travers, has started drinking again--and for Judd Travers, beer and a gun are a dangerous combination. Marty's family seems to be the target of Judd's rage.

The fantasy adventure novel by Yann Martel published in 2001. The protagonist, Piscine Molitor "Pi" Patel, a Tamil boy from Pondicherry, explores issues of spirituality and practicality from an early age. He survives 227 days after a shipwreck while stranded on a boat in the Pacific Ocean with a Bengal tiger named Richard Parker.

Anita Diamant

The Red Tent

Dinah opens the story by recounting for readers the union of her mother Leah and father Jacob, as well as the expansion of the family to include Leah's sister Rachel, and the handmaids Zilpah and Bilhah. Leah is depicted as capable but testy, Rachel as something of a belle, but kind and creative, Zilpah as eccentric and spiritual, and Bilhah as the gentle and quiet one of the quartet.

It is a first-person narrative that tells the story of Dinah, daughter of Jacob and sister of Joseph. She is a minor character in the Bible, but the author has broadened her story. The book's title refers to the tent in which women of Jacob's tribe must, according to the ancient law, take refuge while menstruating or giving birth, and in which they find mutual support and encouragement from their mothers, sisters and aunts.

C. S Lewis

Mere Christianity

One of the most popular and beloved introductions to the concept of faith ever written, 'Mere Christianity' has sold millions of copies worldwide.

The book brings together C.S. Lewis's legendary radio broadcasts during the war years, in which he set out simply to 'explain and defend the belief that has been common to nearly all Christians at all times'.

Rejecting the boundaries that divide Christianity's many denominations, 'Mere Christianity' provides an unequalled opportunity for believers and nonbelievers alike to absorb a powerful, rational case for the Christian faith.

Eastern Religions/Buddhism

Krishna-Dwaipayana Vyasa

The Bhagavad Gita

This is an early epic poem that recounts the conversation between Arjuna the warrior and his charioteer Krishna, the manifestation of God. In the moments before a great battle, the dialogue sets out the important lessons Arjuna must learn to change the outcome of the war he is to fight, and culminates in Krishna revealing to the warrior his true cosmic form, counselling him to search for the universal perfection of life. Ranging from instructions on yoga postures to dense moral discussion, the Gita is one of the most important Hindu texts, as well as serving as a practical guide to living well.

Tsungunari Kubo

The Lotus Sutra (Bdk English Tripitaka)

Translated from the Chinese by The Lotus Sutra (Taisho No. 262), translated by Tsugunari Kubo and Akira Yuyama from the fifth-century Chinese version by the scholar-monk Kumarajiva, is one of the most important and revered texts in East Asian Buddhism. With its vivid descriptions of cosmic events and large cast of characters, the Saddharmapundarika-sutra (Sutra of the Lotus Flower of the Fine Dharma) unfolds like a magnificent drama. Its twenty-eight chapters offer a combination of doctrine, teachings, stories and parables, devotional practices, and portraits of the many Buddhas and bodhisattvas that inhabit the world of the Lotus Sutra.

Moral Issues

Suzanne Collins

The Hunger Games

In the ruins of a place once known as North America lies the nation of Panem, a shining Capitol surrounded by twelve outlying districts. The Capitol is harsh and cruel and keeps the districts in line by forcing them all to send one boy and one girl between the ages of twelve and eighteen to participate in the annual Hunger Games, a fight to the death on live TV.

Sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen regards it as a death sentence when she steps forward to take her sister's place in the Games. But Katniss has been close to dead before—and survival, for her, is second nature. Without really meaning to, she becomes a contender. But if she is to win, she will have to start making choices that weight survival against humanity and life against love.

Islam

Quran

The Holy Qur'an: English Translation

The Holy Qur'an (also known as The Koran) is the sacred book of Islam. It is the word of God whose truth was revealed to the Prophet Muhammad through the angel Gabriel over a period of 23 years. As it was revealed, so it was committed to memory by his companions, though written copies were also made by literate believers during the lifetime of the Prophet. The first full compilation was by Abu Bakar, the first Caliph, and it was then recompiled in the original dialect by the third Caliph Uthman, after the best reciters had fallen in battle. Muslims believe that the truths of The Holy Qur'an are fully and authentically revealed only in the original classical Arabic. However, as the influence of Islam grows and spreads to the modern world, it is recognised that translation is an important element in introducing and explaining Islam to a wider audience.

Judaism

Rabbi Rodney J. Mariner *The Torah*

The Torah is the first part of the Jewish bible. It is the central and most important document of Judaism and has been used by Jews through the ages.

Torah refers to the five books of Moses which are known in Hebrew as Chameesha Choomshey Torah. These are: Bresheit (Genesis), Shemot (Exodus), Vayicra (Leviticus), Bamidbar (Numbers), and Devarim (Deuteronomy).

This edition brings together one of the most beautiful renderings of the Hebrew Bible in the English language with a wealth of Jewish art and imagery.

The classic 20th century translation by the Jewish Publication Society is illustrated with ancient frescoes, medieval illuminated manuscripts, and paintings by contemporary Jewish artists.

