

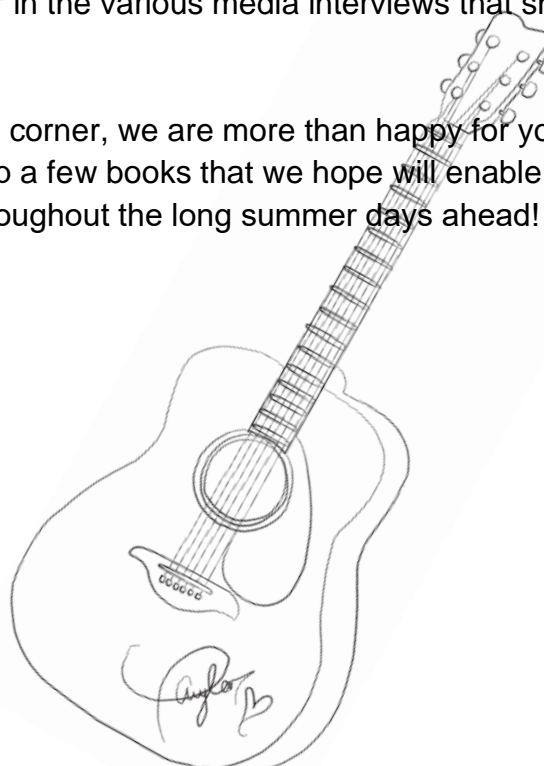
## Taylor's Book List

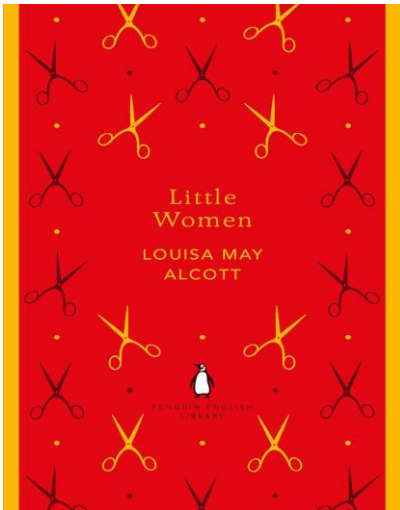


In hot anticipation of Taylor Swift's record-breaking juggernaut of an Eras Tour breaking its way across the United Kingdom, The Stephen Perse School Librarians (along with the help of our lovely staff) have swiftly prepared a specially curated reading list for you!

Some of the books featured in this list have been the inspiration for some of Taylor's wonderful songs or could even be loosely paired to some of the themes discussed in Taylor's music, whereas some of the other books featured in this list have been referenced by Taylor in some of her lyrics or in the various media interviews that she has given over the years.

With the long summer break just around the corner, we are more than happy for you to visit the Senior School Library and pick up a few books that we hope will enable you to enjoy the '[Best Days of Your Life](#)' throughout the long summer days ahead!



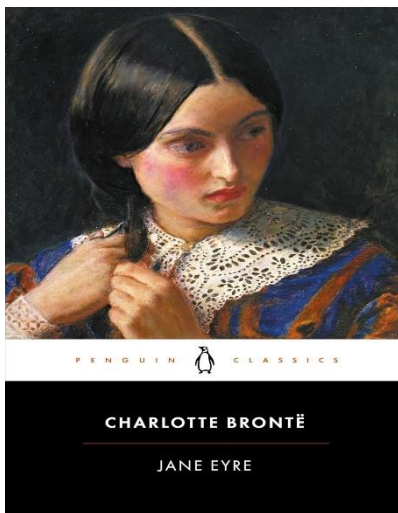


## Little Women by Louisa May Alcott

If you want to find more about this book, please see [here!](#)

### Taylor's Connection:

Jo March embodies the sentiments echoed in [The Man](#). Despite the limitations that women faced at the time (1800s), Jo is determined to live and choose the life that she wants to live.

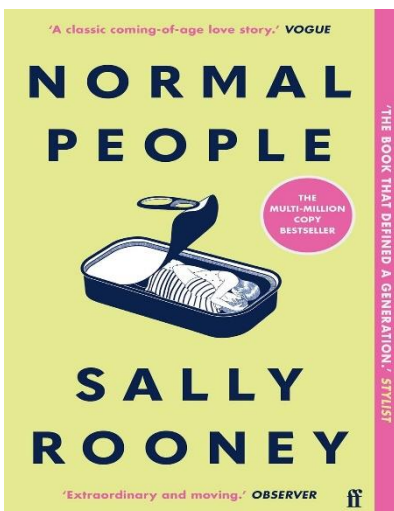


## Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë

If you want to find more about this book, please see [here!](#)

