



Festive Reading List

If you have any extra time over this Christmas period, and the weather outside is frightful, try some of these reading suggestions to get you in the festive spirit!

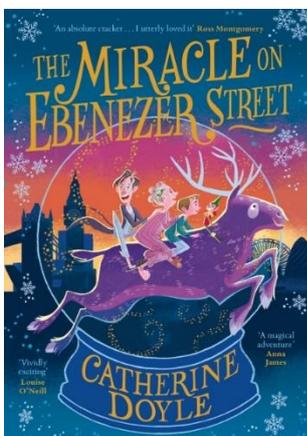
The classic



A *Christmas Carol* by Charles Dickens

An oldie, but a goldie! Seeing the hateful Ebenezer Scrooge turn into the epitome of the Christmas spirit never gets old. We teach it in Y7 at HTCS and it is still available as a GCSE text.

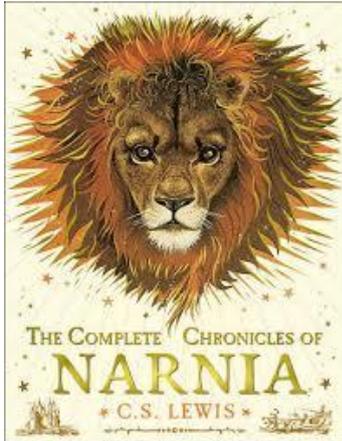
A new classic?



A stunning modern reimagining of Charles Dickens' beloved classic, *A Christmas Carol*.

George is about to spend his third Christmas without his mum. Since she died, George's life has felt dull and grey; his dad has thrown himself into his work and has no time for family, and definitely no time for Christmas.

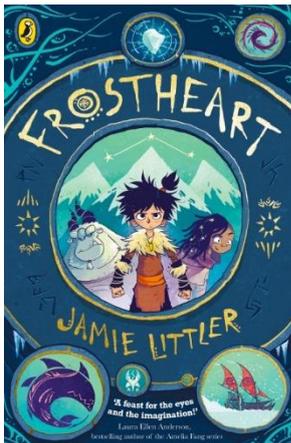
Other festive student reads



The Chronicles of Narnia by C.S. Lewis

The frozen world of this classic fantasy series always conjures up the feeling of winter and therefore Christmas. With 12 books to sink your teeth into, this should keep you busy for at least the festive holidays

Frostheart by Jamie Litter



Ash must board the Frostheart, a sleigh packed full of daring explorers if he's to find his family. Bursting with brilliant illustrated characters, heart-stopping adventure and tons of laughs, this magical tale is perfect for fans of *Nevermoor*, *Frozen* and *How to Train Your Dragon!*

Below are a selection of books that you may want to read over Christmas, not because they are related to Christmas but just for sheer pleasure!

Year 7

Freedom (1783) by Catherine Johnson

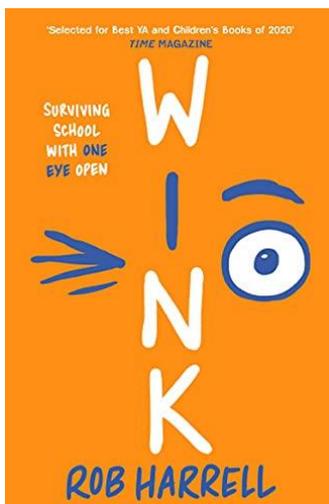
Nathaniel doesn't want to go on a ship and leave his family but he is a slave, it is 1783, and he has no choice. The one hope he clings to is a chance of freedom when he reaches England.



Year 8

Wink by Rob Harrell

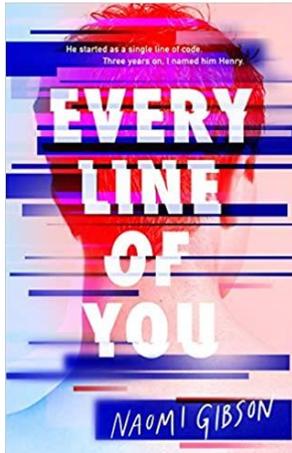
This follows the life of a boy with a diagnosis of eye cancer, based on the author's real life experience. Whilst striving to achieve normality, Ross finds imaginative and innovative ways to get through life at school and home.



Year 9

Every Line of You by Naomi Gibson

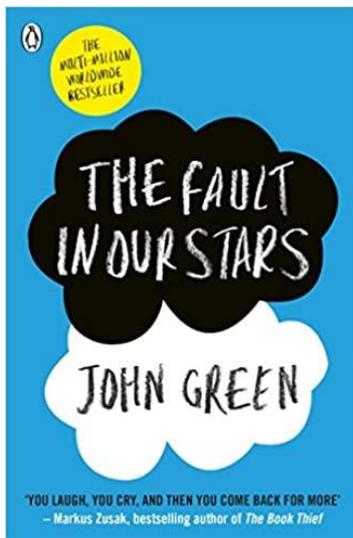
When Linda builds an AI to fill a void in her life, nothing can prepare her for what happens when Henry turns from a computer in to an overprotective defender.



Year 10

The Fault in our Stars by John Green

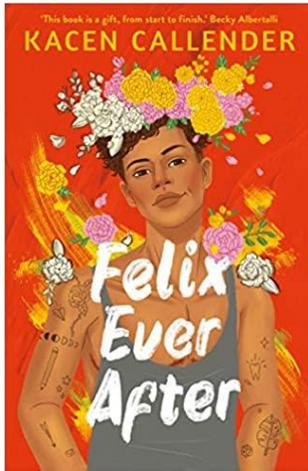
A stunning love story where terminally ill Hazel meets Augustus and changes her life in ways she could never have imagined.



