

The World Through Literature: Reading List for
Year 5, term 2.

Date	Book Title and Author	Tutor
10 Feb 2022	<p><i>Trail of Lightning</i> by Rebecca Roanhorse</p> <p>In what ways does the main character Maggie subvert traditional hero tropes? How does the post-apocalyptic setting enhance the narrative/themes? What does the term 'Indigenous Futurism' mean to you? How would you categorise this book? Sci-Fi, fantasy...? How does this book change your ideas of the Navajo (Dine) people?</p>	Hailey Austin
17 Feb 2022	<p><i>The Moonstone</i> by Wilkie Collins</p> <p>Is this the first detective novel/ What elements of a modern crime novel are present/ does it convince? Is this a critique of empire? Are Collins and Dickens rivals?</p>	Eric Summers
24 Feb 2022	<p><i>A Bunch of Fives: Selected Stories</i> by Helen Simpson</p> <p><i>A Bunch of Fives</i> by Helen Simpson is an anthology of 25 stories, chosen by the author herself, five from each of her previous five collections. The introduction takes the form of an imagined antagonistic interview in which she discusses the nature of the short story form and addresses some of the criticisms of her work. This is as useful a guide as any to your reading of the book. Questions raised include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • In what way does the short story challenge the reader? • What do you consider to be the predominant themes in Simpson's work? • How well does the word 'tragicomic' sum up the tone of her writing? 	Esther Read
3 March 2022	<p><i>People Like Her</i> by Ellery Lloyd.</p> <p>The key concepts to think about are multiple points of view, unreliable narrator, and the use and discussion of social media in a novel.</p>	Rachel Marsh
10 March 2022	<p><i>Greenvoe</i> by George Mackay Brown</p> <p>Is Greenvoe a religious novel? Is the destruction of traditional communities inevitable? Does GMB draw upon Orkney to elaborate universal values</p>	Eric Summers
17 March 2022	<p><i>Riddley Walke</i> by Russell Hoban</p> <p>In this session we'll discuss language, philosophy, and the end of the world. We'll share our experience of reading a 'difficult' book that resists interpretation, with particular focus on the text's unique vernacular/lexis, exploring the poetic function of language, as well as issues of language and power, and asking the questions: how and why does language change? Through close reading we'll trace the concept of the 'hero's journey' in the narrative, and reach towards an understanding of the importance of storytelling and myth</p>	Katie Donnelly

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	in structuring a society, considering along the way such themes as the collective unconscious, nuclear war, and St Eustace's Vision, in an attempt to uncover the fabric of Hoban's dystopian world.	
24 March 2022	<p><i>Citizen: An American Lyric</i> by Claudia Rankine</p> <p>Published in 2014, poet Claudia Rankine's <i>Citizen: An American Lyric</i> remains one of the stand-out elements of American literature from the 2010s - it is most simply described as "a book-length poem about race and the imagination" but truthfully it is an incredibly dense and resonant piece of work that pushes the boundaries of what literature means "on the page".</p> <p>For our starting points we'll be talking about...</p> <p>...how <i>Citizen</i> works as an essay, and how it can change our attitudes to what an essay is, and can achieve for its writer, reader and subjects.</p> <p>...the potential for poetry to do what a more 'typical' form of non-fiction writing cannot do - how do we think Rankine explore this potential, and its limits?</p> <p>....the juxtaposition of images and text, as well as <i>Citizen's</i> motif of analysing video and events that we can all access via YouTube, even 8 years after it was published. What is it like reading a work that provides depictions and analysis of events, and also asks us to "google it"?</p> <p>...our response as readers, everything from emotions to intellectualisations of the essay's contents will be up for discussion. How does it work on us as individuals, and how does it work on us as a group?</p> <p>.... what is it like reading about a poem exploring race and the public imagination in the USA, from here in the UK? What resonates? What feels alien, shocking or mundane? How does <i>Citizen: An American Lyric</i> (to give it its full title) translate to a Scottish readership?</p>	Nicole Brandon