

# KS5 Reading List for English Literature

## Enhanced Reading list

### Introductions and general interest:

#### Literary Movements

- Anglo-Saxon – Beowulf, unknown (8th-11th century)
- Medieval – Sir Gawain and The Green Knight, unknown (1300s)
- The Age of Chaucer – The Canterbury Tales, Geoffrey Chaucer (1475)
- The Elizabethan Age – The Faerie Queene, Edmund Spenser (1590)
- Jacobean Tragedy – The Duchess Of Malfi, John Webster (1614)
- The Metaphysical Poets – John Donne (1610s-20s)
- The Age Of Milton - Paradise Lost, John Milton (1667)
- The Enlightenment – The Rape Of The Lock, Alexander Pope (1712)
- Restoration Comedy – The Rivals, Richard Brinsley Sheridan (1775)
- The Romantics – The Lyrical Ballads, William Wordsworth (1798)
- The Regency Period – Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen (1813)
- The Victorians – Middlemarch, George Eliot (1871)
- Aestheticism – The Picture Of Dorian Gray, Oscar Wilde (1890)
- Modernism – The Wasteland, TS Eliot (1922)
- Postmodernism – The New York Trilogy, Paul Auster (1986)

#### Themes & Genres

##### Literature of War

- Scars Upon My Heart, ed. Catherine Reilly
- Never Such Innocence Again: Poems Of The first World War, ed. Martin Stephen

- Journey's End, RC Sheriff
- Half Of A Yellow Sun, Chimamanda Adichie
- All Quiet On The Western Front, Erich Maria Remarque
- Catch 22, Joseph Heller
- The Great War And Modern Memory, Paul Fussell
- Birdsong, Sebastian Faulks
- The War Poems, Wilfred Owen

### Science Fiction

- War Of The Worlds, HG Wells
- Oryx And Crake, Margaret Atwood
- The Drowned World, JG Ballard
- Neuromancer, William Gibson
- In Other Worlds: SF and the Human Imagination; Margaret Atwood
- Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep, Philip K. Dick

### Dystopian Fiction

- The Handmaid's Tale, Margaret Atwood
- 1984, George Orwell
- Brave New World, Aldous Huxley
- Never Let Me Go, Kazuo Ishiguro

### Irish Literature

- WB Yeats, Selected Poems
- Seamus Heaney, Selected Poems
- The Playboy Of The Western World, JM Synge
- A Long Day's Journey Into Night, Eugene O'Neill

- The Secret Scripture, Sebastian Barry

### European Drama

- Waiting for Godot - Samuel Beckett
- A Doll's House - Henrik Ibsen
- Miss Julie - August Strindberg
- The Cherry Orchard - Anton Chekhov

### The Pastoral

- A Midsummer Night's Dream, William Shakespeare
- Jerusalem, Jez Butterworth
- Selected Poems, Andrew Marvell
- Tess Of The D'Urbervilles, Thomas Hardy
- The Prelude, William Wordsworth
- <http://www.britannica.com/EBchecked/topic/446078/pastoral-literature>he Road, Cormac McCarthy

### Relationships

- Who's Afraid Of Virginia Woolf?, Edward Albee
- Revolutionary Road, Richard Yates
- Tender Is The Night, F Scott Fitzgerald
- Snow Falling on Cedars, David Guterson
- <http://www.theguardian.com/books/booksblog/2011/may/06/unhappy-marriageliterature>

### Political Writing

- Borstal Boy, Brendan Behan
- Down and Out In Paris and London, George Orwell

- A Room Of One's Own, Virginia Woolf

### **Crime**

- Brighton Rock, Graham Greene
- Crime And Punishment, Fyodor Dostoyevsky
- The Woman In White, Wilkie Collins
- The Talented Mr Ripley, Patricia Highsmith

### **Colonial literature**

- The Heart Of Darkness, Joseph Conrad
- A Passage To India, EM Forster
- The Dubliners, James Joyce

### **Post-colonial literature**

- Midnight's Children – Salman Rushdie
- Things Fall Apart – Chinua Achebe
- Wide Sargasso Sea – Jean Rhys

### **Magic Realism**

- The Songs Of Eva Luna - Isabel Allende
- One Hundred Years Of Solitude – Gabriel Garcia Marquez
- The Magic Toyshop - Angela Carter

