

Recommended Novels to Read for Your Book Report (9b)

The ones in **bold print** are recommended for students who do not usually read many books, let alone English ones. These titles are relatively short but exciting to read so you will probably manage.

(3) means a hard, (1) is a relatively easy read, (2) is somewhere in between. An asterix* means that it is an annotated edition, explaining some difficult vocab.

The comments on 'impression' are very subjective. So, why not use the internet?

You are to register the title of the book you are going to read with your English teacher by the end of October. If you prefer another title, make sure it is all right with your teacher.

Therefore, it is a good idea to start browsing right now, before these tests and exams start again.

author	title	1-3	subject	impressions
Alexie, Sherman	The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian	1	a native American teenager leaves his reservation to go to an all-white high school	coming-of-age-story, good fun
Cross, Gillian	The Demon Headmaster	1	pupils act like robots but a few outsiders resist the prefects and the 'demon headmaster'.	a gripping read
Dahl, Roald	Matilda	1	a young girl stands up to and gets the better of horrid people, e.g. teachers	a nice read
Frayn, Michael	Spies	3	two boys in post-war Britain, get involved in sinister family secrets	graphic but subtle
Garland, Alex	The Beach	3	a backpacker looks for tropical paradise and finds hell, i.e. drugs and mortal danger	adventure story
Gleitzman, Maurice	Bumface	1	failing parents, a broken home, but kids can turn things around, especially our own 'Bumface'	heart-warming
Haddon, Marc	The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time	2	an autistic boy solves a murder mystery (coming-of-age-story)	long-ish but fun
Hai, Yasmin	The Making of Mr Hai's daughter	3	a Pakistani girl grows up in London, Eastern and Western ways of life in contrast	excellent insight
Hornby, Nick	About a Boy*	2	lonely post-modern Londoners, a man, a boy, and a girl looking for closeness	mildly amusing
Horowitz, Anthony	Stormbreaker	1	13-year old Alex Rider finds, fights and defeats all sorts of criminals	a real page-turner
Horowitz, Anthony	Point Blanc	1	another setting but very much the same plot, another of a total of 7 'A. R.' books	more gripping stuff
Kelman, Stephen	Pigeon English	3	a boy from Ghana trying to survive in London's suburban teenage gangland	sadly rather realistic
Magorian, Michelle	Good Night, Mr Tom	2	a boy, sent to the country to escape the blitz, loses a friend but finds a true home	a wonderfully good story
Nesbit, Edith	The Railway Children	2	three children stand by their mother, catch spies and free their dad from unjust punishment.	a wonderful tearjerker
Norris, Andrew	Aquila	1	two young boys, none too bright, discover ancient history, science and a super machine	too good to be true but nice
Orwell, George	Animal Farm	3	a pessimistic view of the cycle of revolution, abuse of power, another revolution and so forth	poetical and yet realistic
Rennison, Louise	Angus, Thongs and Full Frontal Snogging	2	a girl experiences youthful excitement, anger, passion, hate and utter embarrassment	a bit saucy but nice enough
Sachar, Louis	Holes* (⇒ film)	2	a boy, unjustly dumped in a prison camp, digs holes and unearths the shocking truth	a boy makes it
Swarup, Vikram	Q&A* (⇒ film 'Slumdog Millionaire')	3	modern India, part fairy-tale, part nightmare, a series of memorable episodes	honest, shocking, gripping
Syal, Meera	Anita and Me	2	An Indian-born girl growing up in Midlands village in the 60s	simple but to the point
Wilde, Oscar	Importance of B Earnest, play	2	lighter than air, good English makes the read enjoyable	the best comedy ever
Wilson, Jaqueline	Girls in Love	1	That nice boy looks awfully plain and boring at first. But then...	a really nice read