Jodi Picoult *The Storyteller*

Sage Singer is a baker. She works through the night, preparing the day's breads and pastries, trying to escape a reality of loneliness, bad memories, and the shadow of her mother's death. When Josef Weber, an elderly man in Sage's grief support group, begins stopping by the bakery, they strike up an unlikely friendship. Despite their differences, they see in each other the hidden scars that others can't, and they become companions.

Everything changes on the day that Josef confesses a long-buried and shameful secret—one that nobody else in town would ever suspect—and asks Sage for an extraordinary favor. If she says yes, she faces not only moral repercussions, but potentially legal ones as well.

Markus Zusak *The Book Thief*

It is 1939. In Nazi Germany, the country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier - and will become busier still. By her brother's graveside, Liesel's life is changed forever when she picks up a single object, abandoned in the snow. It is *The Gravedigger's Handbook*, and this is her first act of book thievery. So begins Liesel's love affair with books and words, and soon she is stealing from Nazi book-burnings, the mayor's wife's library . . . wherever there are books to be found. But these are dangerous times, and when Liesel's foster family hides a Jew in their basement, nothing will ever be the same again.

Other

Anonymous *The Vedas: The Samhitas of the Rig, Yajur, Sama, and Atharva*

The Vedas are a large body of religious texts originating in ancient India. Composed in Vedic Sanskrit, the texts constitute the oldest layer of Sanskrit literature and the oldest scriptures of Hinduism. There are four Vedas: the Rigveda, the Yajurveda, the Samaveda and the Atharvaveda.

Anonymous *The Guru Granth Sahib*

The Guru Granth Sahib, or Adi Granth, is the religious Scriptures of Sikhism.

It is a voluminous text of 1430 pages, compiled and composed during the period of Sikh Gurus, from 1469 AD to 1708 AD.

Guru Gobind Singh (1666–1708), the Tenth and final living Guru, affirmed the sacred text Adi Granth as his successor, elevating it to Guru Granth Sahib.

The text remains the holy scripture of the Sikhs, regarded as the teachings of the Ten Gurus.

The Adi Granth was first compiled by the Fifth Sikh Guru, Guru Arjan Dev (1563–1606), from Hymns of the first five Sikh Gurus and other Saints of that era, including those of the Hindu and Muslim faith.

Yan Martel *Life of Pi*

After the tragic sinking of a cargo ship, a solitary lifeboat remains bobbing on the wild, blue Pacific.

The only survivors from the wreck are a sixteen-year-old boy named Pi, a hyena, a zebra (with a broken leg), a female orang-utan - and a 450-pound Royal Bengal tiger. The scene is set for one of the most extraordinary and best-loved works of fiction in recent years.

J.R.R Tolkien

The Lord of the Rings

Continuing the story begun in *The Hobbit*, all three parts of the epic masterpiece, *The Lord of the Rings*, in one paperback. Features the definitive edition of the text, fold-out flaps with the original two-colour maps, and a revised and expanded index.

Sauron, the Dark Lord, has gathered to him all the Rings of Power – the means by which he intends to rule Middle-earth. All he lacks in his plans for dominion is the One Ring – the ring that rules them all – which has fallen into the hands of the hobbit, Bilbo Baggins.

Malorie Blackman

Noughts and Crosses

'Stop it! You're all behaving like animals! Worse than animals - like blankers!'

Sephy is a Cross: she lives a life of privilege and power. But she's lonely, and burns with injustice at the world she sees around her.

Callum is a nought: he's considered to be less than nothing - a blanker, there to serve Crosses - but he dreams of a better life.

They've been friends since they were children, and they both know that's as far as it can ever go.

Noughts and Crosses are fated to be bitter enemies - love is out of the question.

Then - in spite of a world that is fiercely against them - these star-crossed lovers choose each other.

But this is love story that will lead both of them into terrible danger . . . and which will have shocking repercussions for generations to come.

Patrick Ness

A Monster Calls

Conor has the same dream every night, ever since his mother first fell ill, ever since she started the treatments that don't quite seem to be working. But tonight is different. Tonight, when he wakes, there's a visitor at his window. It's ancient, elemental, a force of nature. And it wants the most dangerous thing of all from Conor. It wants the truth. Patrick Ness takes the final idea of the late, award-winning writer Siobhan Dowd and weaves an extraordinary and heart-breaking tale of mischief, healing and above all, the courage it takes to survive.

Antoine de Saint-Exupéry

The Little Prince

A pilot stranded in the desert awakes one morning to see, standing before him, the most extraordinary little fellow. "Please," asks the stranger, "draw me a sheep." And the pilot realizes that when life's events are too difficult to understand, there is no choice but to succumb to their mysteries. He pulls out pencil and paper . . .

Alex Scarrow

Time Riders

Liam O'Connor should have died at sea in 1912.

Maddy Carter should have died on a plane in 2010.

Sal Vikram should have died in a fire in 2029.

Yet moments before death, someone mysteriously appeared and said, 'Take my hand . . .'

But Liam, Maddy and Sal aren't rescued. They are recruited by an agency that no one knows exists, with only one purpose - to fix broken history. Because time travel is here, and there are those who would go back in time and change the past.

That's why the TimeRiders exist: to protect us. To stop time travel from destroying the world . . .

*'I believe that religious education must be the sole concern
of religious associations'*

Mahatma Gandhi (Political Ethicist)