### **The City**

- The Wasteland, TS Eliot

- Serious Money, Caryl Churchill
- High-Rise, JG Ballard

### **Bildungsroman**

- Portrait Of The Artist As A Young Man, James Joyce
- Great Expectations, Charles Dickens
- The Catcher In The Rye, JD Salinger
- The Mill On The Floss, George Eliot
- The Bell Jar, Sylvia Plath
- Purple Hibiscus, Chimamanda Adichie
- Jane Eyre, Charlotte Bronte

### **The Bible for English Literature scholars**

- Earlier periods of English literature are deeply rooted in the Christian Bible:
- Northrop Frye's lecture series:
- <http://www.openculture.com/2014/09/critic-northrop-frye-teaches-the-bible-andenglish-literature.html>
- The 'Very Short Introductions' series has three titles:
- Linafelt, Tod - The Hebrew Bible as Literature
- Coogan, Michael D. - The Old Testament – good on the core ideas and theology
- Keefer, Kyle - The New Testament – ditto
- Jasper and Prickett's 'The Bible and Literature: A Reader'

### **The Gothic**

- The Bloody Chamber, Angela Carter
- Dracula, Bram Stoker
- Frankenstein, Mary Shelley

- Wuthering Heights, Emily Bronte
- The Monk, Matthew Lewis
- The Castle of Otranto, Horace Walpole
- The Mysteries of Udolpho, Ann Radcliffe
- Gothic Short Stories, Charles Dickens
- The Turn of the Screw, Henry James
- The Tell-Tale Heart, Edgar Allen Poe
- A Haunted House, Virginia Woolf
- The Body Snatcher, Robert Louis Stevenson
- Ghost Stories - M.R. James
- Jane Eyre - Charlotte Bronte
- The Great God Pan - Arthur Machen
- The King in Yellow - Robert Chambers

### **Landscape**

- Tess Of The D'Urbervilles, Thomas Hardy
- Waterland, Graham Swift
- High-Rise, JG Ballard
- 'V', Tony Harrison
- <http://www.bl.uk/onlinegallery/onlineex/literland/>

### **Religion In Literature**

- Selected Poems, William Blake
- His Dark Materials, Philip Pullman
- Selected Poems, John Donne
- Paradise Lost, John Milton

### Re-working The Classics

- Beowulf, Seamus Heaney
- Omeros, Derek Walcott
- Sir Gawain And The Green Knight, Simon Armitage
- Tales from Ovid, Ted Hughes

### Gender

- Orlando, Virginia Woolf
- Middlesex, Jeffrey Eugenides
- The Left Hand Of Darkness, Ursula Le Guin
- Literature and Gender, Lizbeth Goodman

### The Female Experience

- The Yellow Wallpaper, Charlotte Perkins Gillman
- The Bell Jar, Sylvia Plath
- Wide Sargasso Sea, Jean Rhys
- The Female Malady: Women, Madness and English Culture, 1830-1980; Elaine Showalter

### Disillusion In America

- Death Of A Salesman, Arthur Miller
- The Grapes Of Wrath, John Steinbeck
- Howl, Allen Ginsberg
- On The Road, Jack Kerouac

### Tragedy

- Hamlet, William Shakespeare
- King Lear, William Shakespeare
- All My Sons, Arthur Miller
- A Streetcar Named Desire, Tennessee Williams

## Literary Criticism

### General

- The Ode Less Travelled, Stephen Fry
- How Novels Work, John Mullan
- The Art Of Fiction, David Lodge

### Literary Theory

- Beginning theory: An introduction to literary and cultural theory; Peter Barry
- Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction; Jonathan Culler
- Literary Theory: An Introduction; Terry Eagleton

### Marxist Criticism

- Communism: A Very Short Introduction; Leslie Holmes
- Contemporary Marxist Literary Criticism; ed. Francis Mulhern
- The Communist Manifesto, Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels

### Feminist Criticism

- Feminist Literary Criticism: A Reader, ed. Mary Eagleton
- The Madwoman in the Attic: The Woman Writer and the Nineteenth-century Literary
- Imagination; Sandra Gilbert



- The Second Sex; Simone De Beauvoir
- A Room Of One's Own, Virginia Woolf
- A Vindication Of The Rights Of Woman, Mary Wollstonecraft