

Book Hunt & Vote – Class 10 English Literature Project

The project in a nutshell

You will:

- 1) **Search** for possible English books for our class to read.
→ *You DO NOT have to read the whole book in advance! It can be a book you've already read.*
- 2) **Present** your choice to the class.
→ *You MAY work together with a partner if you choose the same book.*
- 3) **Evaluate** all suggestions with a points system.
→ *You will find the system below.*
- 4) **Vote** for the book(s) we will read.
→ *Either we all read ONE or you decide on a pool of max. 5 books that you can choose from.*
- 5) **Read** the / your favorite book and work on the tasks.
→ *in January/February*
- 6) **Write** the class test about the book.
→ *probably in March*

Why are we doing this?

- By choosing the book yourself, you take responsibility for your own learning.
- Hopefully, you will read something that interests you, which makes it easier to stay motivated and enjoy the story.
- You also practice important skills: searching for information, judging quality, and presenting your ideas.
- Together, the class will create a reading list that reflects your interests and voices, not just my, the teacher's choice. And if you like, you can read another book and hand in some feedback.

How to Find Books

If you need a little bit more help here, check the support section.

Where to Search

Always look for something like "Young Adult fiction" or "bestsellers for teens".

- Public library
- Online bookstores
- Book recommendation websites
- Use a search engine, e.g. Google
- Use BookTok and Bookstagram

Where to Get Excerpts (= short reading samples)

- **Amazon Look Inside** → Many books allow you to read the first few pages for free.
- **Google Books** → Search for the title, then click *Preview* if available.
- **Publisher websites** → Some post free sample chapters as PDFs.
- **Book review sites** → Sometimes include quotes or first pages.
- **Public library e-book section** → You can often “borrow” for a short time to check.

Tip: Choose an excerpt that is easy to understand but shows the book’s style and atmosphere.

How to Present Your Book

We will spend several weeks on this project, but remember: we also need time to choose the book, order copies, and prepare the reading unit. That means your presentations **must be ready on time**.

Your presentation should include:

1) Basic Information

- a) Title, author, year of publication
- b) Genre (e.g., mystery, dystopia, coming-of-age)
- c) Number of pages

2) Short Summary

- a) 2–3 sentences about the plot (no spoilers)
- b) Main setting and main character(s)

3) Why You Recommend It

- a) What makes it interesting for our class?
- b) Is it thought-provoking, exciting, or funny?
- c) Any connection to topics we have discussed in class?

4) Sample & Visuals

- a) Show the cover (print, photo, or projection)
- b) Read a short excerpt (3–5 sentences) to show the style and mood
- c) Practical Information
- d) Is it available in enough copies (library, bookshops, e-books)?
- e) English level (easy, medium, challenging)

Presentation length: 3–5 minutes.

Deadline: Nearly every week we will have a presentation, so you and your presentation must be ready by this date so we can vote and start reading on time.

Book Evaluation Sheet

Copy the table or use different colors for different books.

Book Title: _____

Criterion	Description	Points (1–5)
1. Content & Theme	Is the topic interesting for teenagers? Does it connect to real-life issues or important ideas?	
2. Language Level	Is the English understandable but still challenging? Is the vocabulary manageable?	
3. Length & Time	Can we finish it in the given time? Do the chapters have a reasonable length?	
4. Availability	Can we get enough copies (library, online, e-book, audiobook)?	
5. Genre Variety	Is it different from what we usually read?	
6. Discussion Potential	Are there topics, conflicts, or questions we can debate in class?	
7. Recommendation Strength	Do you believe it's worth reading? Can you explain why?	

Total Points: ____ / 35

+++ SUPPORT SECTION +++ HELP! I don't know what to do

HOW TO find books – Where to Search

- **Public library:** use the „Bezirksbibliothek“ e.g. in Homberg or the „Hauptbibliothek“ in Duisburg-Mitte
→ in order to borrow books, you need a free membership; fill out the form online (with your parents) or download the form and let your parents sign the it
→ to find the PDF usw the short link: kurzlinks.de/kkbm
- **Online bookstores:** two examples are **Thalia** – www.thalia.de (Large selection of English books, often with “Look Inside” previews) and **Hugendubel** – www.hugendubel.de (English section and free store pickup)
- **Book recommendation websites** – Check e.g. goodreads.com, epicreads.com and teenreads.com
- If you use a **search engine like Google**, here are some helpful search words:
 - “Young Adult novels for high school students”
 - “Award-winning teen fiction”
 - “Classic novels for teenagers”
 - “Short novels under 250 pages”
 - If you like, add a genre: “... fantasy”, “... mystery”, “... historical fiction”

What is BookTok and Bookstagram?!

BookTok is a TikTok community where readers share book reviews, recommendations, and creative videos. Something similar is **Bookstagram**, also a community with book photos, short reviews, and reading lists.

How to Use Them

- Use **Hashtags** (TikTok & Instagram) in your search, for example
 - #BookTok / #Bookstagram
 - #YAbooks
 - #YoungAdultBooks
 - #BookRecommendations
 - Add genres: #FantasyBooks, #RomanceBooks, #MysteryBooks
- **Look for reviews**
 - TikTok: watch short review videos without spoilers.
 - Instagram: read captions with mini-reviews or “Top 5” lists.
- **Save Ideas**

I’m still lost!

If you really have NO IDEA at all, which book to read or search for, here are the *Top 20 Book Titles for Grade 10 English Classes* according to Chat GPT. Have a look at (some of) them:

- **The Hate U Give** – Angie Thomas (racism, identity, activism)
- **Long Way Down** – Jason Reynolds (poetry, tough decisions, violence)
- **Dear Martin** – Nic Stone (racism, justice system, perspective)
- **Refugee** – Alan Gratz (historical refugee stories)
- **Homegoing** – Yaa Gyasi (history, slavery, generations)
- **Educated: A Memoir** – Tara Westover (self-reflection, education)
- **Firekeeper’s Daughter** – Angeline Boulley (crime, cultural heritage)
- **All the Light We Cannot See** – Anthony Doerr (World War II, different perspectives)
- **Beartown** – Fredrik Backman (sports, power, justice)
- **I Am Not Your Perfect Mexican Daughter** – Erika Sánchez (family, culture, identity)
- **The Perks of Being a Wallflower** – Stephen Chbosky (coming-of-age, mental health)
- **The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian** – Sherman Alexie (self-discovery, humor and sadness)
- **The Outsiders** – S. E. Hinton (social differences, friendship)
- **We Were Liars** – E. Lockhart (psychological thriller, family, secrets)
- **Dragon Hoops** – Gene Luen Yang (graphic novel, sports, identity)
- **I Kissed Shara Wheeler** – Casey McQuiston (mystery and LGBTQ+ teen romance)
- **Let Me Hear a Rhyme** – Tiffany D. Jackson (crime, music, friendship)
- **A Deadly Education** – Naomi Novik (fantasy, magic, school)
- **The Gilded Ones** – Namina Forna (fantasy, strong heroine, magic)
- **Six Crimson Cranes** – Elizabeth Lim (fairy-tale fantasy)