



In celebration of International Women's Day and World Book Week, we encourage all of our students to challenge themselves by reading books that explore the lives of women across time and the world.

Please see below for books suggested for different age groups:

Age 11+

'Little Women' by Louisa May Alcott - *This uplifting classic about sisterhood is still as relevant and empowering today as it was when it was first published in 1868. A charming story which follows the beloved March sisters, Meg, Jo, Beth and Amy from childhood through to womanhood.*

'You Don't Know What War Is' by Yeva Skalietska - *written by a 12-year-old Ukrainian, this extraordinary diary account of the war in Ukraine presents a poignant personal journey of pain and hope*

'Carrie's War' by Nina Bawden - *One of the most loved and enduring wartime novels, Carrie's War is a modern classic.*

'You Have the Power: Find Your Strength and Believe You Can' by Leah Williamson - *Leah Williamson, captain of the England women's football team, as she shows you that you can be a leader at any age, and that huge things can happen when you believe in yourself!*

Age 13+

'Things A Bright Girls Can Do' by Sally Nicholls - *Through rallies and marches, in polite drawing rooms and freezing prison cells and the poverty-stricken slums of the East End, three courageous young women join the fight for the vote.*

'Becoming' by Michelle Obama - *An intimate, powerful, and inspiring memoir by the former First Lady of the United States.*

'The Hate U Give' by Angie Thomas - *A powerful and brave YA novel about what prejudice looks like in the 21st century.*

'I Am Malala' by Malala Yousafzai - *I Am Malala will make you believe in the power of one person's voice to inspire change in the world.*

'Jane Eyre' by Charlotte Bronte – *a passionate depiction of a woman's search for equality and freedom on her own terms in Victorian England.*

Age 16+

'Mary Barton' by Elizabeth Gaskell - *Gaskell's remarkable first novel portrays a love that defies the rigid boundaries of class with tragic consequences.*

'We Should All Be Feminists' by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie - *a personal and powerful essay*

'Girl, Woman, Other' by Bernadine Evaristo - *This novel follows the lives of twelve very different characters in the UK from varying generations and social classes over the course of several decades. An inspiring read about modern Britain and womanhood.*

'Wild' by Cheryl Strayed - *Cheryl Strayed decides to solo hike eleven-hundred miles of the west coast of America on her own, despite having no prior hiking experience. An uplifting, fierce and funny memoir of survival and an inspiring journey of self-discovery.*

'A Thousand Splendid Suns' by Khalid Hosseini - *Set in 1992 in an Afghanistan ravaged by war, this book tells the tale of Mariam and Laila - women from two generations brought together by war and loss. As they endure the ever-escalating dangers around them, they form an unlikely bond as strong as the ties between mother and daughter.*

'I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings' by Maya Angelou - *Maya Angelou's autobiography explores her childhood with her grandmother in the American South during the 1930s. This essential coming-of-age story tells of her joyous and painful memories of her life from age three through to sixteen.*