### Taylor's Connection:

The song lyrics in [Invisible String](#) reference a quote from Jane Eyre, and she also alludes to Mr Rochester in [Guilty as Sin?](#)

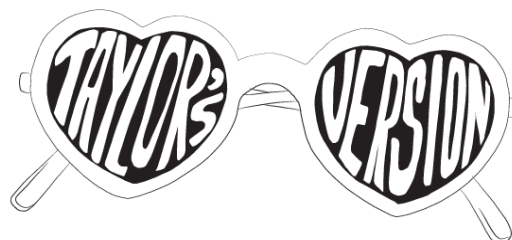


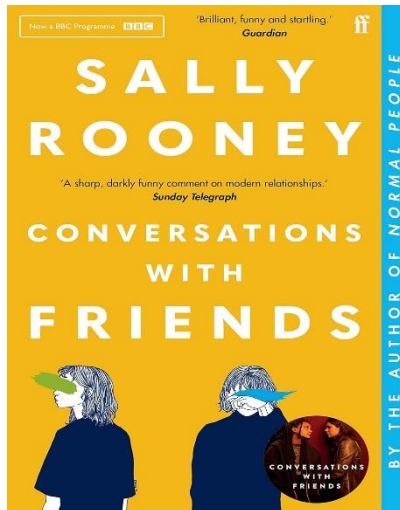
## Normal People by Sally Rooney

If you want to find more about this book, please see [here!](#)

### Taylor's Connection:

In an interview with Entertainment Weekly, Taylor references being a fan of Sally Rooney's works and likened Rooney's writing as akin to 'being inside somebody's mind'.



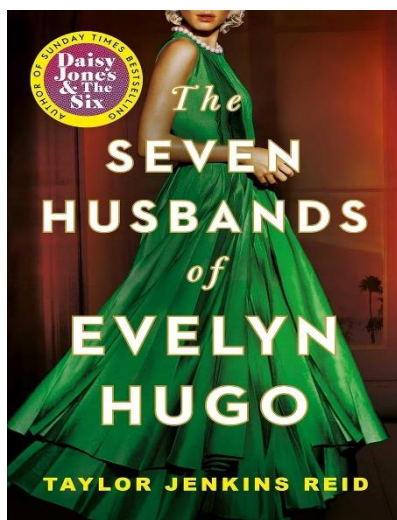


## Conversations with Friends by Sally Rooney

If you want to find more about this book, please see [here!](#)

### Taylor's Connection:

In an interview with Entertainment Weekly, Taylor references being a fan of Sally Rooney's works and likened Rooney's writing as akin to 'being inside somebody's mind'.

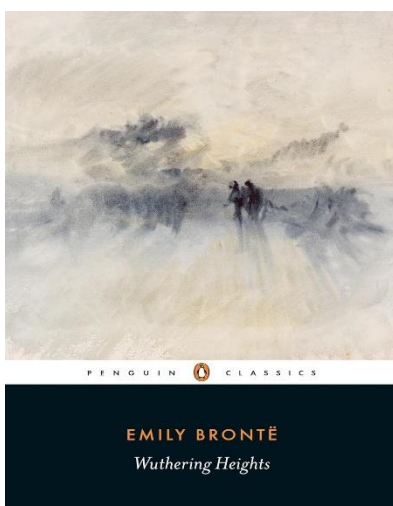


## The Seven Husbands of Evelyn Hugo by Taylor Jenkins Reid

If you want to find more about this book, please see [here!](#)

### Taylor's Connection:

A swift skim of this gripping summer read will leave you bereft with countless Swiftie references from [Wonderland...](#) [TLGAD...](#) [The Lucky One...](#) [Paper Rings...](#) and [So It Goes...](#)



## Wuthering Heights by Emily Brontë

If you want to find more about this book, please see [here!](#)

### Taylor's Connection:

A moving, deeply complex, psychological portrayal of love and conflict set on the West Yorkshire Moors that could easily be rhapsodised through the lyrics of [The Way I Loved You](#).



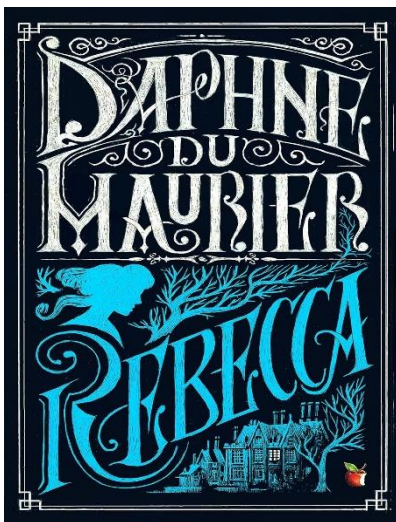


## Romeo & Juliet by William Shakespeare

If you want to find more about this book, please see [here!](#)

### Taylor's Connection:

If you're a fan of Taylor's classic [Love Story](#), then you must check out Shakespeare's timeless love story of two star-crossed lovers trapped in a 'situation where the only people who wanted them to be together were them'.

