

GANGS & REBELS READING LIST

Alcock, Vivien **The Trial of Anna Cotman** **F ALC:V**

When Anna arrives in town, all she wants is a friend at her local comprehensive school. She makes friends with Lindy who persuades her to join the Society of Masks run by Jeremy, Lindy's brother. Anna is plunged into a weird world of oath taking, rituals and tests where the commonplace taboos of childhood and the power of promises locked her into danger.

Banville, Vincent **Hennessy** **F BAN:V**

Successful in his objective to be expelled from a loathed boarding school, 15-year-old Hennessy enrolls at St. Jude's, a co-educational day school much more to his liking. Hennessy proceeds through both unintentional and deliberate escapades in this Irish school story with a mix of disarming innocence and diabolical teenage schemes.

Bone, Ian **Fat Boy Saves the World** **F BON:I**

Susan, boarding school reject, shaves her head and returns home to her parents' mansion - the war zone. It's the scene of many battles, watched over by her bloated older brother. His name is Neat, he hasn't spoken for eight years and he's the subject of his father's internationally award-winning book 'The silent boy'.

Bowler, Tim **Starseeker** **F BOW:T**

Luke has good hands. Everybody says so. Good for playing the piano, just like his father used to, and good for climbing. Now Skin and the gang want him to do some climbing, too. They want him to climb into Mrs Little's house and look for something to steal. But nobody is prepared for what he finds.

Burgess, Melvin **Smack** **F BUR:M**

When 14-year-old Tar runs away from home, he thinks he's found the perfect life. He's got his girlfriend, Gemma, a place in an abandoned building to live, and new people to meet. And when Gemma and her friends invite him to take his first hit of smack, he thinks things will only get better, but smack slowly changes everything and not for the better.

Carmody, Isobelle **The Gathering** **F CAR:I**

An exciting story about a sinister town and a group of teenagers who together have the power to rid the town of evil if they can unravel the messages from the past.

Chebatte, Helen **Bro** **F CHE:H**

What happens when you mix teenage boys, a fight club and ethnic rivalries? You get war. Romeo Makhoulf knows the rules. Stick with your own kind. Don't dob on your mates or even on your enemies. Respect the family. But even unwritten rules are made for breaking.

Collington, Peter **The coming of the surfman** **PB COL**

The adventures of rival surf gangs The Hammers and The Nails.

Cormier, Robert **The Chocolate War** **F COR:R**

Trinity School for Boys is completely dominated by an underground gang called the Vigils. Brother Leon, the acting Headmaster, uses them to ensure he makes a lot of money in the school's fund-raising drive. When Gerry refuses to sell chocolates, he is at first a hero but then becomes a victim, alone and terribly vulnerable.

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Dickens, Charles **Oliver Twist** **F DIC:C**
Dickens re-creates the London of the early nineteenth century with its underworld of pimps, thieves and prostitutes. The characters are brilliantly drawn, especially those of Fagin, Bill Sykes, Nancy and the Artful Dodger and Oliver himself. Dickens combines vivid realism with and fairy-tale brilliance in this study of innocence betrayed and then triumphant.

Fitzgerald, F. Scott **The Great Gatsby** **F FIT:F**
This exemplary novel of the Jazz Age has been acclaimed by generations of readers. The story of the fabulously wealthy Jay Gatsby and his love for the beautiful Daisy Buchanan, of lavish parties on Long Island at a time when The New York Times noted "gin was the national drink and sex the national obsession," it is an exquisitely crafted tale of America in the 1920s.

Fowler, Thurley **The Green Wind** **F FOW:T**
Jennifer wrote stories in old exercise books. Her family struggled to make a living in their fruit farm. She tried hard to make a best friend but her quick temper and sharp tongue did not help. And the day she got so angry with her brother that she took the valves off his bicycle tyres had dire consequences.

Fusillo, Archimede **Bruises: Boys Don't Cry** **F FUS:A**
Bunkhouse five - a scene of power struggles, hidden agendas and psychodramas. There's Brad with the troubled past, and fat, harmless Mountain-Man Singh. There's spineless Anthony and charismatic, dangerous Ape who keeps constant pressure on the group. And Falco, who never wanted to come on camp - and who has just been made leader.

Gadd, Jeremy **Escaping the Triad** **F GAD:J**
A story of murder and betrayal, desperation and friendship set in the gold rush period and the Lambing Flats Riots of 1861. Escaping the loathsome grasp of home justice, My Li heads for Australian goldfields aboard the Dayspring. But My Li and Kinqa, his wise companion, are relentlessly hunted by the Triad. It looks like there can be only one conclusion.

