

Summer reads for *Premières LLCE*

Over the summer, you will have to choose one of the following books and to read it **IN ENGLISH**. You can either buy the book or read it online, do as you wish. Yet, **when school starts in September, you will have to be able to talk about the book you read IN ENGLISH**.



While reading
plot)
=> take notes about the main characters (names and relationships, roles in the
=> write some striking quotations which will help you when you have to
present the novel to your classmates
=> create a mindmap to help you sum up the story/the plot



Classics

***The Call of the Wild*, Jack London.** Classic story of adventure in the Great North, the relation between Man and animals, survival in the wild. It is quite short and quite accessible.

***Treasure Island*, Robert Louis Stevenson.** The canonical pirate story by the Scottish master. X marks the spot! A few movie adaptations, including a Disney version.

***Lord of the Flies*, William Golding.** A group of young boys stranded on a desert island. Coexistence proves to be more complicated than initially planned. Adapted for the screen by Peter Brooks in 1962.

More recent fiction

***The Road*, Cormac McCarthy.** A gloomy dystopian post-apocalyptic road trip. A father and his son aimlessly wander in a dilapidated America, trying to survive. Clearly not the most entertaining book on the list, but a gripping story and quite an accessible read. Also made into a film with Viggo Mortensen in 2009.

***Into the Wild*, Jon Krakauer.** The tragic story of a young American student who decides to leave everything behind, trying to escape a materialist America. His journey across the US will end in frigid Alaska. A sad yet engaging and uplifting story in the end (non-fiction). It was made into a pretty good film by Sean Penn in 2008.

***The Invention of Hugo Cabret*, Brian Selznick** Brian Selznick's books are first made for children but they can clearly strike a chord in adults too. They often cleverly mix text and drawings. A great and moving book about Paris, train stations, the birth of cinema, magic, childhood, friendship, love and all that jazz. Very accessible. The adaptation by Martin Scorsese is a winner too.

***The Fault in our Stars*, John Green.** Despite a medical miracle that has bought her a few years, Hazel's life is threatened by diagnosis. But when a gorgeous plot twist named Augustus Waters suddenly appears at Cancer Kid Support Group, Hazel's story is about to be completely rewritten.

***Wonder*, R.J Palacio.** August Pullman was born with a facial difference that, has prevented him from going to a mainstream school. Starting 5th grade at Beecher Prep, he wants to be treated as an ordinary kid—but his new classmates can't get past Auggie's extraordinary face.

***The Book Thief*, Markus Zusak.** Set in Germany in the years 1939-1943, *The Book Thief* tells the story of Liesel, narrated by Death who has in his possession the book she wrote about these years

***The Hunger Games*, Suzanne Collins.** The Capitol nation of Panem 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 steps forward to take her sister's place in the Games.

***Divergent*, Veronica Roth.** In Beatrice Prior's dystopian Chicago world, society is divided into five factions, each dedicated to the cultivation of a particular virtue. Every year, all sixteen-year-olds must select the faction to which they will devote the rest of their lives. For Beatrice, the decision is between staying with her family and being who she really is—she can't have both. So she makes a choice that surprises everyone, including herself.

***Domechild*, Chiv Ramdas.** In the City, where machines take care of everything, lives Albert, an ordinary citizen with an extraordinary problem: He's being blackmailed into becoming the first person in living memory to actually do something. Forced to go on the run for his life, he finds himself in a shadow world of cyber-junkies, radicals and rebels.

***Passing for White*, Tanya Landman.** It's 1848 in the Deep South of America. Rosa is a slave but her owner is also her father and her fair skin means she can 'pass for white'. With the help of her husband Benjamin, she disguises herself as a young southern gentleman - and Benjamin's master. In this guise, the couple flee the South.

***Until We Win*, Linda Newbury.** A hundred years ago, when women didn't have the vote. This book tells the story of Lizzy Frost, who fought for women's rights and tells about time spent in prison for the cause, or new relationships with other campaigners.

***The Hate U Give*, Angie Thomas.** Starr lives in two worlds : the poor neighborhood where she was born and raised and her posh high school in the suburbs. The uneasy balance between them is shattered when Starr is the only witness to the fatal shooting of her unarmed best friend, Khalil, by a police officer. Now what Starr says could destroy her community. It could also get her killed.