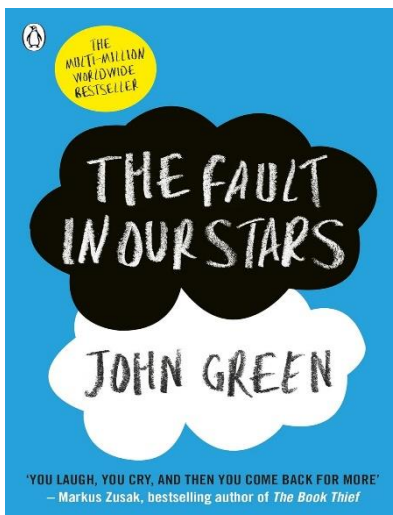


## Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier

If you want to find more about this book, please see [here!](#)

### Taylor's Connection:

The parallels between du Maurier's brilliant Rebecca and Swift's [Tolerate It](#) are uncanny with references to murder, intrigue, duplicity, and anguished love that could only be best interpreted as 'ambivalent toleration'.

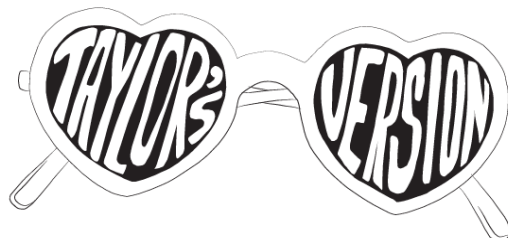


## The Fault in Our Stars by John Green

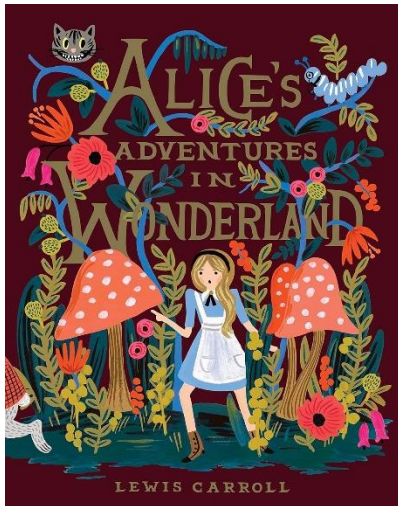
If you want to find more about this book, please see [here!](#)

### Taylor's Connection:

During a discussion with Scholastic Books, Taylor mentioned that she was a fan of Hazel Grace because she's a 'really intricate, beautiful, complicated female character'.





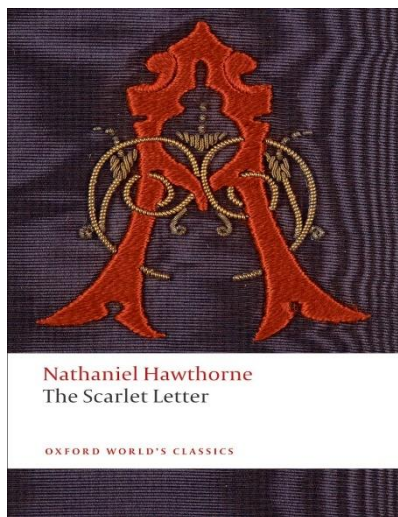


## Alice's Adventures in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll

If you want to find more about this book, please see [here!](#)

### Taylor's Connection:

Taylor's song [Wonderland](#) is littered with references to Carroll's magical fairy-tale, however if you are after something less subtle, then I'd suggest you check out Taylor's performance of We Are Never Ever Getting Back Together from the 2013 Grammy Awards.

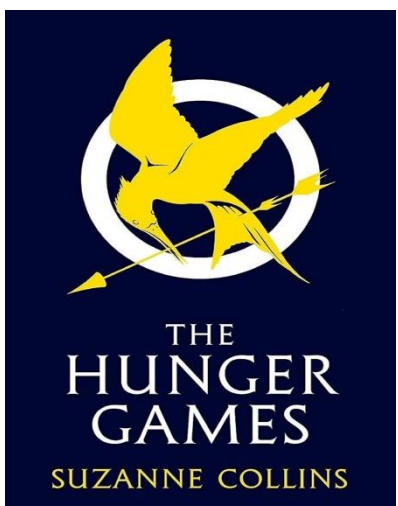


## The Scarlet Letter by Nathaniel Hawthorne

If you want to find more about this book, please see [here!](#)

### Taylor's Connection:

If you're a fan of [Love Story](#) or perhaps New Romantics, then feel free to check out Hawthorne's masterful tale of what happens when a woman falls foul of society's expectations at the epicentre of American Puritanism.



