

# Fourteen by 14 *Reading List*



MAIDSTONE  
GRAMMAR SCHOOL

FOUNDED 1549





# 'Fourteen by 14' Reading List

Our 'Fourteen by 14' programme lists fiction and non-fiction books that all Maidstonians are asked to read by the time they finish Year 9.

This list is not extensive at all, but we often feel people look in the wrong places for advice. Literature is a vast world of classics, innovations, science, sport, art and beyond. Hopefully, you will find fourteen books on here that you love... or they may just provide the catalyst to find something else! Have a look at the following 30 reading ideas...



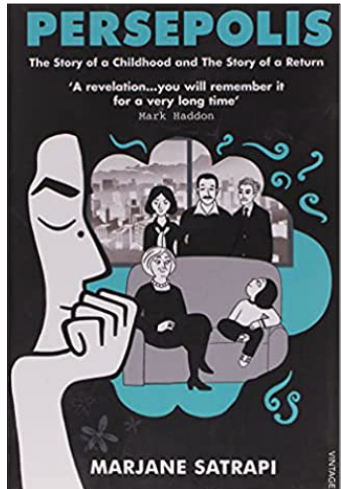


# Idea 1

Did you know Graphic Novels (or dare I say, comics...) have become ever more literary? You could explore the following if you just need something to get you started in forming a new habit...

## Persepolis

by Marjane Satrapi



The intelligent and outspoken child of radical Marxists, and the great-granddaughter of Iran's last emperor, Satrapi bears witness to a childhood uniquely entwined with the history of her country. Persepolis paints an unforgettable portrait of daily life in Iran and of the bewildering contradictions between home life and public life.

## Maus

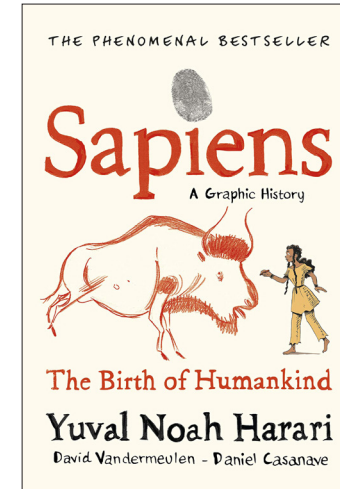
by Art Spiegelman



Maus tells the story of Vladek Spiegelman, a Jewish survivor of Hitler's Europe, and his son, a cartoonist coming to terms with his father's story. Approaching the unspeakable through the diminutive (the Nazis are cats, the Jews mice), Vladek's harrowing story of survival is woven into the author's account of his tortured relationship with his aging father. Against the backdrop of guilt brought by survival, they stage a normal life of small arguments and unhappy visits, studying the bloody pawprints of history and tracking its meaning for those who come next.

## Sapiens

by Yuval Noah Harari



In this first volume of the adaptation of his ground-breaking book, renowned historian Yuval Harari tells the story of humankind's creation and evolution, exploring the ways in which biology and history have defined us and enhanced our understanding of what it means to be "human". From examining the role evolving humans have played in the global ecosystem to charting the rise of empires, Sapiens challenges us to reconsider accepted beliefs, connect past developments with contemporary concerns, and view specific events within the context of larger ideas.

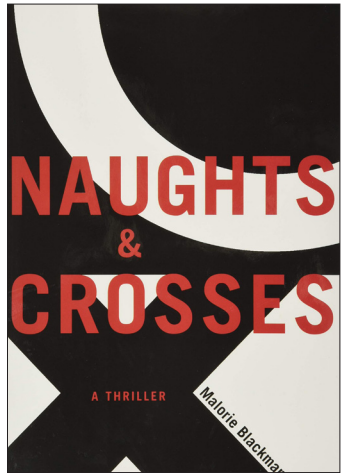




# Idea 2:

There really are some modern classics out there... these are the books that we find young people reading and they simply can't put them down!

## Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman

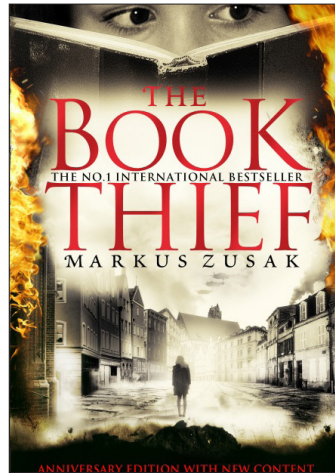


Sephy is a Cross: dark-skinned and beautiful, she lives a life of privilege and power. But she's lonely, and burns with injustice at the world she sees around her.

Callum is a nought: pale-skinned and poor, he's considered to be less than nothing - a blanker, there to serve Crosses - but he dreams of a better life.

They've been friends since they were children, and they both know that's as far as it can ever go. Noughts and Crosses are fated to be bitter enemies - love is out of the question.

## The Book Thief by Markus Zusak



By her brother's graveside, Liesel's life is changed forever when she picks up a single object, abandoned in the snow. It is The Gravedigger's Handbook, and this is her first act of book thievery. So begins Liesel's love affair with books and words, and soon she is stealing from Nazi book-burnings, the mayor's wife's library . . . wherever there are books to be found.

But these are dangerous times, and when Liesel's foster family hides a Jew in their basement, nothing will ever be the same again.

## Bog Child by Siobhan Dowd



Digging for peat in the mountain with his Uncle Tally, Fergus finds the body of a child, and it looks like she's been murdered. As Fergus tries to make sense of the mad world around him - his brother on hunger-strike in prison, his growing feelings for Cora, his parents arguing over the Troubles, and him in it up to the neck, blackmailed into acting as courier to God knows what, a little voice comes to him in his dreams, and the mystery of the bog child unfurls.



## Never Let Me Go *by Kazuo Ishiguro*



Narrated by Kathy, now 31, *Never Let Me Go* dramatises her attempts to come to terms with her childhood at the seemingly idyllic Hailsham School and with the fate that has always awaited her and her closest friends in the wider world. A story of love, friendship, and memory, *Never Let Me Go* is charged throughout with a sense of the fragility of life.

## The Hunger Games *by Suzanne Collins*



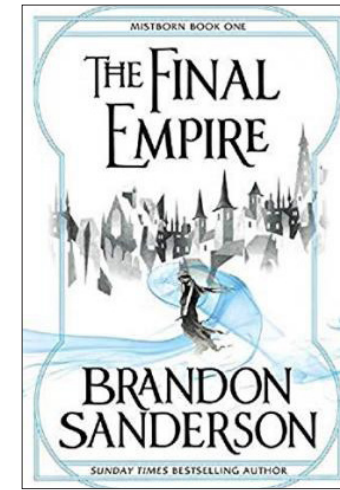
Set in a dark vision of the near future, a terrifying reality TV show is taking place.

**There is only one rule: kill or be killed.**

When sixteen-year-old Katniss Everdeen steps forward to take her younger sister's place in the games, she sees it as a death sentence.

But Katniss has been close to death before.

## The Final Empire *by Brandon Sanderson*



The king of fantasy writing...

A thousand years ago evil came to the land and has ruled with an iron hand ever since. The sun shines fitfully under clouds of ash that float down endlessly from the constant eruption of volcanoes. A dark lord rules through the aristocratic families and ordinary folk are condemned to lives in servitude, sold as goods, labouring in the ash fields.

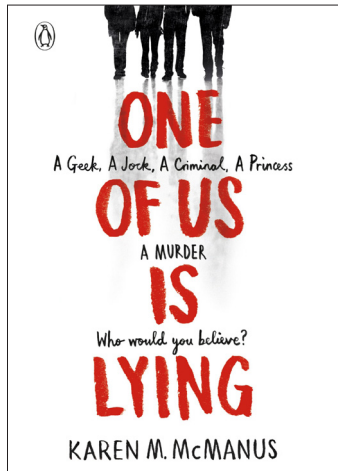
But now a troublemaker has arrived and there is rumour of revolt. A revolt that depends on a criminal no-one can trust and a young girl who must master Allomancy - the magic that lies in all metals.



