

Target

Learn to love reading

Regardless of what you have planned when you have some time off, you should always have a good book by your side. Of course, with so many wonderful works of literature to choose from it can be an impossible task to pick something appropriate, so here are a few suggestions

STUDENTS are often overwhelmed by the sheer number of homework assignments and subject material to be revised for their exams. However, reading is not something you should abandon because of homework. It is a great way to continue broadening your horizons, building your vocabulary as well as strengthening your comprehension skills. Here are a couple of books you may want to read during your free time.

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings by Maya Angelou: this is the first

autobiography of famous African-American poet Maya Angelou. It describes in detail her childhood in a fundamentally racist and misogynistic town, and how she grows from an insecure and powerless little girl into a confident and outspoken teenager who takes control of her own life through the power of words and stories.

Animal Farm by George Orwell: a timeless classic, *Animal Farm* is about animals that rebel against their cruel and incompetent human owner in the hope of enjoying equality and reaping the fruits of their own labours. Tragically, they end up becoming the slaves of a tyranny led by none other than the pigs themselves. Originally meant to be an allegory about the Communist government of Soviet Russia, it is still very relevant today as a critique of governance and those who manipulate politics for their own purposes.

The Diary Of A Young Girl by Anne Frank: Anne Frank was barely a teenager when her family was forced into hiding during the Nazi occupation of the Netherlands. This book is the compilation of her actual diary entries, from the day her older sister was ordered to work at a Nazi camp, to her capture by the Nazi forces. More than just a story of how a teenager grew up, it stands as a testament to both the depravity of World War II, and to the endless human capacity for hope.

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams: Arthur Dent's life is turned upside down when his house –

and the rest of planet Earth – is suddenly demolished by Volgons to make way for an intergalactic bypass. Arthur knows the unfortunately named alien Ford Prefect, who came to Earth to do research for an entry in *The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy*. The hapless pair get on the Volgons' spaceship just in time to avoid instant annihilation – prompting an interstellar mission to learn the answers to life, the universe and everything.

Stargirl by Jerry Spinelli: Stargirl, real name Susan Caraway, sings to her fellow students on their birthdays, cheers for both sides during inter-school sport events, dances in the rain, and leaves spare change on pavements for children to find. Needless to say, her behaviour stands out in the conformity of Mica Area High School, and despite his misgivings, Leo Borlock, a fellow highschooler, becomes attracted to her. This is their story.

Other good books for young adult readers include the His Dark Materials series, *The Book Thief*, *The Great Gatsby*, *To Kill a Mockingbird*, *The Old Man and The Sea*, and *Frankenstein*. Of course, this is not an exhaustive list of things to read. Think of this as a starting point, a launch pad for you to go forth and discover new works of literature! Try to set aside time for reading, no matter how frivolous or serious the subject matter is. After all, to quote the prize-winning journalist Anna Quindlen, "Books are the plane, and the train, and the road. They are the destination, and the journey. They are home."