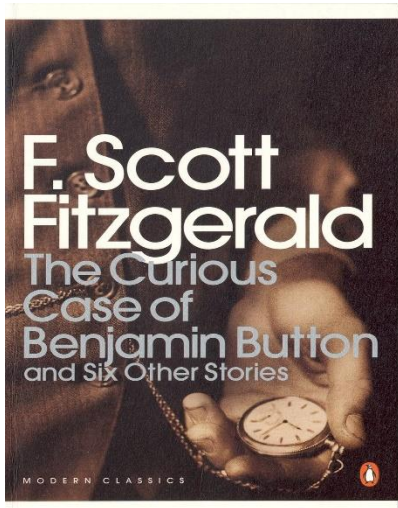
## The Hunger Games series by Suzanne Collins

If you want to find more about this series, please see [here!](#)

### Taylor's Connection:

Taylor appears on the soundtrack with [Safe & Sound](#) and with [Eyes Open](#). In a later interview, Taylor confirmed that she had 'read the book in, like two days, and fell in love with it... and was so immersed in it.'



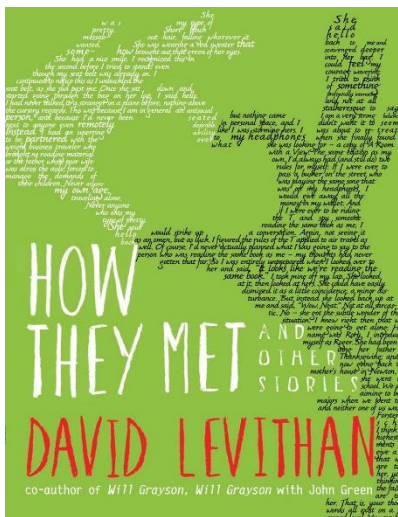


## The Curious Case of Benjamin Button: And Six Other Stories by F. Scott Fitzgerald

If you want to find more about this book, please see [here!](#)

### Taylor's Connection:

Aside from being a big Fitzgerald fan, [This Is Why We Can't Have Nice Things](#) and [Don't Blame Me](#) reference The Great Gatsby, Taylor's cat is called Benjamin Button and was recently featured with her on the cover of [TIME's 2023 Person of the Year!](#)

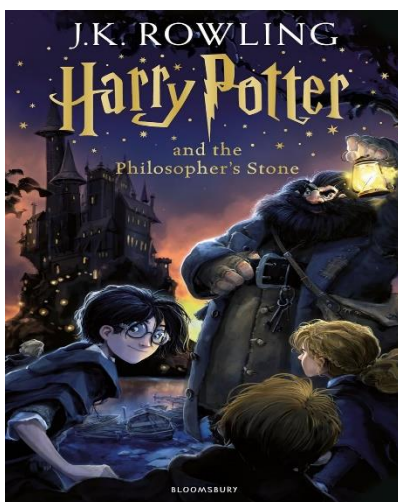


## How They Met and Other Stories by David Levithan

If you want to find more about this book, please see [here!](#)

### Taylor's Connection:

[You Need to Calm Down](#) is Taylor's ode to the LGBTQ community which perfectly complements Levithan's collection of stories that celebrate the LGBTQ community across a wider spectrum.

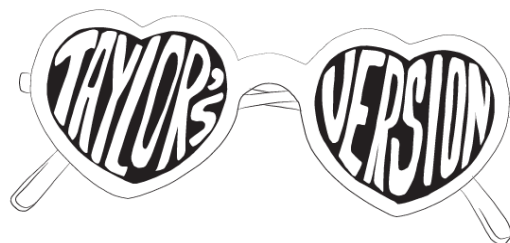


## The Harry Potter series by J.K. Rowling

If you want to find more about this book, please see [here!](#)

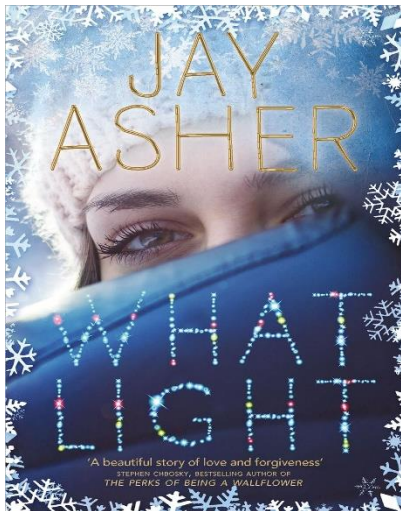
### Taylor's Connection:

In her interview [with TIME](#), Taylor mentioned her 're-recording project' as being akin to 'collecting horcruxes'.







