



# HAYLE ACADEMY'S Reading CANON

At Hayle Academy, we believe that reading is a cornerstone of success in all aspects of education and life beyond school. Our carefully curated **Reading Canon** is designed to broaden horizons, deepen understanding, and foster a lifelong love of literature. Through shared reading during tutor time, students will explore diverse narratives, develop cultural capital, and strengthen their ability to think critically about the world around them.

Our selection of texts have been chosen to:

- **Challenge and inspire** students with rich language and thought-provoking themes.
- **Reflect diversity** in voices, perspectives, and experiences.
- **Support personal development**, empathy and reliance.

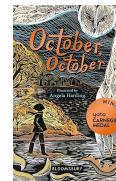
We also place a strong emphasis on modelling reading fluency and immersing students in the art of storytelling. By hearing expressive, confident reading and engaging with stories in a meaningful way, students learn to appreciate the rhythm, tone, and depth of language—skills that enhance comprehension and inspire a genuine passion for literature.

*By the time students leave Hayle Academy, students will have read over 1.1 million words through our Reading Canon.*

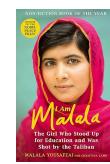
4,000 pages!



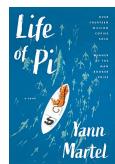
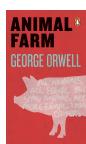
## Year 7



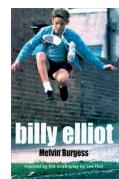
## Year 8



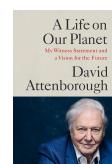
## Year 9



## Year 10



## Year 11

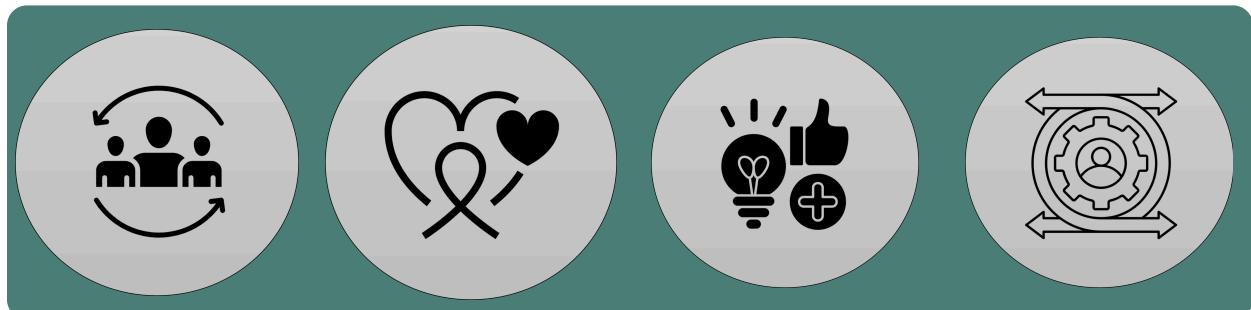


# House Values



At Hayle Academy, our house values (the four pillars) **kindness, respect, positivity, and resilience** are at the heart of everything we do.

The books within our Reading Canon have been thoughtfully chosen to reflect and reinforce those values, offering students stories and ideas that inspire character, broaden perspectives, and spark meaningful discussion during tutor time. Each title has been selected not only for its literary merit, but also for its ability to connect with the principles that guide our school community.



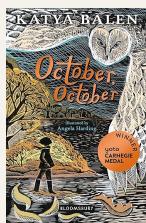
# Year 7



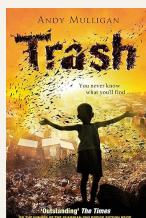
*Freedom* (1783): A historical novel about Nat, a 12-year-old enslaved boy from Jamaica who is taken to England, where he dreams of freedom but discovers that slavery's shadow still follows him.



*You Are Awesome*: A motivational guide that teaches resilience and growth mindset. Syed uses real-life examples and practical tips to show how failure can be a stepping stone to success, encouraging readers to embrace challenges and unlock their potential.



*October, October*: A lyrical children's novel about October, a girl who lives wild and free in the woods with her father. When circumstances force her into city life, she struggles to adapt but learns about belonging, identity, and the beauty of both worlds.



*Trash*: follows three boys who live in extreme poverty, scavenging through a massive rubbish dump in an unnamed developing country. One day, they discover a mysterious bag containing money and a key, which leads them into a dangerous conspiracy involving corruption, crime and injustice.



