

'It is what you read when you don't have to that determines what you will be when you can't help it' Oscar Wilde

A level
English
Literature Set
Text and
Independent
Reading List

[Document subtitle]

Welcome to A-Level English Literature - you are about to embark on a most rewarding and challenging two years. In order to provide you with a sound introduction to the rigours and delights of the advanced study of literature, we have devised a reading list that reflects the level of reading you will need to demonstrate both in set text reading and independent Non-Examination reading.

Set Text Reading List

Year 12

In Term 1 and 2, you will read the following texts:

Othello, William Shakespeare

Keats Poetry, Keats (AQA Anthology: You will be provided with a copy of this free of charge.)

Term 3 and 4:

Death of a Salesman, Arthur Miller

The World's Wife, Carol Anne Duffy (for use with NEA Poetry task)

Term 5 and 6:

The Handmaid's Tale, Margaret Atwood

Prose text of your choice (approved by teacher) for use with NEA Prose task.

Year 13

In Term 1 and 2, you will read the following texts:

Songs of Innocence and Experience, William Blake (AQA Anthology: You will be provided with a copy of this free of charge.)

The Kite Runner, Khaled Hosseini

The Critical Anthology: AQA also produce an anthology of critical readings of literature divided into 6 sections:

- narrative theory
- feminist theory
- Marxist theory
- eco-critical theory
- post-colonial theory
- literary value and the canon.

REMEMBER - The study of English Literature is all about the love of books and reading. Obviously, any student who does not love reading, should think carefully before taking this course. In order to facilitate and guide your love of reading, we have produced an extensive reading list for you to use throughout the two year course. The list includes 'canonical' literature and modern/contemporary literature. These lists are of particular importance for anyone who is considering studying English Literature or a related subject at university as experience has taught us that most of the top universities will not offer a place to students who cannot prove engagement beyond set texts. The lists are not exhaustive- there is of course a wealth of good literature in the world- but they can act as a starting point for wider reading. Another effective source is the list of past winners and nominees for The Man Booker Prize award for literature:

<https://thebookerprizes.com>

(Please note that for the NEA Prose study a number of texts are prohibited by AQA as they are texts which already form part of their set text for A Level lists. These are attached as an appendix to this reading list.)

Prose:

Chinua Achebe: *Arrow of God* , *A Man of the People*

Adavind Adiga: *The White Tiger*

Monica Ali: *Brick Lane*

Maya Angelou: *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*

Nadeem Aslam: *Maps for Lost Lovers*

Margaret Atwood: *The Handmaid's Tale* , *Cat's Eye* , *Alias Grace* , *The Blind Assassin* , *The Testaments (sequel to The Handmaid's Tale)*

Jane Austen: *Pride and Prejudice* , *Emma* , *Persuasion* , *Sense and Sensibility* , *Mansfield Park* , *Northanger Abbey*

J. G. Ballard: *The Atrocity Exhibition* , *Crash*

Iain Banks: *The Wasp Factory* , *Espedair Street*

Pat Barker: *Regeneration* , *The Ghost Road* , *Border Crossing* , *the Silence of The Girls*

H. E. Bates: *The Larkin books*

William Boyd: *Any Human Heart*

E. Braithwaite: *To Sir With Love*

Charlotte Bronte: *Jane Eyre* , *Villette*

Emily Bronte: *Wuthering Heights*

John Bunyan: *The Pilgrim's Progress*

Anthony Burgess: *A Clockwork Orange*

A.S. Byatt: *Possession* , *Virgin in the Garden*

Albert Camus: *The Outsider*

Lewis Carroll: *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*

Angela Carter: *Wise Children* , *The Bloody Chamber* . *Nights at the Circus*

Agatha Christie: *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* , *Murder on the Nile*

Arthur C. Clarke: *2001 A Space Odyssey*

J.M. Coetzee: *Disgrace* , *Foe*

Wilkie Collins: *The Woman in White*

Joseph Conrad *Heart of Darkness* , *Nostromo* , *The Secret Agent*

Louis de Bernieres: *Captain Corelli's Mandolin*

Daniel Defoe: *Robinson Crusoe* , *Moll Flanders* , *Journal of the Plague Year*

Charles Dickens: *Our Mutual Friend* , *Dombey and Son* , *Bleak House* , *David Copperfield* , *Martin Chuzzlewit* , *Nicholas Nickleby*

Roddy Doyle: *The Commitments* , *The Van*

Margaret Drabble: *The Millstone*

George Eliot: *The Mill on the Floss* , *Middlemarch* , *Daniel Deronda* , *Adam Bede*

Sebastian Faulks: *Birdsong* , *Of Human Traces* , *Charlotte Gray* , *Engleby*

Henry Fielding: *Joseph Andrews* , *Tom Jones* , *Shamela*

F. Scott Fitzgerald *Tender is the Night* , *The Great Gatsby*

E.M. Forster: *Howards End* , *A Room with a View* , *Where Angels Fear to Tread* , *Maurice* , *The Longest Journey* , *A Passage to India*

Elizabeth Gaskell: *North and South* , *Wives and Daughters* , *Cranford* , *Mary Barton* , *Ruth* , *Life of Charlotte Bronte (non-fiction)*

