Bonus Holiday Reading List

Year 8 going into Year 9

Teacher disclaimer: There is no compulsory homework for the summer holidays. I do not want anyone to feel pressured into doing work they don’t really want to do in the holidays so if you’re not interested just ignore this. However, if you feel like it and want to deepen your knowledge of the subject then here are some ideas for what you can read. Feel free to dip into any small part of the list that takes your fancy or read all of it or read none of it. When you’re stuck inside a cottage on a Welsh hillside as torrents of rain hour after hour come slamming against the panes of glass you do at least feel as though you are spending your time productively.

Next term you will be studying human rights through the topic of Judaism and the Holocaust. It would be useful to read up on Judaism in general. There are some books in H13 that you can borrow on general world religions with a Judaism section. There are also a few short books specifically on Judaism like *The Idiot’s Guide to Judaism*. It’s okay; you don’t have to be an idiot to read it. There are also relevant books in public libraries.

The *BBC Religion & Ethics website* is a good source of general RE information. If you have time, it’s worth having a look through the Judaism pages here: <http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/judaism/> . If you find some pages too difficult to understand you can either use a dictionary to help you or just skip on to another page. If you read all of these pages you will have a well-above-average knowledge of Judaism for your age.

If you want a very simple summary of most religions you can go to [www.religionfacts.com](http://www.religionfacts.com) .

To understand something of Jewish identity it is useful to read certain shorter passages of the Bible. This will give you a firm knowledge of the basis on which the religion is built. If you only have a little time here are some of the key chapters:

* The calling of Abraham (the ancestor of the Jews and considered as the founder of the religion) in Genesis chapter 12 <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2012&version=ESVUK>
* God’s Covenant (agreement) with Abraham in Genesis 15: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2015&version=ESVUK>
* God’s promise of a son, Isaac, to be born in Abraham & Sarah’s extreme old age in Genesis 18:1-21: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis+18%3A1-21&version=ESVUK>
* Abraham’s exceptional obedience to God to the point of sacrificing his promised son, Isaac at Mount Moriah. Genesis 22: <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Genesis%2022&version=ESVUK> Isaac’s son was Jacob (also called Israel), the ancestor of all of the Jews through his twelve sons so the hitherto childless, elderly Abraham ended up as the ancestor of millions of people.
* God’s covenant with Abraham’s descendants including Moses at Mount Horeb (Sinai) in Deuteronomy chapters 5-6. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Deuteronomy+5-6&version=ESVUK>

Longer passages:

* If you are a real book worm you could read the full Book of Genesis that really sets the scene from the beginning of the world to the time of Joseph who was prime minister of Egypt when the Israelites first settled there. It is fifty chapters.
* If you have time, the whole story of the freeing of the Israelites from slavery in Egypt is written in Exodus chapters 1-24 including the giving of the first commandments to Moses. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=Exodus+1&version=ESVUK>
* One of the key festivals we shall look at is Purim which is based on the Book of Esther. It’s ten chapters long and is set in the days when Israel was ruled by the Persian Empire and is about a plot to wipe out the Jews.

You might want to research the lives of some inspirational or important figures from the time of World War II and the 20th century:

* Anne Frank, a Jewish girl who when she was about your age had to go into hiding in a secret room for many months. She wrote a famous diary of her experiences.
* Frank Foley, a British spy who is said to have saved 10,000 Jews.
* Sir Nicholas Winton, a Briton who organized *Kindertransport* a movement that helped many Jewish children escape from Germany.
* Oscar Schindler, a member of the Nazi party who protected Jews by giving them jobs in his factory.
* The Jews of the Warsaw Ghetto who formed themselves into an army and fought back against the German army.
* Theodor Herzl who after centuries of anti-semitic persecution across the world founded the movement of Zionism, the idea that Jews needed a homeland where they could have a sense of belonging.
* Corrie Ten Boom, a Dutch Christian whose family risked all to hide Jews in their home. *The Hiding Place* is a book that tells her true story.
* St. Maximilian Kolbe, a Catholic hero who stood up to the Nazis and sacrificed his own life to save a man from certain death.
* Dietrich Bonhoeffer, a German pastor who openly opposed the Nazis and was involved in a plot to assassinate Hitler.

In the Spring Term you will be starting the GCSE course and we will be studying this through Buddhism and Christianity. For general info on Buddhism see [www.religionfacts.com](http://www.religionfacts.com) and *BBC Religion & Ethics* <http://www.bbc.co.uk/religion/religions/buddhism/>and also books in H13 and public libraries. You might want to read some of the *Tripitaka*,the Buddhist holy book.

The first topic is Human Rights and Wealth & Poverty.

Bible Passages:

Book of James – Five chapters long, this New Testament book has a lot to say about how Christians should view money and rich/poor people. <https://www.biblegateway.com/passage/?search=james+1&version=ESVUK>

Francis of Assisi is a very good inspirational figure to read about. He was the spoiled son of a rich Italian merchant born in 1182. After a series of power encounters with Christ he renounced all worldly possessions and became a wondering preacher with his friends. His life story is full of adventures. You can borrow my copy by Mark Galli or there are some books on him at East Riding public libraries. <https://library.eastriding.gov.uk/web/arena/search?p_auth=vuFmAjMu&p_p_id=searchResult_WAR_arenaportlets&p_p_lifecycle=1&p_p_state=normal&p_p_mode=view&p_r_p_687834046_facet_queries=&p_r_p_687834046_sort_advice=field%3DRelevance%26direction%3DDescending&p_r_p_687834046_search_type=solr&p_r_p_687834046_search_query=assisi>

Borrowing books from H13

Books available to borrow have been left on the window sill at the back of the classroom. There is also a blue box of books next to it that you can borrow from. If you do, please write your name on the pink post-it pad and the name of the book. You can keep hold of them until the end of the summer holiday.

Happy reading. Have a good summer holiday.

MHa