Gardner, Graham **Inventing Elliot** **F GAR:E**
Elliot's life has been spinning out of control. He would give anything to get back to normal. Now at his new school, he has a chance to reinvent himself. He will make himself so cool, so out of reach, that no one will hurt him ever again. The plan succeeds beyond his wildest dreams. And then beyond his wildest nightmares.

Gibbons, Alan **A Strange Land** **F GIB:A**
The Blokes rule Jack's school. They're bullies, racists and meaner than anyone around. And they've targeted Jack's new friend Hassan as their latest victim. Hassan has escaped war in his homeland only to be faced with the wrath of the Blokes. Can Jack stand up for his friend or will he break under pressure?

Golding, William **Lord of the Flies** **F GOL:W**
The story of a group of boys who, after a plane crash, set up a fragile community on a previously uninhabited island. As memories of home recede and the blood from frenzied pig-hunts arouses them, the boys' childish fear turns into something deeper and more primitive.

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Hopper, Nancy J. **Wake me When the Band Starts Playing** **F HOP:N**

16-year-old Mike Thatcher is watching life pass away and feeling useless just watching television and wasting away. His struggles tell a humorous tale which shows the underdog's feelings towards friendship, love and self-esteem.

Johnson, Pete **The Protectors** **F JOH:P**

It started for the best of reasons - to protect the weak against bullies. But success brings power, the sort of power that can change people out of all recognition.

Kemp, Ross **Ganglands : Brazil** **F KEM:R**

Deep in the heart of Rio, a new gang has emerged in the favelas. A gang with a sinister reputation, heavy-duty weaponry and a seemingly limitless drug supply. The gang is always one step ahead of the harassed Brazilian drug enforcement agencies - who is backing them?

Kerr, M.E. **The Son of Someone Famous** **F KER:M**

Adam was trying desperately to escape the shadow of his world-famous father when he meets Brenda who is also trying to escape an overbearing parent. Together they come up with a miraculous idea. Adam calls 'Nothing Power' but Brenda coins the term 'Going Steady'. But is this idea really so miraculous?

Klein, Robin **Tearaways** **F KLE:R**

Ten short stories about different, unpredictable problem people - tearaways - who behave in totally unexpected ways.

Klemm, Barry **The Tenth Hero** **F KLE:B**

Lee Parsons, an Australian boy at a private school in England, absconds to make his way back to Australia, and his mother. In the process, Lee manages to frustrate his unpleasant father and his ambitions. There is a map of the route Lee follows, as he uses his brains, coincidental contacts, and travels on boat, truck, plane to reach his goal.

Marsden, John **The Great Gatenby** **F MAR:J**

Erle Gatenby finds the adjustment to a private boarding school rather difficult. He is constantly in trouble. However, his success on the school swimming team and his friendship with Melanie Tozer helps him cope with the situation.

Masson, Sophie **Emilio** **F MAS:S**

For high-school student Emilio Garcia Lopez, it's an ordinary school day. But that evening the knock on the door announcing the arrival of his police-officer cousin Juanita, flanked by a tall man in the uniform of the Federal Police, will turn his ordinary day into the beginning of a long nightmare.

Masters, Anthony **The Drop** **F MAS:A**

In St. Peter's boys' school there is a war going on between the Geeks and the Sweats, a war that is getting sicker and more vicious every day. A second Sweat has just been found hanging upside down over a filthy old toilet, legs strapped to a beam and the message "I'VE BEEN DROPPED" scrawled across his forehead in black texta. But there is worse to come...

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McCuaig, Sandra **Spaghetti Connections** **F MCC:S**

Meet Sam and Lucio, sons of strict Italian migrants who want their children to get a good education and become important citizens of their new country. Also Honey and Sugar, the boys' streetwise persecutors from the sleazy end of town, and the local fuzz who know a lot more than they ought to about the 'crop' that all four become involved with.

McCutcheon, Elsie **The Rat War** **F MCC:E**

Morna and Nicholas are sent to live with an aunt in a Suffolk village just after the end of the Second World War. Morna takes to village life and becomes the leader of the Bugg Children in the village's long-standing feud. Nicholas abhors the violence and his only friend is a rat. The coming of the 'rat war' in the guise of the rat catcher leads him to drastic action.

McVeity, Jan **Where Are the Billabongs?** **F MCV:J**

A group of city kids with few survival skills and an inability to trust or understand anyone who is different are stranded in the Australian Alps. With no food or shelter, they must struggle to learn enough about the land and each other to endure and survive.