“Once you learn to read, you will be forever free.”

- Frederick Douglass

#### Values



- **Positivity:** *You Are Awesome* Promotes a growth mindset and optimism.
- **Resilience:** *Freedom (1783)* and *Trash* show characters overcoming hardship and injustice.
- **Kindness and respect:** *October, October* explores empathy and respect for nature and relationships.

#### Diversity and culture

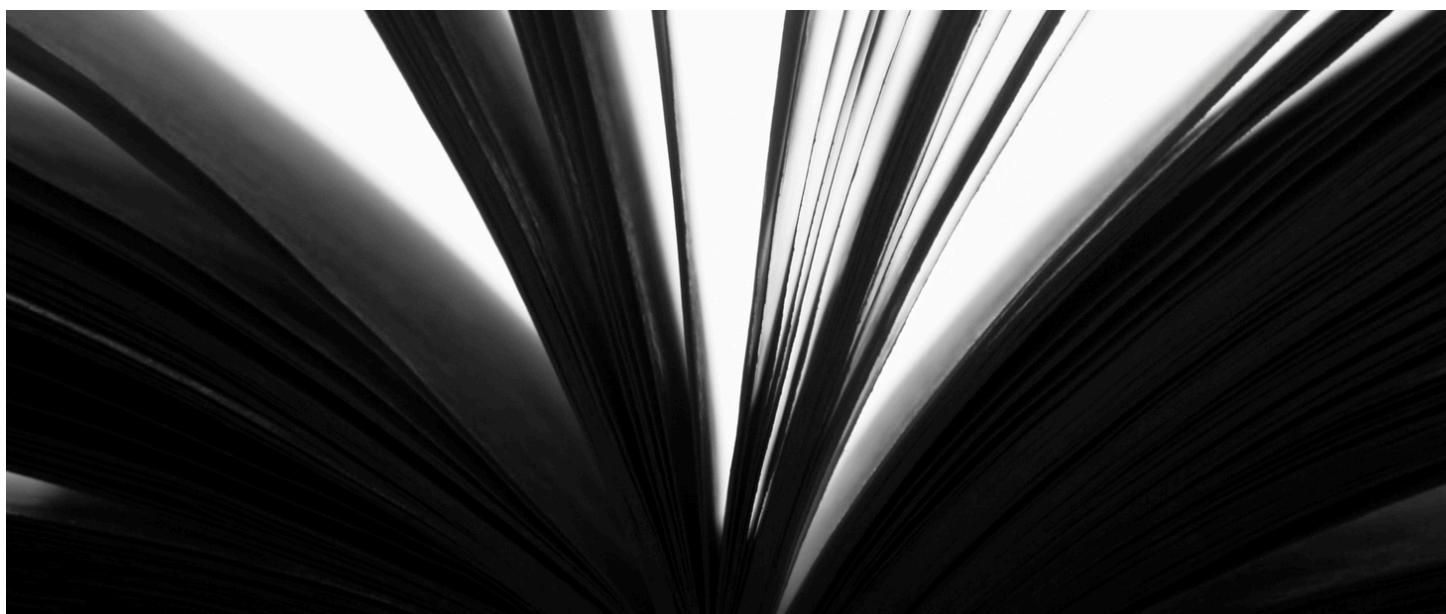


- *Freedom (1783)* Introduces historical perspective on slavery and freedom.
- *Trash* offers insight into poverty and corruption in a developing country.
- *October, October* celebrates rural life and environmental respect.
- *You Are Awesome* provides motivational, inclusive advice for all learners.

#### Gender and balance



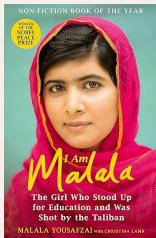
- Mix of male and female authors.
- Diverse cultural contexts represented across texts.



# Year 8



*One*: A poignant verse novel about conjoined twins, Grace and Tippi, exploring Sisterhood, identity, and the heartbreakingly choices that come with being physically inseparable.



*I Am Malala*: The inspiring memoir of Malala, a Pakistani girl who stood up for education under Taliban rule. After surviving an assassination attempt, she became a global advocate for girls' education and the youngest Nobel Peace Prize laureate.



