**PARKS**

**Year 9 - Parks Tutor Read Aloud Reading Programme Overview**

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| Text | Blurb | Purpose |
| Great Expectations by Charles Dickens | As a small boy at Joe Gargery’s forge, Pip meets two people who will affect his whole life – an escaped convict he is forced to help, and the eccentric Miss Havisham, whose beautiful, cold hearted ward Estella young Pip adores. But when a secret benefactor pays for him to go to London to become a gentleman, Pip never dreams he will meet the dreadful Magwitch again, nor just how wrong his expectations are.. | Canonical English LiteratureImportant cultural knowledgeLinks to Victorian literature in English curriculum – year 7, year 8 and year 10Links to year 7 history study of industrialisation and impact on ordinary people |
| The Book Thief by Markus Zusak | 1939. Nazi Germany. The country is holding its breath. Death has never been busier. Liesel, a nine-year-old girl is living with a foster family on Himmel Street. Her parents have been taken away to a concentration camp. Liesel steals books. This is her story and the story of the inhabitants of her street when the bombs begin to fall. The story is told by Death, who becomes a character you come to respect and even feel sorry for by the end. | Important message about the power of words, stories and booksImportant cultural knowledgeIdeas about mortality and death, suffering and courageIntroduction to an unusual narrative perspectiveLinks to year 9 History and World War Two |
| Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman | Two young people are forced to make a stand in this thought-provoking look at racism and prejudice in an alternate society. Sephy is a Cross – a member of the dark-skinned ruling class. Callus is a Nought – a ‘colourless’ member of the underclass who were once slaves to the Crosses. | Important message of tolerance and resilienceIdeas about identity, segregation and racismIntroduction to dual narrativeLinks to year 8 History and the slave trade |
| Frankenstein by Mary Shelley | Frankenstein tells the story of a committed Science student Victor Frankenstein. Obsessed with discovering the cause of generation and life and bestowing animation upon lifeless matter, Frankenstein assembles a human being from stolen body parts. However, upon bringing it to life, he recoils in horror at the creature’s hideousness. Tormented by isolation and loneliness, the once-innocent creature turns to evil and unleashes a campaign of murderous revenge against his creator. | Canonical English LiteratureIntroduction to Gothic genreImportant cultural knowledgeLinks to Victorian literature in English curriculum across all year groupsIdeas about nature versus nurture, ambition, family, alienation and revenge |
| Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte | Jane comes from nothing but she desires everything life can offer her. And when she finds work as a governess in a mysterious mansion, it seems she has finally met her match with the darkly fascinating Mr Rochester. But Thornfield Hall contains a shameful secret – one that could keep Jane and Rochester apart forever. Can she choose between what is right, and her one chance of happiness? | Canonical English LiteratureImportant cultural knowledgeLinks to Victorian literature in English curriculum – year 7, year 8 and year 10, year 12Women’s struggle for independence |
| The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time by Mark Haddon | A murder mystery like no other, this novel features Christopher Boone, a fifteen-year-old who suffers from Asperger’s syndrome. When he finds a neighbour’s dog murdered, he sets out on a journey which will turn his whole world upside down. | Unique narrative voiceIntroduction to mystery novel genreLinks to year 7 short stories |