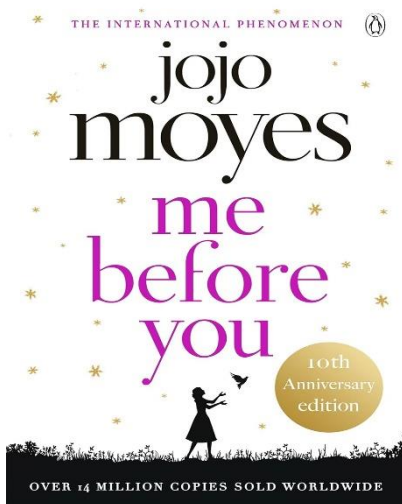


## What Light by Jay Asher

If you want to find more about this book, please see [here!](#)

### Taylor's Connection:

Did you know that Taylor grew up on a Christmas tree farm? If the summer heat becomes too wearisome in the thick of August, tuck into this cosy Christmas read and think of chillier times ahead!

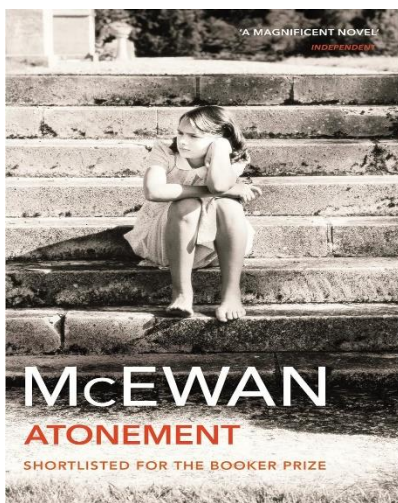


## Me Before You by Jojo Moyes

If you want to find more about this book, please see [here!](#)

### Taylor's Connection:

Aside from it being a real tearjerker, make sure you come armed with tissues, [Stay, Stay, Stay](#), and [All You Had to Do Was Stay](#), would be affirming listening choices!

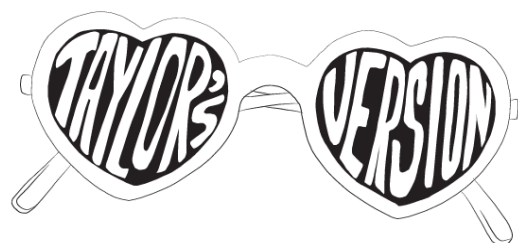


## Atonement by Ian McEwan

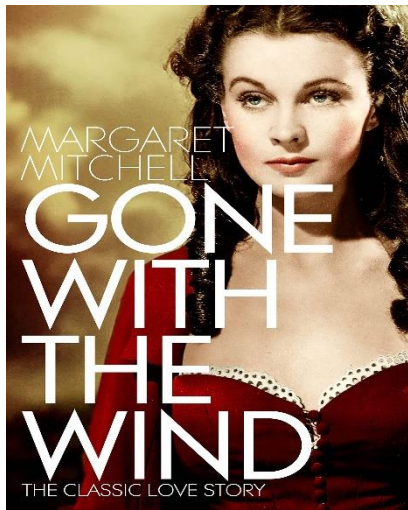
If you want to find more about this book, please see [here!](#)

### Taylor's Connection:

Listen to [Back to December](#), and delve into McEwan's classic wartime saga of love, redemption, and regrets.





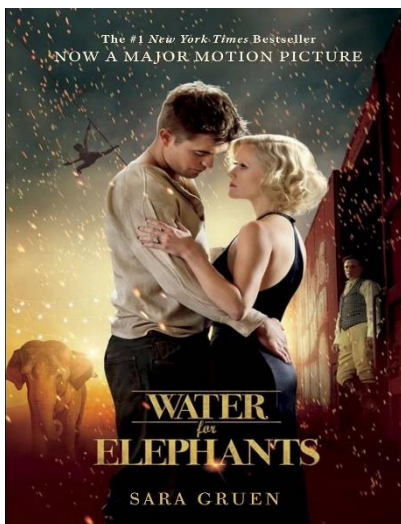


## Gone with the Wind by Margaret Mitchell

If you want to find more about this book, please see [here!](#)

### Taylor's Connection:

[Wildest Dreams](#) and [Crazier](#) would be the most attuned to this flawed American classic set during the heart of the American Civil War!

