**George Orwell's political fable _Animal Farm_ has been voted the nation's favourite ever school book in research commissioned for World Book Day 2021.**
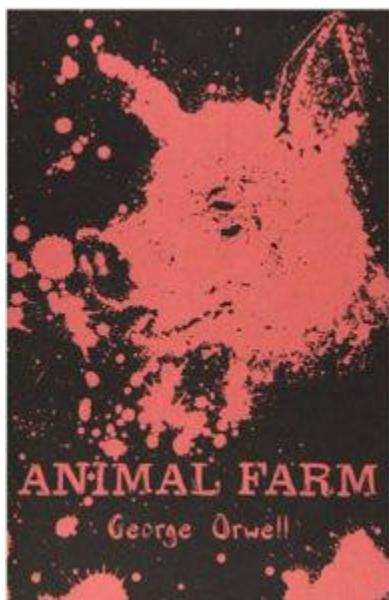
The study, conducted by Oxford Home Schooling, asked 2,000 UK adults which books they most enjoyed reading when at school. _Animal Farm_ was selected by 25% of respondents.

The novella was followed in the rankings by Charles Dickens' _A Christmas Carol_ (21%) and John Steinbeck's _Of Mice and Men_ (19%).

Harper Lee's _To Kill A Mockingbird_ is the most popular school book by a female author (18%), placing sixth on the overall list.

JB Priestley's _An Inspector Calls_ is among the most popular school titles for younger Brits. Meanwhile a gender divide opens up over the Bronte sisters' books – rated highly by women, but low down the rankings for men.

Orwell and Dickens both appear twice in the top 10. So does William Shakespeare, showing his timeless appeal to all ages. _Romeo And Juliet_ is the UK's favourite play by The Bard (19%), ahead of _Macbeth_ (15%).

The UK's top 10 favourite school books are:

1. **_Animal Farm_ (George Orwell)**
2. **_A Christmas Carol_ (Charles Dickens)**
3. **_Of Mice and Men_ (John Steinbeck)**
4. **_1984_ (George Orwell)**
5. **_Romeo And Juliet_ (William Shakespeare)**
6. **_To Kill a Mockingbird_ (Harper Lee)**
7. **_Great Expectations_ (Charles Dickens)**
8. **_Macbeth_ (William Shakespeare)**
9. **_Jane Eyre_ (Charlotte Brontë)**
10. **_Lord Of The Flies_ (William Golding)**
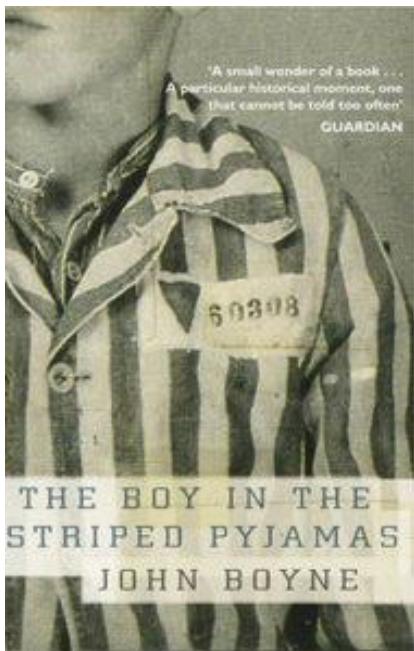
The majority of the most popular books date from the 20th century. However three more recent works also made it into the most-loved top 40.

John Boyne's haunting Holocaust novel *The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas,* published in 2006, was the highest rated work from this millennium, coming in at 30th place.

The Curious Incident Of The Dog In The Night–Time (Mark Haddon – 2003) and *Noughts And Crosses* (Malorie Blackman – 2001) also featured highly.