Metzenthien, David **Falling Forward** **F MET:D**

Troy Spinks, tattooed with a dragon, is a shooting star. Bruce Daffin, tattooed with loneliness, is barely a survivor. Their friendship is the beginning of the end.

Miklowitz, Gloria D. **The Emerson High Vigilantes** **F MIK:G**

Paul Ross, editor of the Emerson High paper, is drawn into the secret Knights of Honour society when he agrees to run Brock Reinhardt's campaign for class president. Paul is persuaded that the Knights' goals are legitimate and necessary. What other group dares to crack down on the vandalism and drug-dealing on campus and protect the innocent?

Mitchell, Euan **Feral Tracks** **F MIT:E**

Survival on the road means growing up fast. 'Feral Tracks' is based on the true story of the author as a 16-year-old schoolboy who ran away from home with four dollars in his pocket and hitchhiked around Australia.

Monk, Scott **Boyz 'R' Us** **F MON:S**

It's a long, mad ride from Summer Bay. Chicks, babes, cars and music; bored kids and shouting mothers; fathers that suck on a bottle to put themselves to sleep; and TV sets blaring mindlessly. Race tensions are hotting up in Marrickville and the media want a gang war so badly they nearly start one.

Monk, Scott **Raw** **F MON:S**

Brett is on his last chance - sent to The Farm for rehabilitation. The Farm is in outback NSW, hundreds of miles from Brett's home in Sydney, and he is determined it is not going to change him. Despite himself, however, Brett is influenced by the people he meets there, especially Sam the ex-stockman warder, and Caitlyn, the local girl he falls for.

Myers, Walter Dean **The Mouse Rap** **F MYE:W**

During an eventful summer in Harlem, fourteen-year-old Mouse and his friends fall in and out of love and search for a hidden treasure from the days of Al Capone.

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Myers, Walter Dean Scorpions

F MYE:W

Jamal, who is pressured to become leader of the Scorpions gang, worries about school, family, and the rough kids on the street. When a fellow gang member gives him a gun, Jamal suddenly gains a new level of respect from his enemies. A realistic look at a boy who wants to do the right thing but gets caught up in the culture of violence.

Nichols, Chris The Ziggurat

F NIC:C

Steve and his vicious gang control the whole school. Robyn wants to stop them, but is too weak on her own. New arrival Jake looks as though he wants to join them. Strange, mystical Laura is certain that the answer lies in the greater power of The Ziggurat - a lonely and compelling tower at the top of which the final terrifying confrontation takes place.

Parry, Glyn L.A. Postcards

F PAR:G

When Jamie's mum died his father parked him with elderly relatives and took off for America 'to get over it', promising to come back. 14 months and 3 schools later Jamie is still waiting, and filling in the time as destructively as he can. Then he discovers Margi, talented and beautiful...

Paulsen, Gary The Car

F PAU:G

Terry's relationship with his parents is so bad it takes him a few days to realize he has been abandoned. Both parents assume that he is with the other and Terry does nothing to correct this assumption. He begins to build a Blakely Bearcat - a kit car which was given to Terry's father. Once assembled, Terry sets off from Cleveland to locate his uncle in Portland.

Phipson, Joan Hit and Run

F PHI:J

A spoiled youth drives a Ferrari at breakneck speed through the town and hits a baby carriage. On the run, he meets up with Constable Sutton with whom he forms an ambivalent relationship which changes the course of his life.

Pittaway, Kal Falling into Place

F PIT:K

Austin is a teenage boy who has gained a bad reputation for rebellious acts against the law. He goes to a farm for rehabilitation. The man in charge of this new experimental establishment at the farm, Mr Bolt, leaves much to be desired. Austin has to come to terms with himself and look forward to the rest of his life.

Pohl, Peter Johnny, My Friend

F POH:P

Johnny appears out of nowhere to become a part-time member of the gang - part-time because his presence is ephemeral. Chris, the narrator, develops a close friendship with Johnny and finds it difficult to cope with Johnny's repeated and unexplained absences, and the mystery which surrounds his whole being.

Powell, Randy Is Kissing a Girl Who Smokes Like Licking an Ashtray?

F POW:R

Biff: - weird, wild-haired, recovering pinball addict. 18 and looks 14 and that drives him crazy. Can't talk to girls without freezing up and isn't quite sure about the human race in general. Biff's immediate concern is Tommie, the girl he's had a crush on for the past twenty-three months. Maybe it's time he got up the nerve to say more to her than just "Hi".