# Idea 3

Did you ever know that there is a huge culture of reading on YouTube for young people with channels called BookTube? You can find out about viral books before anyone else does... there have been some great hits this year that students have been addicted to!

## One of Us is Lying by Karen M. McManus



Yale hopeful Bronwyn has never publicly broken a rule.

Sports star Cooper only knows what he's doing in the baseball diamond.

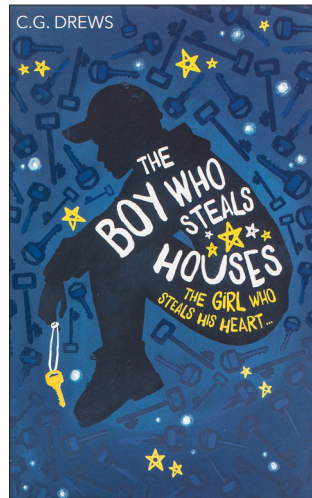
Bad boy Nate is one misstep away from a life of crime.

Prom queen Addy is holding together the cracks in her perfect life.

And outsider Simon, creator of the notorious gossip app at Bayview High, won't ever talk about any of them again.

He dies 24 hours before he could post their deepest secrets online. Investigators conclude it's no accident. All of them are suspects.

## The Boy Who Steals Houses by C.G. Drews



Sam is only fifteen but he and his autistic older brother, Avery, have been abandoned by every relative he's ever known. Now Sam's trying to build a new life for them. He survives by breaking into empty houses when their owners are away, until one day he's caught out when a family returns home. To his amazement this large, chaotic family takes him under their wing - each teenager assuming Sam is a friend of another sibling. Sam finds himself inextricably caught up in their life, and falling for the beautiful Moxie.





# Idea 4: The classics are the classics for a reason...

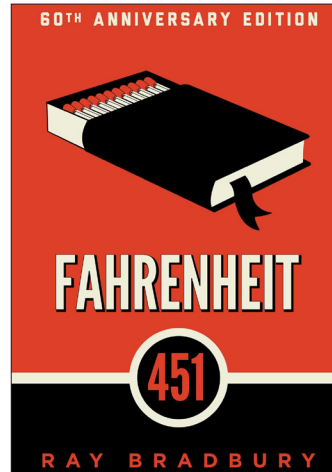
## Brave New World by Aldous Huxley



Welcome to New London. Everybody is happy here. Our perfect society achieved peace and stability through the prohibition of monogamy, privacy, money, family and history itself. Now everyone belongs.

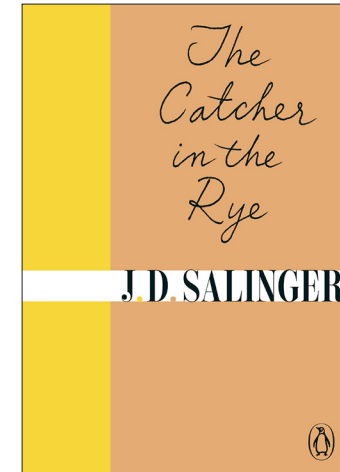
You can be happy too. All you need to do is take your Soma pills.

## Fahrenheit 451 by Ray Bradbury



Guy Montag is a fireman. His job is to destroy the most illegal of commodities, the printed book, along with the houses in which they are hidden. Montag never questions the destruction and ruin his actions produce, returning each day to his bland life and wife, Mildred, who spends all day with her television “family.” But when he meets an eccentric young neighbour, Clarisse, who introduces him to a past where people didn’t live in fear and to a present where one sees the world through the ideas in books instead of the mindless chatter of television, Montag begins to question everything he has ever known.

## The Catcher in the Rye by J.D. Salinger



‘If you really want to hear about it, the first thing you’ll probably want to know is where I was born and what my lousy childhood was like, and how my parents were occupied and all before they had me, and all that David Copperfield kind of crap, but I don’t feel like going into it, if you want to know the truth.’