*Lord of the Flies*: A classic allegory about a group of boys stranded on an uninhabited island who descend into savagery. Golding examines human nature, power, and morality, revealing how civilisation can quickly unravel without rules and order.



*A Kind of Spark*: Addie, an autistic girl living in a small Scottish village, learns about the local history of witch trials and becomes determined to create a memorial for the women persecuted. As she campaigns for this recognition, Addie faces prejudice and misunderstanding from her community and even her classmates. Through her journey, she discovers parallels between the treatment of those women and the way society views neurodivergent people today.



## Values



- **Positivity:** *I Am Malala* inspires hope and courage through education and activism.
- **Resilience:** *Malala's* fight for girls' education and the survival themes in *Lord of the Flies* highlight perseverance.
- **Kindness and respect:** *A Kind of Spark* promotes empathy and respect for neurodiversity. *One* explores compassion and identity.

## Diversity and culture



- *I Am Malala* introduces Pakistani culture and global issues of gender equality.
- *A Kind of Spark* represents neurodiverse voices and Scottish setting.
- *One* offers a tutor verse-novel perspective on identity and belonging.
- *Lord of the Flies* provides a classic lens on human nature and morality.

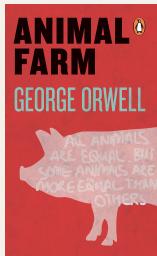
## Gender balance



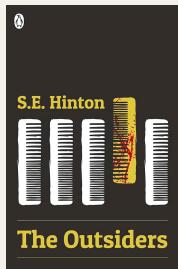
- Strong female voices balance the male dominated classic *Lord of the Flies*.
- Mix of contemporary and historical perspectives.



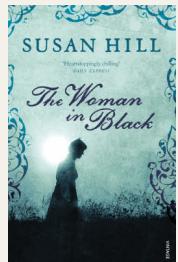
# Year 9



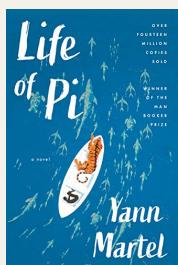
*Animal Farm*: A political allegory that explores how power can corrupt revolutionary ideals, focusing on farm animals who overthrow their human owner to create an equal society, only to see it devolve into tyranny under the pig's rule.



*The Outsiders*: Set in 1960's Oklahoma, the novel follows Ponyboy Curtis, a 14-year-old member of the Greasers - a gang of working-class teens often in conflict with the wealthier Socs. After a violent encounter, Ponyboy and his friend Johnny go on the run, hiding in an abandoned church. Their time in hiding changes them, but tragedy strikes when they return home. The story explores themes of class division, identity, loyalty, and the search for belonging.



*The Woman in Black*: A chilling Gothic ghost story about Arthur kipps, a young solicitor sent to a remote English village to settle the affairs of a recently deceased woman, Mrs Drablow. While working at her isolated home, Eel Marsh House, Arthur encounters strange occurrences and learns of a mysterious figure dressed in black.



*Life of Pi*: Tells the story of Pi Patel, a young boy from India who survives a shipwreck and is stranded on a lifeboat in the Pacific Ocean for 227 days. His only companion is a Bengal tiger named Richard Parker. Pi uses his knowledge of animals and faith to stay alive, forming an unusual bond with the tiger.



## Values



- **Positivity:** *The Outsiders* encourages hope and unity despite social divides.
- **Resilience:** *Life of Pi* and *The Outsiders* show characters overcoming extreme adversity.
- **Kindness and respect:** *Animal Farm* and *The Woman in Black* explore consequences of power and empathy (or lack thereof).

## Diversity and culture



- *Life of Pi* introduces Indian culture and multi-faith perspectives.
- *The Outsiders* highlights class struggles and youth identity in mid-20<sup>th</sup>-century America.
- *Animal Farm* provides political allegory and historical context.
- *The Woman in Black* adds Gothic tradition and psychological depth.

## Gender balance



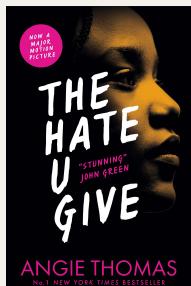
- Female author (Hill) balances male voices
- Mix of classic and modern texts with varied cultural settings.