The *Jane Eyre* divide
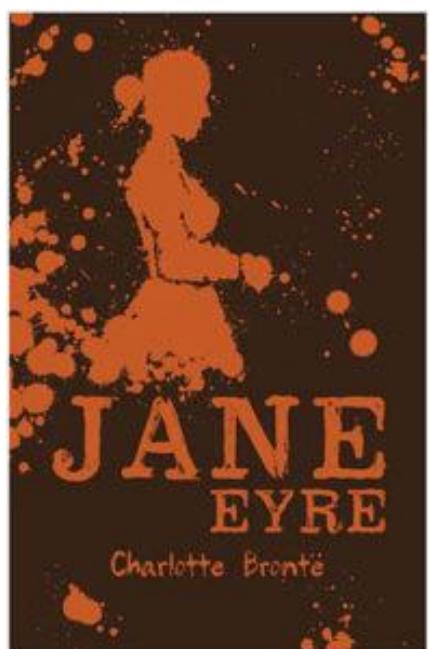
Men and women have significantly different tastes when it comes to books it seems, with their respective top 10 lists contrasting wildly. While *Animal Farm* is the favourite among men, *A Christmas Carol* tops the list for women, followed by Charlotte Brontë's gothic romance novel *Jane Eyre*.

The Brontë sisters are generally far more popular with female readers, with both Jane Eyre and Wuthering Heights, younger sibling Emily's sole work, rated far higher by women. Despite both featuring in the top six for women, neither appear in the top 15 for men (Wuthering Heights – 18th, Jane Eyre – 23rd).

It appears that younger readers are also turning away from *Jane Eyre*. The novel features in the top 10 for all age groups except 18–24-year-olds.

It is replaced by JB Priestley's crime thriller *An Inspector Calls*, with the classic 20th century play ranking seventh for this latest generation. *Of Mice and Men* is the favourite among young Brits.

"New titles creeping up the lists"
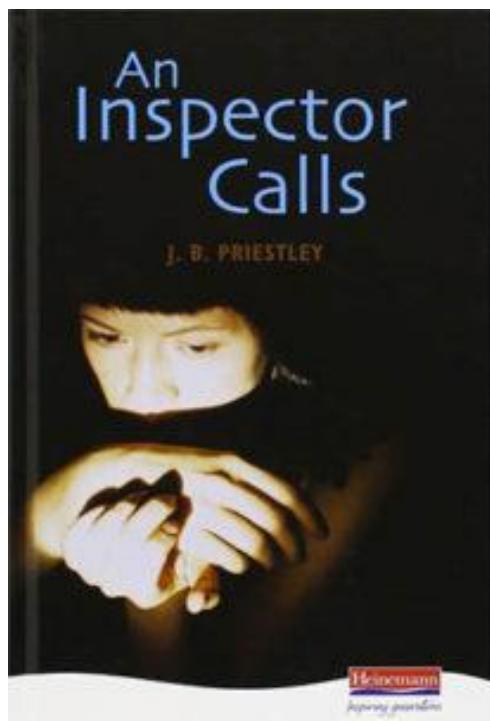
Greg Smith, Head of Operations at Oxford Home Schooling, said: "The books we read at school can affect our general interest in reading in later life, so it's really important that people enjoy the novels given to them.

"*Animal Farm* is an incredibly powerful story and it's not surprising to see that people remember it fondly. It also topped our rankings when we ran this study five years ago, showing that its popularity is enduring.

"However, it's also interesting to see other works creep up towards the top of the lists. We'll have to see whether Orwell can complete a hat-trick in years to come, or whether a new favourite will emerge!"

REVEALED: How much the best-selling authors earn per word!

After analysing the best-selling books across the world from *living* authors, the earnings per page **and** word have been calculated, and all can be revealed!

1. *Harry Potter And The Philosopher's Stone* is the highest earning book, earning J. K. Rowling a whopping **£1,563.47 per WORD!**
2. *The Alchemist* **by Paulo Coelho** is the second highest earning novel, **at £1,297.40 per word**
3. *Harry Potter And The Chamber Of Secrets* is in third place, adding to J. K. Rowling's impressive list – it generates £245,111.55 per page and **£891.32 for every word written!**
4. The second adventure in *The Da Vinci Code* **series** generates **£534.82 per word** for Dan Brown, in fourth place.
5. *Follow Your Heart* **(Va' dove ti porta il cuore)** by Susanna Tamaro is fifth, with every word worth **£536.68**.
6. Steamy *Fifty Shades of Grey*makes an appearance – E. L. James earns **£495.87 for every word written**
7. *The Eagle Has Landed* nets Jack Higgins **£464.36** per word
8. *Harry Potter And The Prisoner Of Azkaban* by J. K. Rowling has so far amassed **£434.15 per word**
9. *Kitchen* (キッチン) by Banana Yoshimoto – **£430.14 per word**
10. *Jonathan Livingston Seagull* by Richard Bach soars into the top 10 making **£367.36 per word**