The first of J. D. Salinger’s four books to be published, *The Catcher in the Rye* is one of the most widely read and beloved of all contemporary American novels.



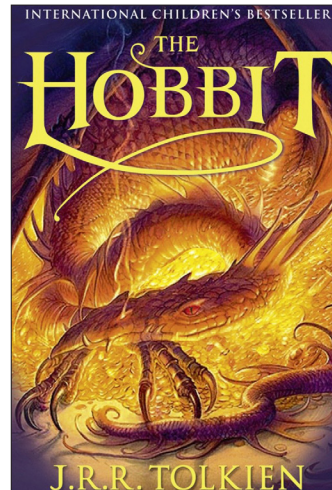


## Nineteen Eighty-Four by George Orwell



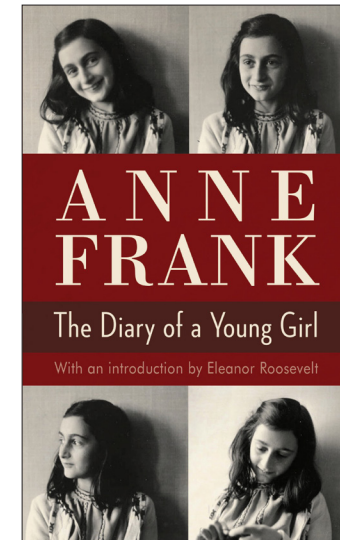
Winston Smith toes the Party line, rewriting history to satisfy the demands of the Ministry of Truth. With each lie he writes, Winston grows to hate the Party that seeks power for its own sake and persecutes those who dare to commit thoughtcrimes. But as he starts to think for himself, Winston can't escape the fact that Big Brother is always watching...

## The Hobbit by J.R.R. Tolkien



Bilbo Baggins enjoys a quiet and contented life, with no desire to travel far from the comforts of home; then one day the wizard Gandalf and a band of dwarves arrive unexpectedly and enlist his services – as a burglar – on a dangerous expedition to raid the treasure-hoard of Smaug the dragon. Bilbo's life is never to be the same again.

## Diary of a Young Girl by Anne Frank



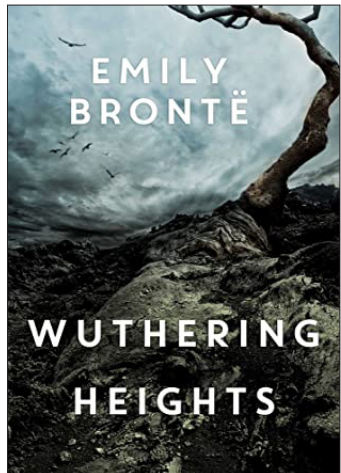
One of the most famous accounts of living under the Nazi regime comes from the diary of a thirteen-year-old Jewish girl, Anne Frank. Edited by her father Otto H. Frank and German novelist Mirjam Pressler, this is a true story to be rediscovered by each new generation.





## Wuthering Heights

by Emily Brontë

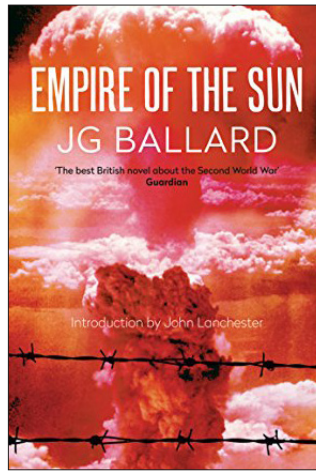


Wuthering Heights tells us a story about the life in northern England between 1771 till 1783. The two main characters are Catherine Earnshaw and Hareton Earnshaw, who fall in love with each other when they are children but become separated when they are grown up. The book tells us also about the life of Heathcliff, a homeless boy who loved Catherine.

It's seen as a representative work of the gothic novel genre, despite its troubling subject matter and themes. In this book, Emily Brontë freely chooses to portray death, misery and darkness. She also uses figurative language that builds up an illusionary world which is described through the eyes of a child who doesn't understand reality.

