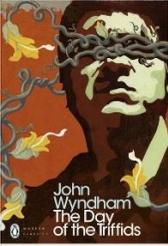
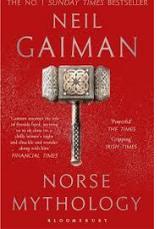
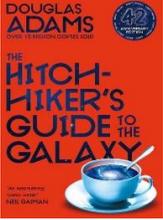
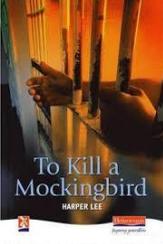
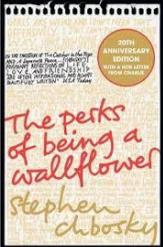
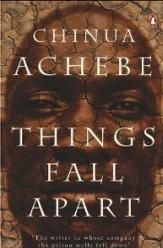


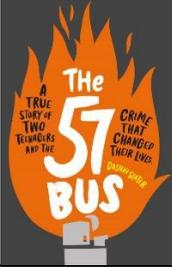
Coombeshead Academy – Registration and the Tutor Reading Programme

At Coombeshead, form tutors read to all students from Years 7 to Year 10 every morning. The books have been chosen to introduce our students to a diverse and challenging literary canon. Here is a list of the books for **Year 10**, together with some information about each one.

Book Title and Author	Cover	Synopsis
<p><i>The Day of the Triffids</i> by John Wyndham</p>		<p>Set in a post-apocalyptic southern England, probably in the 1960's-1970's this novel explores the consequences of genetic engineering and the fallacy of human superiority. When Bill Masen wakes up blindfolded in hospital there is a bitter irony in his situation as he realizes that he is the only person who can see: almost everyone else has been blinded by a meteor shower. Now, with civilization in chaos, the triffids - huge, venomous, carnivorous 'walking' plants, can have their day.</p>
<p><i>Norse Mythology</i> by Neil Gaiman</p>		<p>The great Norse myths have inspired so much of modern fiction. Tales of dwarfs and frost giants, of treasure and magic, and of Asgard, home to the gods: Odin the all-father, highest and oldest of the Aesir; his mighty son Thor, whose hammer Mjollnir makes the mountain giants tremble; Loki, wily and handsome, reliably unreliable in his lusts; and Freya, more beautiful than the sun or the moon, who spurns those who seek to control her. All human emotions are represented in the tales of the Scandinavian gods and goddesses.</p>
<p><i>The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy</i> by Douglas Adams</p>		<p>Anyone who has ever felt powerless in the face of bureaucracy will recognise the emotions experienced by Arthur Dent. Fortunately, Douglas Adams has exposed the absurdity of the situation to great comic effect. Seconds before the Earth is demolished to make way for a new hyperspace express route, Arthur Dent is rescued by his best friend, Ford Prefect, who happens to be an alien. With an assortment of fellow travellers, they journey through space, carrying a towel and a book inscribed with the words: DON'T PANIC.....</p>
<p><i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> by Harper Lee</p>		<p>Published in the 1960's, thirty years after the events portrayed in the novel, the themes still resonate today. The story, set in Maycomb Alabama, follows lawyer Atticus Finch's attempts to prove the innocence of Tom Robinson, a black man who has been wrongly accused of raping a white woman. It is narrated by Scout Finch, his six-year-old daughter who lives with him and her ten-year-old brother Jem. It is a trial no-one expects Atticus to win. Bildungsroman -a novel dealing with one person's formative years or spiritual education.</p>

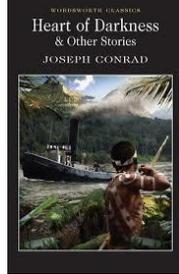
<p><i>Beloved</i> by Toni Morrison</p>		<p>Set in the mid 1800's this is a story with supernatural overtones. At Sweet Home in Kentucky, an era is ending as slavery comes under attack from the abolitionists. The worlds of Halle and Paul D. are to be destroyed in a cataclysm of torment and agony. The world of Sethe, however, is to turn from one of love to one of violence and death - the death of Sethe's baby daughter Beloved, whose name is the single word on the tombstone, who died at her mother's hands, and who will return to claim retribution.</p>
<p><i>The Perks of Being a Wallflower</i> by Stephen Chbosky</p>		<p>This novel addresses some challenging themes as the narrator, Charlie, comes of age and matures physically, emotionally and sexually. Set in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania in the 1990's Charlie is a freshman. Shy, introspective, intelligent yet socially awkward, he is a wallflower, caught between trying to live his life and trying to run from it. Charlie is trying to navigate his way through uncharted territory – first dates, family dramas and new friends. He can't stay on the sidelines forever.</p>
<p><i>More Than This</i> by Patrick Ness</p>		<p>When a boy called Seth drowns, desperate and alone in his final moments he is living in America. But then he wakes. How is that possible? He remembers dying, so how is he here? And where is this place? What's going on? Seth begins a search for answers, hoping that he might not be alone, that there might be more than just this... The more he learns the less he understands. Increasingly he asks himself who and what is real as he struggles to comprehend what has happened.</p>
<p><i>Things Fall Apart</i> by Chinua Achebe</p>		<p>Set in the late 1880's, in the village of Umuofia, Nigeria this novel explores the culture, traditions and beliefs of the Igbo and the impact of colonisation. Okonkwo is the greatest wrestler and warrior alive, and his fame spreads throughout West Africa like a bush-fire in the harmattan. But when he accidentally kills a clansman, things begin to fall apart. Then Okonkwo returns from exile to find missionaries and colonial governors have arrived in the village. With his world thrown radically off-balance he can only hurtle towards tragedy.</p>

The 57 Bus
by Dashka Slater



With challenging and complex themes of institutional racism, hate crimes, trans and non-binary identity, reconciliation, forgiveness, hope and bravery this is a true story. Sasha was born male but identifies as agender, wears skirts and attends a private school. Richard is an African American who attends a rough public school. Every day, they catch the same bus home. And one day, messing about, Richard flicks the flame of his lighter to Sasha's skirt, and Sasha wakes up in a ball of flame..... One moment that changes both their lives forever.

Heart of Darkness
by Joseph Conrad



Set in what is now the Democratic Republic of Congo this adventure story is based on historical events. The author explores the evils of colonisation, the exploitation of the indigenous population and moral corruption of the colonisers. The narrator, Charles Marlow, has been employed by a Belgium ivory trading company to bring back a cargo ship from the Congo River. Once there he journeys deep into the interior in search of the company's agent Kurtz, once a 'civilised' man but now a brutal tyrant driven mad by his time in the jungle.