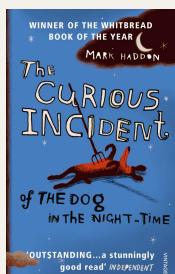
# Year 10



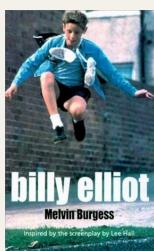
*Scythe*: A dystopian novel set in a future where humanity has conquered death, and only specially trained scythes can permanently end lives to control the population growth.



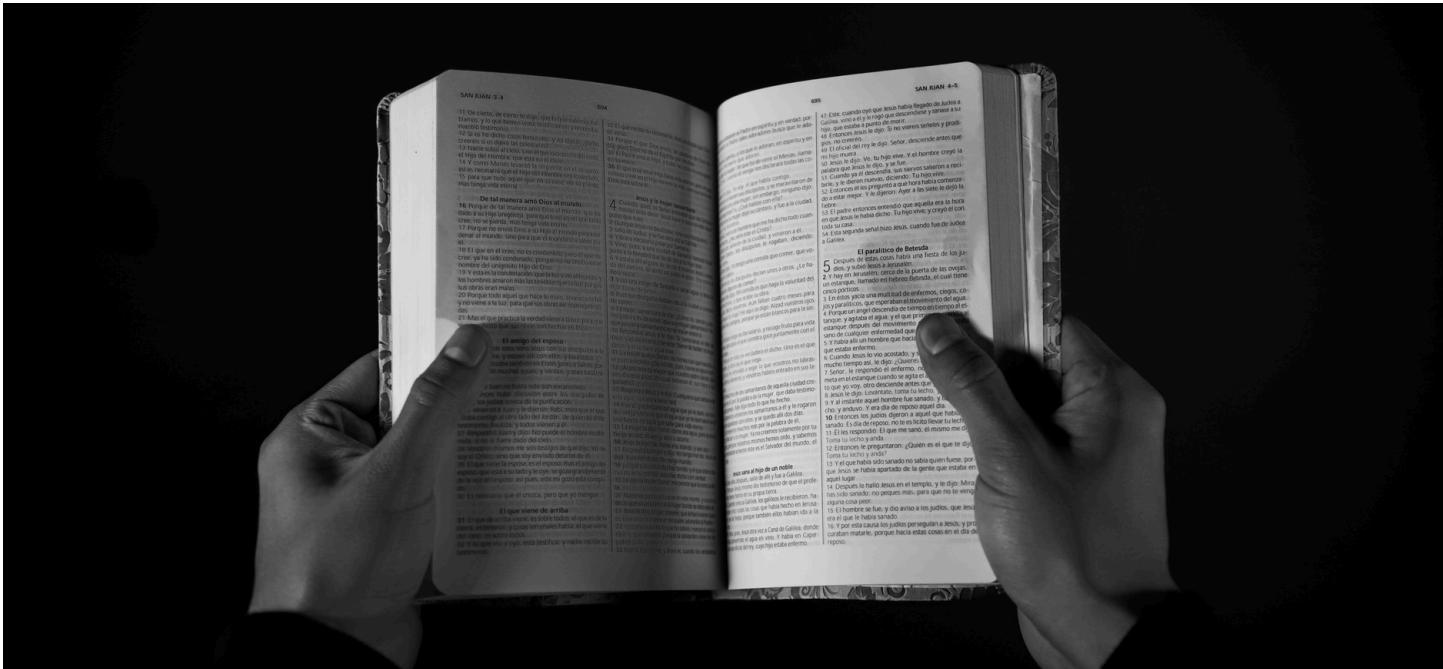
*The Hate U Give*: Starr Carter, a 16-year-old Black girl, lives between two worlds, her poor neighbourhood and her wealthy prep school. Her life changes when she witnesses her childhood friend Khalil being fatally shot by a police officer during a traffic stop. As Khalil's death becomes a national headline, Starr faces pressure from all sides - her community, activists, and the media - while struggling to find her voice and speak out for justice. The novel explores themes of racism, identity, activism and the power of speaking truth.



*The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time*: Christopher Boone, a 15-year-old boy who is brilliant at math but struggles with social interactions, discovers his neighbour's dog dead and decides to investigate. His detective work uncovers unexpected secrets about his own family, forcing him to navigate a confusing and overwhelming world. Told from the perspective of Christopher's unique mind, the novel explores themes of truth, trust, independence, and neurodiversity.