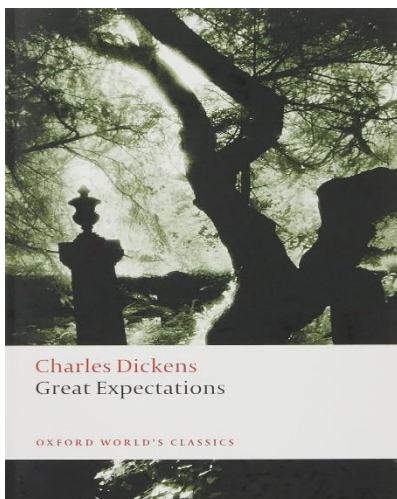


## Water for Elephants by Sara Gruen

If you want to find more about this book, please see [here!](#)

### Taylor's Connection:

A pair of star-crossed lovers caught into the world of a travelling circus amidst the Great Depression... if it floats your boat, think of Taylor's [So it Goes](#), [Dancing With Our Hands Tied](#), and [Getaway Car!](#)



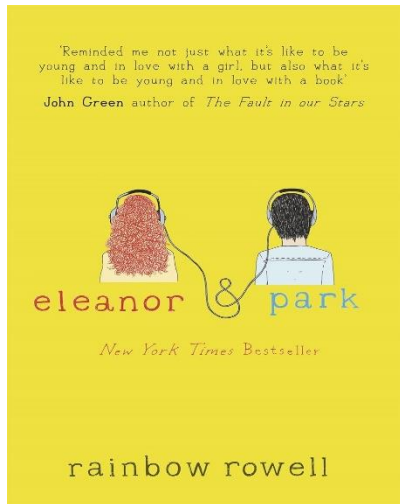
## Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

If you want to find more about this book, please see [here!](#)

### Taylor's Connection:

If you often find yourself listening to Haunted and The Lucky Ones on loop, then lose yourself into the world of Pip and Miss Havisham and just try to [Shake it Off!](#)



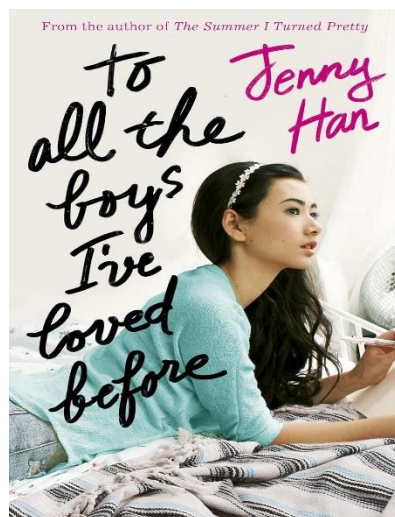


## Eleanor & Park by Rainbow Rowell

If you want to find more about this book, please see [here!](#)

### Taylor's Connection:

[Mine](#) and [Our Song](#) often spring to mind with the lives of Eleanor & Park! That is if your parents' 80s collection featuring Madonna, Duran Duran, and Bowie are not quite the tempo!

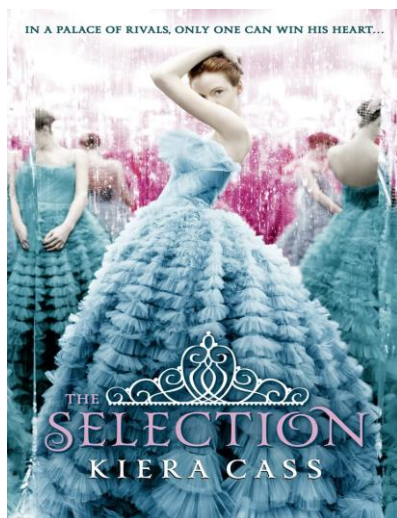


## To All The Boys I've Loved Before by Jenny Han

If you want to find more about this book, please see [here!](#)

### Taylor's Connection:

[Fearless](#) (the album) would spring to my mind, but feel free to start from the very beginning of [Taylor Swift](#) all the way to [The Tortured Poets Department](#).