***Becoming*, Michelle Obama.** "My father taught me to work hard, love often and keep my word. My mother showed me how to think for myself and to use my voice. Together they helped me see the value in our story, in my story, in the larger story of our country. Even when it's not pretty or perfect. Even when it's more real than you want it to be. Your story is what you have what you will always have, it is something to own."

***The Consultant*, Rupert Morgan.** They are young, they are ambitious, and they are on a business training seminar on a tropical island when the phones stop working. The electricity is gone. There is not much food and water. Has some kind of global catastrophe happened, or is it part of the training? And if it isn't an exercise, will anyone escape the island alive?

***No One is too Small to Make a Difference*, Greta Thunberg.** This book is a collection of her speeches from climate rallies across Europe to audiences at the UN, the World Economic Forum and the British Parliament

***Extremely Loud and Incredibly Close*, Jonathan Safran Foer.** The book's narrator is a nine-year-old boy named Oskar Schell. In the story, Oskar discovers a key in a vase that belonged to his father, who died a year earlier in the September 11 attacks. The discovery inspires Oskar to search all around New York for information about the key and closure following his father's death.

***I am Malala*, Malala Yousafzai.** The book details the early life of Yousafzai, her father's ownership of schools and activism, the rise and fall of the Tehrik-i-Taliban Pakistan in Swat Valley and the assassination attempt made against Yousafzai on 9 October 2012, when she was aged 15, following her activism for female education. It received a positive critical reception and won several awards, though it has been banned in many schools in Pakistan.

The Bloody Chamber, Angela Carter. *The Bloody Chamber* (or *The Bloody Chamber and Other Stories*) is a collection of short stories by English writer Angela Carter. It was first published in the United Kingdom in 1979 by Gollancz and won the Cheltenham Festival Literary Prize. The stories are all based on fairytales or folk tales.

***Atonement*, Ian McEwan.** Set in three time periods, 1935 England, Second World War England and France, and present-day England, it covers an upper-class girl's half-innocent mistake that ruins lives, her adulthood in the shadow of that mistake, and a reflection on the nature of writing.

***American boys*, Khashayar Khabushani.** Three young brothers leave Los Angeles in the dead of night for Iran, taken by their father from their mother to a country and an ancestral home they barely recognize. They return to the Valley months later, spit back into American life and changed in awful and inexorable ways. Under the annihilating light of the California sun, our protagonist, the youngest brother, tries to piece together a childhood shattered by his father's abuse, a queer adolescence marked by a shy, secret love affair with a boy he meets on the basketball court, and his suddenly-hostile status as a Muslim living under the shadow of 9/11.

***Promise Boys*, Nick Brooks.** The prestigious Urban Promise Prep school might look pristine on the outside, but deadly secrets lurk within. When the principal ends up murdered on school premises and the cops come sniffing around, a trio of students—J.B., Ramón, and Trey—emerge as the prime suspects. They had the means, they had the motive . . . and they may have had the murder weapon. But with all three maintaining their innocence, they must band together to track down the real killer before they are arrested. Or is the true culprit hiding among them?

***Across the Barricades*, Joan Lingard.** 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 . . .

***Normal People*, Sally Rooney.** At school Connell and Marianne pretend not to know each other. He's popular and well-adjusted, star of the school soccer team while she is lonely, proud, and intensely private. But when Connell comes to pick his mother up from her housekeeping job at Marianne's house, a strange and indelible connection grows between the two teenagers - one they are determined to conceal.

***The Giver*, Lois Lowry.** *The Giver* is a 1993 young adult dystopian novel written by American author Lois Lowry and is set in a society which at first appears to be utopian but is revealed to be dystopian as the story progresses. In the novel, the society has taken away pain and strife by converting to "Sameness", a plan that has also eradicated emotional depth from their lives.

***Firekeeper's Daughter*, Angeline Boulley.** The book is a *New York Times* best seller and won the Edgar Allan Poe Award for Best Young Adult Novel in 2022. The book follows Daunis Fontaine, a half-native, half-white young adult who witnesses her friend's murder and becomes involved in an FBI investigation revolving around a new drug.