in total all seven Harry Potter books earn a staggering £4,052.36 per word

The top 50 (plus a few) – is your favourite there?

	Which books did you enjoy reading at school? Select all that apply.	%
1	Animal Farm (George Orwell)	25.0%
2	A Christmas Carol (Charles Dickens)	21.0%
3	Of Mice and Men (John Steinbeck)	18.8%
4	1984 (George Orwell)	18.7%
5	Romeo and Juliet (William Shakespeare)	18.5%
6	To Kill a Mockingbird (Harper Lee)	17.7%
7	Great Expectations (Charles Dickens)	15.6%
8	Macbeth (William Shakespeare)	15.3%
9	Jane Eyre (Charlotte Bronte)	15.0%
10	Lord of the Flies (William Golding)	14.8%
11	Wuthering Heights (Emily Bronte)	14.3%
12	The Wind in the Willows (Kenneth Grahame)	13.5%
13	Dracula (Bram Stoker)	11.6%
14	Pride and Prejudice (Jane Austen)	10.7%
15	Merchant of Venice (William Shakespeare)	10.4%
16	A Midsummer Night's Dream (William Shakespeare)	10.2%
17	The War of the Worlds (HG Wells)	10.0%
18	An Inspector Calls (JB Priestley)	9.6%
19	Frankenstein (Mary Shelley)	9.2%
20	Twelfth Night (William Shakespeare)	8.9%
21	Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde (RL Stevenson)	8.5%
22	Julius Caesar (William Shakespeare)	8.2%
23	Tess of the d'Urbervilles (Thomas Hardy)	8.0%
24	The Catcher in the Rye (JD Salinger)	7.9%
25	The Great Gatsby (F Scott Fitzgerald)	7.8%
26	The Tempest (William Shakespeare)	7.0%
27	Brave New World (Aldous Huxley)	6.5%
28	Much Ado About Nothing (William Shakespeare)	6.4%
29	The Colour Purple (Alice Walker)	6.2%
30	The Boy in the Striped Pyjamas (John Boyne)	6.1%
31	The Crucible (Arthur Miller)	5.7%
32	The Sign of Four (Sir Arthur Conan Doyle)	5.0%
33	The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time (Mark Haddon)	5.0%
34	Blood Brothers (Willy Russell)	4.8%
35	A Taste of Honey (Shelagh Delaney)	4.5%
36	Hobson's Choice (Harold Brighouse)	4.5%
37	The Woman in Black (Susan Hill)	4.5%
38	Holes (Louis Sachar)	4.1%
39	Silas Marner (George Eliot)	4.1%
40	Noughts and Crosses (Malorie Blackman)	4.1%
41	Journey's End (RC Sherriff)	3.6%
42	The Bell Jar (Sylvia Plath)	3.5%
43	The Book Thief (Markus Zusak)	3.5%
44	Birdsong (Sebastian Faulks)	3.0%
45	The History Boys (Alan Bennett)	2.6%
46	Anita and Me (Meera Syal)	2.6%
47	Stone Cold (Robert Swindells)	2.6%
48	Never Let Me Go (Kazuo Ishiguro)	2.5%
49	My Mother Said I Never Should (Charlotte Keatley)	2.4%
50	Rabbit-Proof Fence (Doris Pilkington)	1.9%
51	DNA (Dennis Kelly)	1.8%
52	Purple Hibiscus (Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie)	1.7%
53	Mister Pip (Lloyd Jones)	1.5%