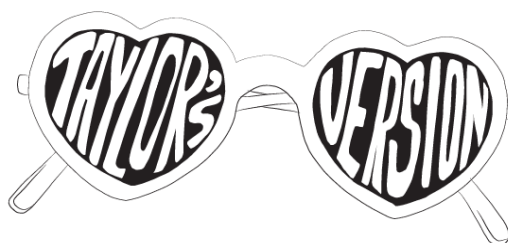


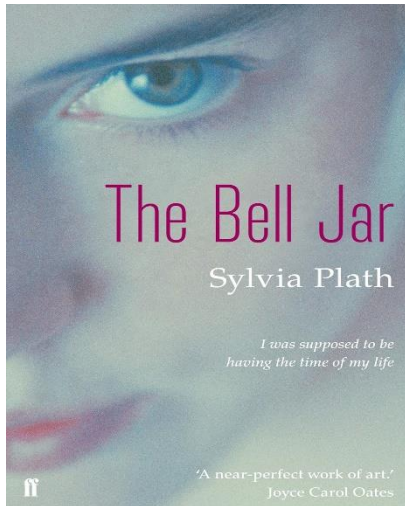
## The Selection series by Kiera Cass

If you want to find more about this book, please see [here!](#)

### Taylor's Connection:

[Haunted](#), [Enchanted](#), or even [Better Than Revenge](#) would be the most perfect picks as you work your way through Kiera Cass' futuristic series charting the trials and tribulations and epic clashes between the Ones and the Eights.



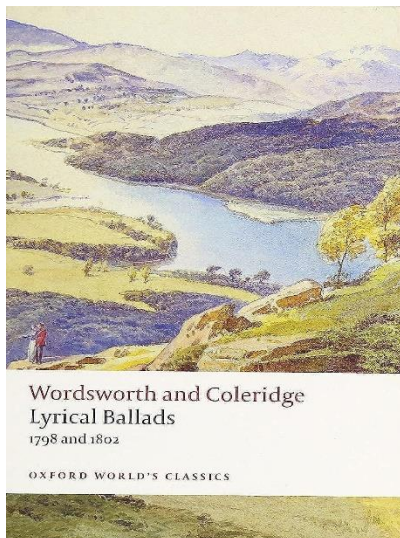


## The Bell Jar by Sylvia Plath

If you want to find more about this book, please see [here!](#)

### Taylor's Connection:

A timeless classic with the subtext of exploring Esther Green's mental health has direct parallels to [The Archer](#), [Blank Space](#) and [Welcome to New York](#) can also be applied. I'd also highly [recommend The Collected Poems of Sylvia Plath](#).

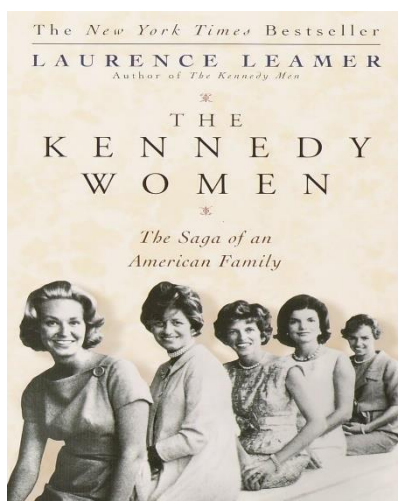


## Lyrical Ballads 1798 and 1802 by William Wordsworth & Samuel Taylor Coleridge

If you want to find more about this book, please see [here!](#)

### Taylor's Connection:

Much of [The Lakes](#), especially Windermere, features direct references to the natural beauty of the Lake District, and to much of the Lake Poets, a group of poets who lived around the Lake District around the 18th and 19 centuries, and drew much inspiration from one of the most beautiful parts of our country. The Collected Poems by Samuel Taylor Coleridge is also worth picking up!



## The Kennedy Women: The Saga of an American Family by Laurence Leamer

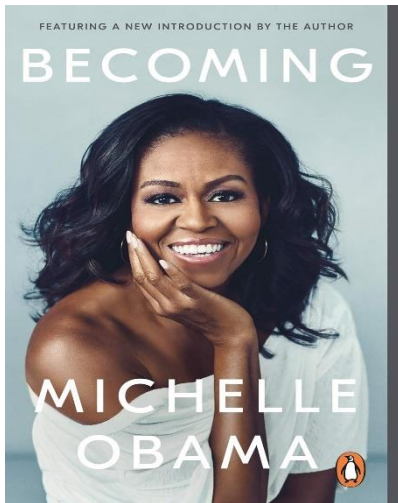
If you want to find more about this book, please see [here!](#)

### Taylor's Connection:

Much like the rest of America, Taylor Swift has long held a fascination with the Kennedy family, so feel free to dip into the lives of the Kennedy family whilst listening to [Only the Young](#), [Miss Americana and the Heartbreak Prince](#), and [American Girl](#).