*Billy Elliot*: A heartfelt story about Billy, a boy from a working-class mining town who discovers a passion for ballet. Against family expectations and social norms, Billy fights for his dream, highlighting themes of identity, resilience, and breaking stereotypes.



## Values



- **Positivity:** *Billy Elliot* celebrates ambition and hope despite social barriers.
- **Resilience:** *Scythe* and *Billy Elliot* show determination in challenging circumstances. *Curious Incident* highlights perseverance through neurodiversity.
- **Kindness and respect:** *The Hate U Give* powerfully addresses racism, empathy, and justice; *Curious Incident* promotes understanding of difference.

## Diversity and culture



- *The Hate U Give* explores race, identity, and activism in contemporary America.
- *Billy Elliot* reflects working-class struggles and gender expectations in 1980s Britain.
- *Curious Incident* offers insight into neurodiversity and family dynamics.
- *Scythe* introduces futuristic ethical dilemmas and global perspectives.

## Gender balance

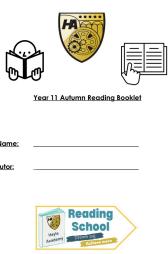


- Strong female voice (Thomas) alongside male authors
- Mix of contemporary YA, drama and speculative fiction ensures varied perspectives.

# Year 11

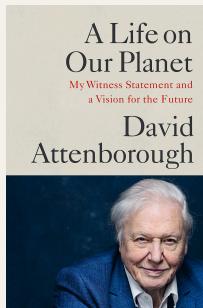
*Non-Fiction Anthology booklet:* Containing 15 non-fiction extracts from diverse authors, covering adventure, history, psychology, social issues, technology, and culture.

1. *Mud, Sweat and Tears* - Bear Grylls (2011): A gripping account of climbing Everest, emphasising courage and endurance.
2. *Explorers or Just Boys Messing Around?* - Steven Morris (2003): A critique of risky expeditions, questioning responsibility.
3. *The Diary of Florence Nightingale* - Florence Nightingale (1855): First-hand account of nursing during Crimean War.
4. *Mary Seacole Creator: 'History doesn't like to remember black women'* - Jade Cuttle (2022): Celebrates Seacole's resilience and cultural legacy.
5. *The Stanford Prison Experiment* - Saul McLeod (2008): Psychological study on power and conformity.
6. *The Hidden Sexism in Workplace Language* - Mark Peters (2017): Explores gender bias in everyday language.
7. *The Road to Wigan Pier* - George Orwell (1937): Social commentary on poverty and industrial England.
8. *I had to Fight My Way Through Class Barriers Into My Job* - Jamie Fahey (2022): Personal story of overcoming social inequality.
9. *Admit it, the Cybertruck is Awesome* - Saahil Desai (2023): Tech innovation and cultural trends.
10. *The 1899 Car With a Full-Size Wooden Horse Head* - Alex Davies (2015): Quirky history of early automobiles.
11. *The Salem Witch Hunts* - Mike Kubric (2016): Historical hysteria and injustice.
12. *For Gen Z, TikTok is the New Search Engine* - Kalley Huang (2022): Digital culture and generational shifts.
13. *Why is it Fun to Be Frightened?* - Margee Kerr (2018): Psychological benefits of fear and thrill.
14. *Can a Devastating Shark Attack Really Lead to a Better Life?* - Melanie Greenberg (2011): Post-traumatic growth and resilience.
15. *We Should all be Feminists (extract)* - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie (2013): Gender equality and cultural change.