## Empire of the Sun

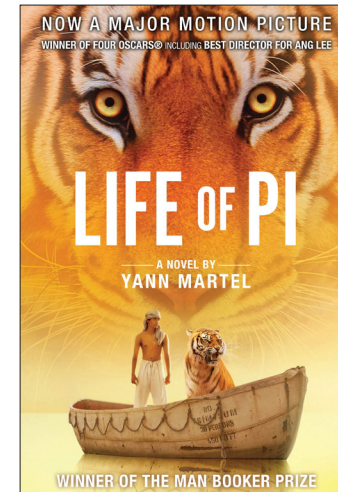
by J.G. Ballard



From the master of dystopia, comes his heartrending story of a British boy's four-year ordeal in a Japanese prison camp during the Second World War. Based on J. G. Ballard's own childhood, this is the extraordinary account of a boy's life in Japanese-occupied wartime Shanghai - a mesmerising, hypnotically compelling novel of war, of starvation and survival, of internment camps and death marches. It blends searing honesty with an almost hallucinatory vision of a world thrown utterly out of joint. Rooted as it is in the author's own disturbing experience of war in our time, it is one of a handful of novels by which the 20th century will be not only remembered but judged.

## Life of Pi

by Yann Martel



What happens when a cargo ship sinks in the Pacific Ocean, leaving only one lifeboat of survivors?

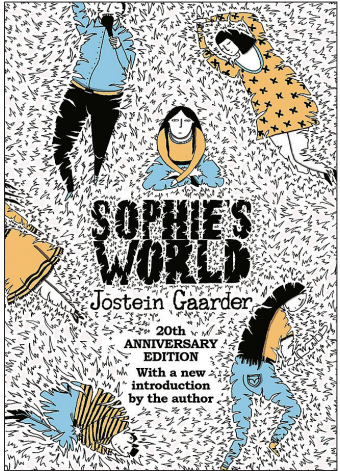
And what happens if those survivors are a hyena, a zebra (with a broken leg), a female orang-utan and a Bengal tiger called Richard Parker?

Sixteen-year-old Pi 'Piscine' Patel is about to find out...



# Sophie's World

by Jostein Gaarder



When 14-year-old Sophie encounters a mysterious mentor who introduces her to philosophy, mysteries deepen in her own life. Why does she keep getting postcards addressed to another girl? Who is the other girl? And who, for that matter, is Sophie herself? To solve the riddle, she uses her new knowledge of philosophy, but the truth is far stranger than she could have imagined.

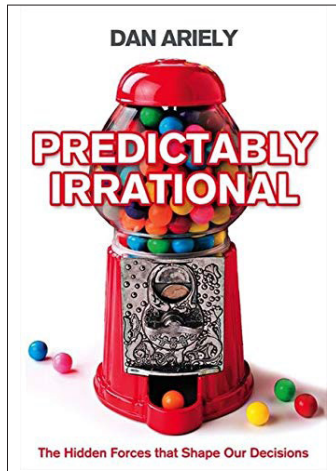
An addictive blend of mystery, philosophy and fantasy, *Sophie's World* is an international phenomenon which has been translated into 60 languages and sold more than 40 million copies.



# Idea 5: There is an incredible world of literary non-fiction out there... it doesn't matter what you read, just challenge yourself and read!

## Predictably Irrational

*by Dan Ariely*



Why do smart people make irrational decisions every day? The answers will surprise you. Predictably Irrational is an intriguing, witty and utterly original look at why we all make illogical decisions.

Why can a 50p aspirin do what a 5p aspirin can't? If an item is "free" it must be a bargain, right? Why is everything relative, even when it shouldn't be? How do our expectations influence our actual opinions and decisions?

In this astounding book, behavioural economist Dan Ariely cuts to the heart of our strange behaviour, demonstrating how irrationality often supplants rational thought and that the reason for this is embedded in the very structure of our minds.