Year 11

***Felix Everafter* by Kacen Callender**

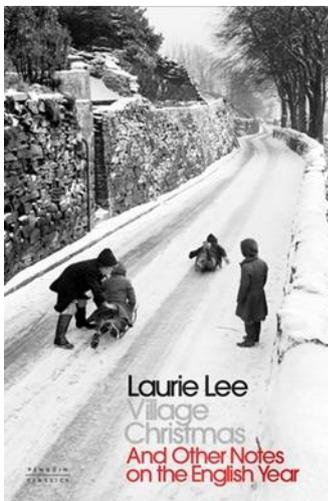
Teen Felix Love allows us an unfiltered peek into his world of angst, romantic longing and bullying as he reaches a realisation that he may never find the love he craves.



Parent/carer recommendation

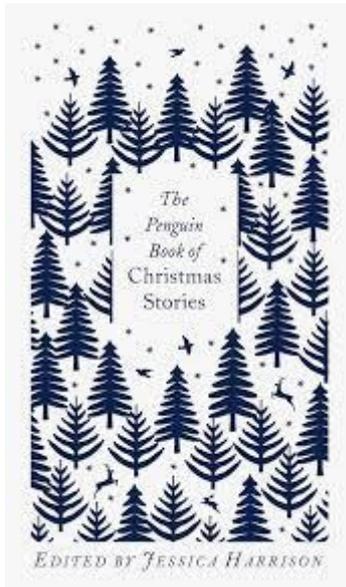
***Village Christmas* by Laurie Lee**

From the author of *Cider With Rosie*, *Village Christmas* is a moving, lyrical portrait of England through the changing years and seasons.



The Penguin Book of Christmas Stories

This is a collection of the most magical, moving, chilling and surprising Christmas stories from around the world, taking us from frozen Nordic woods to glittering Paris, a New York speakeasy to an English country house, bustling Lagos to midnight mass in Rio, and even outer space.



***Fifty Words for Snow* by Nancy Campbell**

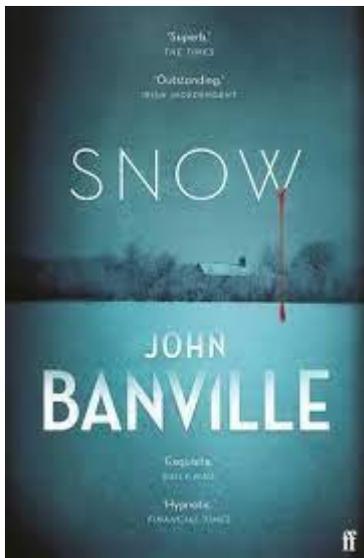
From mountain tops and frozen seas to city parks and desert hills, writer and Arctic traveller Nancy Campbell digs deep into the meanings of fifty words for snow. Under her gaze, each of these linguistic snow crystals offers a whole world of myth and story.



***Snow* by John Banville**

Following the discovery of the corpse of a highly respected parish priest at Ballyglass House - the Co. Wexford family seat of the aristocratic, secretive Osborne family - Detective Inspector St John Strafford is called in from Dublin to investigate.

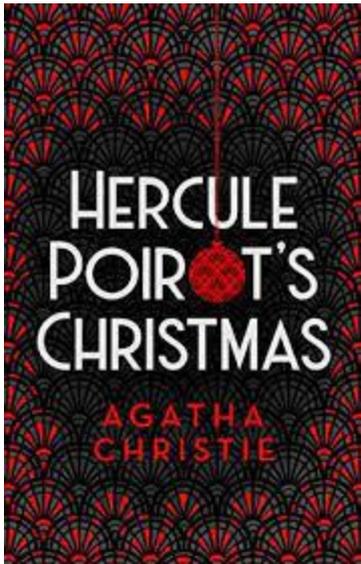
Strafford faces obstruction from all angles, but carries on determinedly in his pursuit of the murderer. However, as the snow continues to fall over this ever-expanding mystery, the people of Ballyglass are equally determined to keep their secrets.



***Hercule Poirot's Christmas* by Agatha Christie**

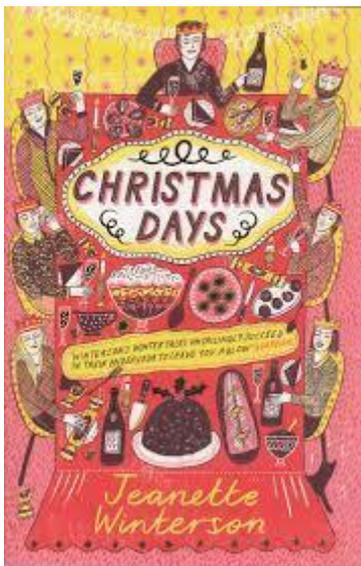
It is Christmas Eve. The Lee family reunion is shattered by a deafening crash of furniture, followed by a high-pitched wailing scream. Upstairs, the tyrannical Simeon Lee lies dead in a pool of blood, his throat slashed. But when Hercule Poirot, who is staying in the village with a friend for Christmas, offers to assist, he finds an atmosphere not of mourning but of mutual suspicion. It seems

everyone had their own reason to hate the old man.



***Christmas Days: 12 Stories and 12 Feasts for 12 Days* by
Jeanette Winterson**

A warm, wise curio, *Christmas Days* blends fiction, recipes and anecdotes for a celebration of togetherness and forgiveness, as full of Winterson's love of people as the traditions of the season.



Christmas Poems by Carol Ann Duffy

A beautiful collection of illustrated poems from the Poet Laureate.