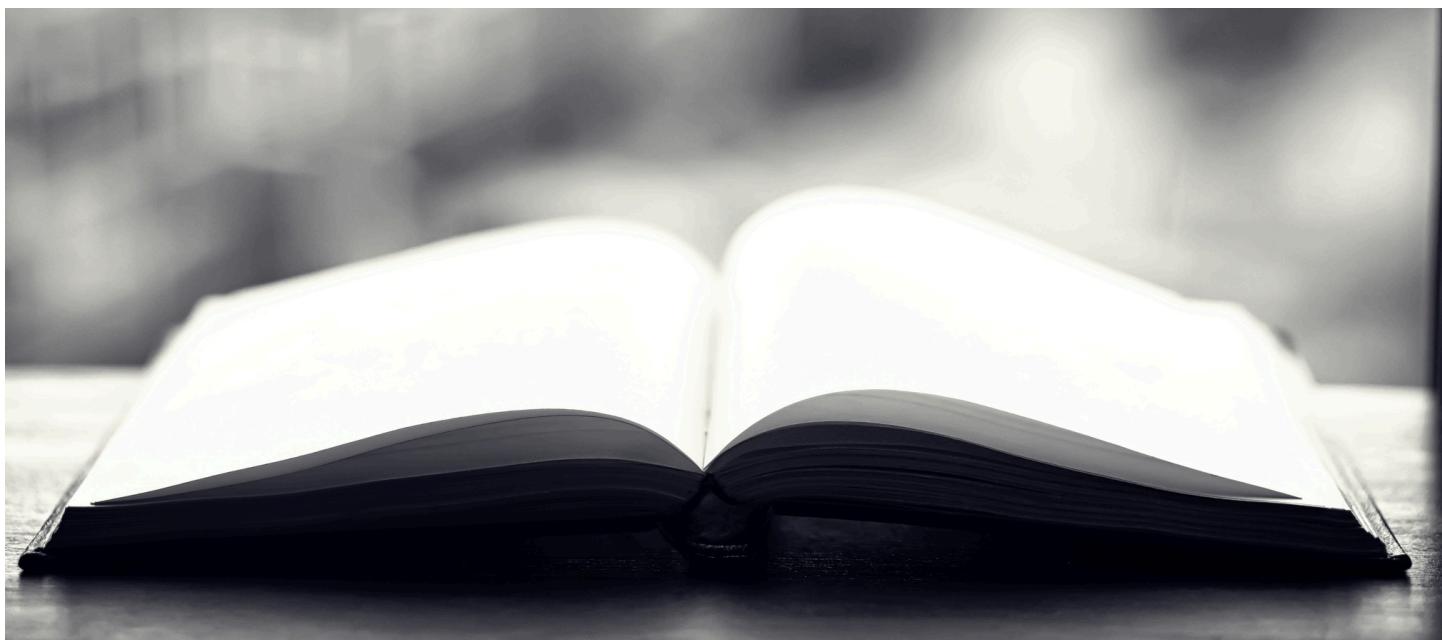


Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Tutor: \_\_\_\_\_



*A Life on Our Planet*: Sir David Attenborough reflects on his extraordinary career exploring the natural world and witnessing its decline. He shares personal experiences from decades of filming wildlife, illustrating how human activity has driven climate change, deforestation, and species extinction. The book is both a warning and a hopeful guide: Attenborough explains the urgent need to restore balance to our planet and offers practical solutions for creating a sustainable future. It emphasises themes of responsibility, interconnectedness, and the power of collective action.



“There is no friend as loyal as a book.”

- Ernest Hemingway



## Values



- **Positivity:** *Can a Devastating Shark Attack Really Lead to a Better Life?* - shows optimism and growth after trauma.
- *Why Is it Fun to be Frightened?* - Explains how fear can boost mood and confidence.
- *A Life on Our Planet:* provides a vision for reversing environmental damage and creating a sustainable future.
- **Resilience:** *Mud, Sweat and Tears* - physical and mental endurance in extreme conditions.
- *Mary Seacole and Florence Nightingale* - courage in war zones and adversity.
- *Jamie Fahey's article* - persistence against class barriers.
- *A Life on Our Planet:* highlights nature's ability to recover and humanity's role in fostering resilience.
- **Kindness and respect:** *Mary Seacole* - compassion and care for soldiers.
- *Florence Nightingale* - dedication to saving lives.
- *Feminist extract* - advocates respect and equality.
- *A Life on Our Planet:* advocates respect for all living beings and ecosystems.

## Diversity and culture



- *Mary Seacole* - highlights racial and gender bias in history.
- *We Should All Be Feminists* - gender equality and cultural norms.
- *TikTok article* - digital culture and generational change.
- *Road to Wigan Pier* - class barriers to social class and inequality.
- *Hidden Sexism in Language* - gendered language in workplace culture.
- *A Life on Our Planet:* Promotes global cooperation and cultural shifts towards sustainability, valuing indigenous knowledge and diverse approaches to conservation.

## Gender balance



- Female and male authors.
- David Attenborough is a leading voice in environmental advocacy.