## Becoming

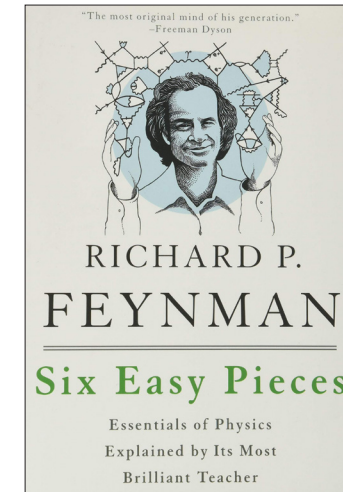
*by Michelle Obama*



In her memoir, a work of deep reflection and mesmerising storytelling, Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her ~ from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent at the world's most famous address. With unerring honesty and lively wit, she describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private, telling her full story as she has lived it ~ in her own words and on her own terms.

## Six Easy Pieces

*by Richard P. Feynman*



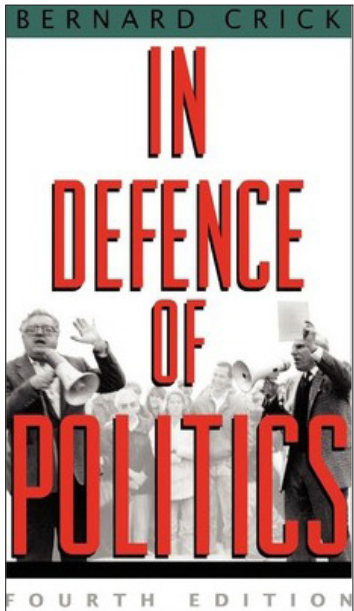
It was Richard Feynman's outrageous and scintillating method of teaching that earned him legendary status among students and professors of physics. From 1961 to 1963, Feynman delivered a series of lectures at the California Institute of Technology that revolutionised the teaching of physics around the world. Six Easy Pieces, taken from these famous Lectures on Physics, represent the most accessible material from the series.





## In Defence of Politics

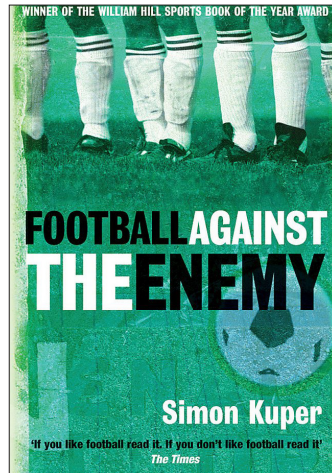
by Bernard Crick



In this illuminating celebration of the political world, Bernard Crick asserts that politics, with its compromises and power struggles, remains the only tested alternative to government by coercion, making both freedom and order possible in heterogeneous societies. For Crick, politics is messy and complex, and his book defends it against those who would identify it with (and reduce it to) ideology, democracy, nationalism, or technology. This Fourth edition has been updated to include an assessment of the revolutions in 1989 in Eastern Europe. It also examines current situations in Northern Ireland, Israel and Palestine, and South Africa.

## Football Against the Enemy

by Simon Kuper

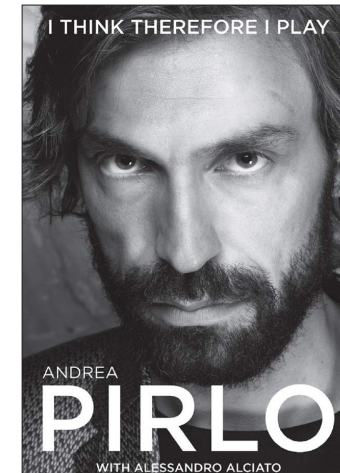


Throughout the world, football is a potent force in the lives of billions of people. Focusing national, political and cultural identities, football is the medium through which the world's hopes and fears, passions and hatreds are expressed.

Simon Kuper travelled to 22 countries from South Africa to Italy, from Russia to the USA, to examine the way football has shaped them. At the same time he tried to find out what lies behind each nation's distinctive style of play, from the carefree self-expression of the Brazilians to the anxious calculation of the Italians. During his journeys he met an extraordinary range of players, politicians and - of course - the fans themselves, all of whom revealed in their different ways the unique place football has in the life of the planet.

