

Year	Expected key skills	How to give additional support	Websites
7	Be at the expected reading age	Attendance to Rise and Read Encourage reading for pleasure	BBC The Guardian Newsround
8	Be at the expected reading age	Encourage reading for pleasure	BBC The Guardian Newsround
9	Be at the expected reading age	Encourage reading for pleasure	BBC The Guardian Newsround
10	GCSE Specification English Language and English Literature	Encourage reading for pleasure Attend period 7's Complete homework Plan revision Attend parents evening Attend Exam Preparation evening	BBC The Guardian Newsround
11	GCSE Specification English Language and English Literature	Encourage reading for pleasure Attend period 7's Complete homework Plan revision Attend parents evening Attend Exam Preparation evening	BBC The Guardian Newsround

Improve Your Mind, Learn About The World, Be A Better Person

Books – many of these are available in the school library, the English library or you could ask your English teacher to borrow them.

- ✓ **Outliers, The Tipping Point, Blink** – all by Malcolm Gladwell
- ✓ **Tricks of the Mind** by Derren Brown
- ✓ **His Dark Materials Trilogy** by Phillip Pullman
- ✓ **A Christmas Carol** or **Great Expectations** by Charles Dickens
- ✓ Something by a non-British writer – **Arundhati Roy, Haruki Murakami, Paul Coelho**, etc
- ✓ **The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas** by John Boyne
- ✓ **1984** by George Orwell
- ✓ **Brave New World** by Aldous Huxley
- ✓ Poetry – **Simon Armitage** and **Seamus Heaney** are very accessible (and are on the GCSE exam)
- ✓ Performance poetry by people like **Kate Tempest, Dean Atta, Rob Auton, Polar Bear** or **Scroobious Pip** can all be found online or purchased as books.
- ✓ **To Kill A Mockingbird** – Harper Lee
- ✓ **Things Fall Apart** – Chinua Achebe
- ✓ **The Handmaid's Tale** – Margaret Atwood

Films and Documentaries – not the ones you'd normally watch!

- ✓ **Grizzly Man** – Canada – a strange tale about a man who lives with bears and foxes and, ultimately, ends up getting eaten
- ✓ **The Imposter** – France/USA – how on earth did a French man convince an American family he was their long lost son?
- ✓ **Man On Wire** – France/USA – an eccentric Frenchman breaks into the Twin Towers, ties a rope between them and walks a tightrope between them
- ✓ **Project Nim** – USA – how much can you teach a chimpanzee?
- ✓ **Louis Theroux** – Britain – Louis spends time with strange people and communities, investigating what makes them tick. His episode on the Westboro Baptist Church is particularly good.
- ✓ **Food Inc** – USA – what do we really put into our bodies and what effect is it having on our health?
- ✓ **Bhopali** – India – a little-known scandal which killed hundred and made thousands ill in India, covered up by huge American companies

- ✓ **Shooting Dogs** – Zimbabwe – a film about the real-life massacre of innocent people in Zimbabwe in the 1990s
- ✓ **Amelie** – France – a beautiful film about finding love in the strangest places
- ✓ **The Motorcycle Diaries** – Argentina – the true story of Che Guevara and why he became a revolutionary
- ✓ **Beasts of the Southern Wild** – USA – a film about a flood in the south of the USA, very much like the real weather events taking place right now

Podcasts (*with recommended episodes*) – all free on your smart phones and can be listened to anywhere

- ✓ **Revisionist History** – an investigation of things which you thought you knew, but were actually wrong about (*The Big Man Can't Shoot*)
- ✓ **Ted Radio Hour** – experts discuss science, psychology and design in really understandable ways (*Rethinking School, Beyond Tolerance*)
- ✓ **99% Invisible** – a show which tells you how the world works in ways you never would have noticed (*The Yin and Yang of Basketball, The Age of the Algorithm*)
- ✓ **S Town** – a strange character study of a man and a murder (start with episode one!)
- ✓ **Serial** – an investigation into a real-life murder (start with episode one!)
- ✓ **Ear Hustle** – inmates of an American prison talk about what life is really like in jail (*Looking Out*)
- ✓ **Seriously** - BBC radio documentaries on a wide range of subjects: just pick a subject you like the sound of (*The Edge of Life, The Myth of Homosexual Decriminalisation*)
- ✓ **This American Life** – real people tell their unusual and inspiring stories (*Essay B*)
- ✓ **Under the Skin** – Russell Brand speaks to experts in their field about philosophy, politics and current affairs (*Why Won't America Put Its Guns Down?*)

News & Current Affairs

- ✓ **The Guardian** is a common source used in lessons and GCSE exams. Their website and app are free to use.
- ✓ The **BBC** website, **Newsround** and the news are great ways of keeping in touch with the world.
- ✓ There are lots of teen-friendly documentaries online: look out for Reggie Yates and Stacey Dooley.