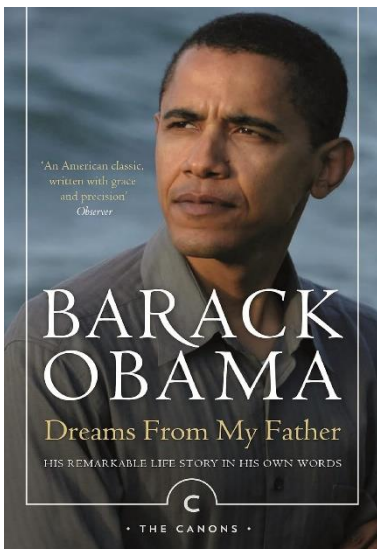


## Becoming by Michelle Obama

If you want to find more about this book, please see [here!](#)

### Taylor's Connection:

A self-confessed fan of the former First Lady of the United States (2009-2017), Taylor has often mentioned how much of a role-model Michelle Obama has been for her.

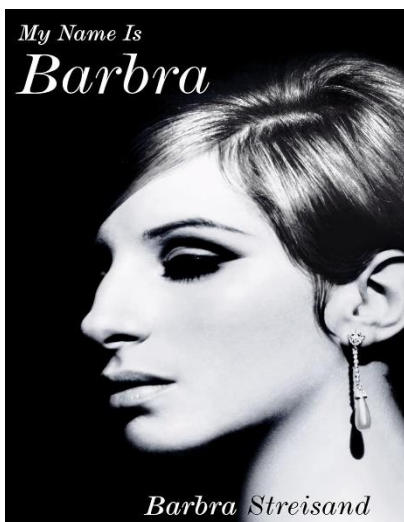


## Dreams from My Father: A Story of Race and Inheritance by Barack Obama

If you want to find more about this book, please see [here!](#)

### Taylor's Connection:

If you read [Becoming](#), please also try former President Obama's inspirational memoir which asks fresh questions of dual heritage and how to reconcile the idea of identity and belonging in the often-flawed concept of the American ideals of life! [A Promised Land](#), the first volume covering Obama's presidency is also worth reading too, in addition to [The Audacity of Hope](#), both of which are borrowable from the Senior School Library!

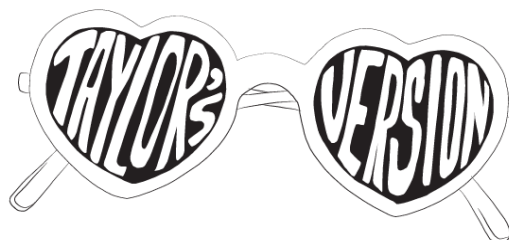


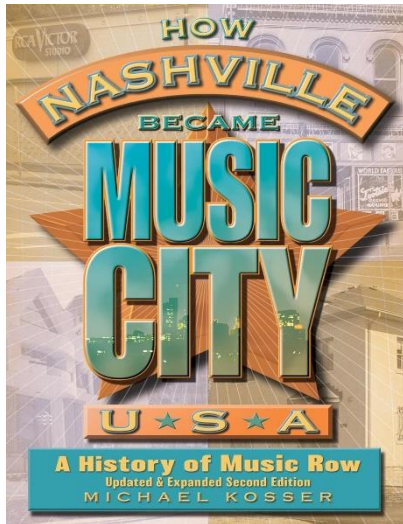
## My Name is Barbra by Barbra Streisand

If you want to find more about this book, please see [here!](#)

### Taylor's Connection:

From one record-breaking diva to another, the long-awaited memoir from the awesomely impressive multi-hyphenate, EGOT-winning, Mother of all Divas who has inspired, and set the tone and the records, for the current Swifts of our time, would be a useful starting point!





## How Nashville Became Music City USA by Michael Kossler

If you want to find more about this book, please see [here!](#)

### Taylor's Connection:

Taylor's musical career began in Nashville so it would be worth picking up Kossler's insightful reference guide of how the music industry within Nashville works! George R. Zepp's [Hidden History of Nashville](#) is also worth picking up too!

### Audio-Visual Suggestions!

[Holy Swift Podcast](#) – for those who cannot get enough of Taylor's music might like to do a deep-dive into Swift's songs!

[Swiftish](#) - examines the cultural impact of Swift's music, in addition to her social friendships, her personal life, and other bits of gossip that are Tay-Tay-related!

[A Taylor Swift Fan Podcast](#) – do you have friends who just don't "get" TS? Well... tell them to 'Shake It Off' by tuning into this beginner's guide to Swift's music!

[Tay to Z: A Taylor Swift Podcast](#) – focuses on a song per episode and gives you greater insight into what Taylor might have been thinking of at the time of writing, recording; and what she may have been trying to communicate!

This podcast is also useful for those of you who are trying to analytically examine some of the bigger cultural, political, and social themes that are in the current zeitgeist! For those of you who are considering studying English and/or Film Studies at A-Level, then this is the podcast for you!