## I Think Therefore I Play

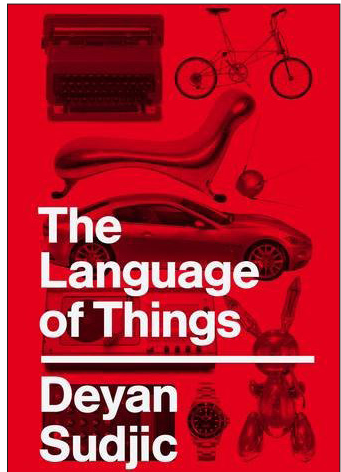
by Andrea Pirlo



Andrea Pirlo is one of the finest footballers of his generation - a World Cup and Champions League winning playmaker who has redefined his position at the base of midfield, and one of the most deadly free-kick takers the game has known. This is his story, in his words. It is written with a level of humour and insight which confound his image as a dead-eyed assassin on the field of play.

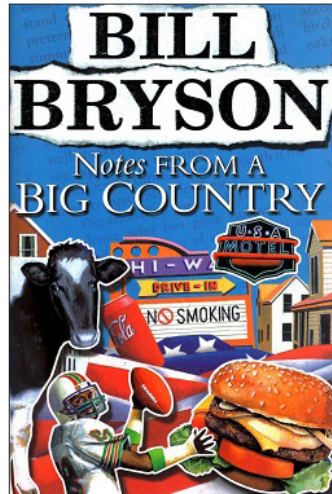


## The Language of Things by Deyan Sudic



Design is everywhere. It seduces, pleases and inspires us. It makes us part with our money. It defines who we think we are. An iPhone, an angle poise lamp, a Picasso, a banknote, an Armani suit, a William Morris textile, a Lucky Strike packet, a spacecraft - every object tells a story. And understanding their stories offers us a whole new way of seeing the world.

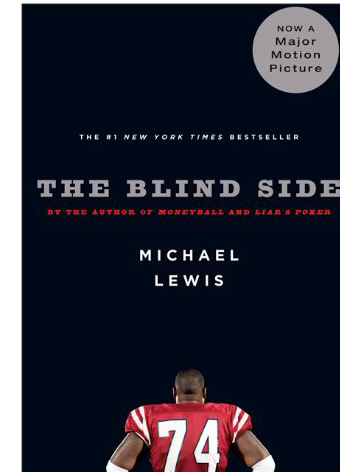
## Notes from a Big Country by Bill Bryson



Bill Bryson has the rare knack of being out of his depth wherever he goes - even (perhaps especially) in the land of his birth. This became all too apparent when, after nearly two decades in England, the world's best-loved travel writer upped sticks with Mrs Bryson, little Jimmy et al. and returned to live in the country he had left as a youth.

Of course there were things Bryson missed about Blighty but any sense of loss was countered by the joy of rediscovering some of the forgotten treasures of his childhood: the glories of a New England autumn; the pleasingly comical sight of oneself in shorts; and motel rooms where you can generally count on being awakened in the night by a piercing shriek and the sound of a female voice pleading, 'Put the gun down, Vinnie, I'll do anything you say.'

## Blind Side by Michael Lewis



When we first meet Michael Oher is one of thirteen children by a mother addicted to crack; he does not know his real name, his father, his birthday, or how to read or write. He takes up football, and school, after a rich, white, Evangelical family plucks him from the streets. Then two great forces alter Oher: the family's love and the evolution of professional football itself into a game in which the quarterback must be protected at any cost. Our protagonist becomes the priceless package of size, speed, and agility necessary to guard the quarterback's greatest vulnerability: his blind side.



# Idea 6:

Now, this must not replace reading... but have you seen what is going on in the world of Podcasts right now? We think every young man should be listening to something like Jake Humphries 'High Performance' where he interviews high performers from all over the world. It has a great book that goes with it too!