John Fowles: *The French Lieutenant's Woman* , *The Magus* , *The Collector*

William Golding: *Lord of the Flies* , *The Inheritors* , *Pincher Martin* , *Rites of Passage* trilogy

Graham Greene: *The Third Man* , *The Heart of the Matter* , *The Quiet American* , *The Power and the Glory* , *The End of the Affair*

Thomas Hardy: *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* , *Far from the Madding Crowd* , *Jude the Obscure* , *The Return of the Native* Short stories

L. P. Hartley: *The Go-Between*

Nathaniel Hawthorne: *The Scarlet Letter*

Ernest Hemingway: *A Farewell to Arms* , *For Whom the Bell Tolls*

Barry Hines: *Kes*

Khaled Hussein: *The Kite Runner* , *A Thousand Splendid Suns*

Kazuo Ishiguro: *Remains of the Day* , *Never Let Me Go*
Henry James: *Portrait of a Lady* , *The Turn of the Screw*
Jerome K. Jerome: *Three Men in a Boat*
James Joyce: *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* , *Ulysses*
Thomas Kenneally: *Schindler's Ark* , *The Playmaker*
Rudyard Kipling: *Tales from the Hills*
D.H. Lawrence: *The Virgin and the Gypsy* , *Sons and Lovers* , *The Rainbow* , *Women in Love* , *Lady Chatterley's Lover*
Doris Lessing: *The Grass is Singing* , *The Fifth Child* , *The Good Terrorist*
Andrea Levy: *Small Island* , *Long Song*
C.S. Lewis: *Out of the Silent Planet* , *The Screwtape Letters* , *A Grief Observed*
Bernard MacLaverty: *Cal*
Hilary Mantel: *Wolf Hall* , *Bringing Up the Bodies* , *The Mirror and the Light*
Haruki Murakami: *IQ84* ; *Norwegian Wood*
Gabriel Garcia Marquez: *One Hundred Years of Solitude*
Cormac McCarthy: *The Road*
Ian McEwan: *Amsterdam* , *Atonement* , *First Love Last Rites* , *The Cement Garden* , *The Comfort of Strangers*
A Child in Time , *Enduring Love* , *Saturday* , *On Chesil Beach* , *Solar*
Rohinton Mistry: *A Fine Balance*
Toni Morrison: *Song of Solomon* , *Beloved*
Herman Melville: *Moby Dick*
Margaret Mitchell: *Gone with the Wind*
Iris Murdoch: *The Sea The Sea* , *The Black Prince* , *Under the Net* , *Billy Budd*
Vladimir Nabokov: *Lolita* , *Short stories*
V. S. Naipaul: *A Bend in the River* , *A House for Mr Biswas*
David Nicholls: *One Day*
Michael Ondaatje: *The English Patient*
George Orwell *Animal Farm* , *1984* , *Down and Out in Paris and London*
Sylvia Plath: *The Bell Jar*
Edgar Allan Poe: *Fall of the House of Usher* , *Pit and the Pendulum* , *Tales of Mystery and Imagination*
Lynne Reid Banks: *The L-shaped Room*
Erich Maria Remarque: *All Quiet on the Western Front*
Samuel Richardson: *Pamela* , *Clarissa*
Jean Rhys: *Voyage in the Dark* , *Wide Sargasso Sea*
Arundhati Roy: *The God of Small Things*
Salman Rushdie: *Midnight's Children* , *Shame* , *The Satanic Verses*
Willy Russell: *Educating Rita* , *Shirley Valentine*
J. D. Salinger: *Catcher in the Rye*
Bernhard Schlink: *The Reader*
Sir Walter Scott: *The Heart of Midlothian* , *Ivanhoe*
Paul Scott: *Staying On*
Mary Shelley: *Frankenstein*
Zadie Smith: *White Teeth*
Muriel Spark: *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* , *Loitering with Intent*
John Steinbeck: *The Grapes of Wrath* , *East of Eden* , *Of Mice and Men*
Laurence Sterne: *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy*
R. L. Stevenson : *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*
Bram Stoker: *Dracula*
William Styron: *Sophie's Choice*
Patrick Suskind: *Perfume*
Graham Swift: *Waterland* , *Last Orders*
Jonathan Swift: *A Modest Proposal*
Donna Tartt: *The Secret History*
W. M. Thackeray: *Vanity Fair* , *The Luck of Barry Lyndon* , *Pendennis*

J.R.R. Tolkien: *The Silmarillion*

Jean Toomer: *Cane*

Anthony Trollope: *The Way We Live Now*, *The Warden*, *Can You Forgive Her?* (*Barsetshire and Palliser chronicles*)

Mark Twain: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

Jules Verne: *Twenty Thousand Leagues Under The Sea*, *Around the World in Eighty Days*, *From the Earth to the Moon*

Alice Walker: *The Color Purple*, *Meridian*

Edith Wharton: *The Age of Innocence*; *Ethan Frome*

Evelyn Waugh: *Brideshead Revisited*, *A Handful of Dust*, *Vile Bodies*, *Decline and Fall*, *Sword of Honour* trilogy

H.G. Wells: *Kipps*, *The Time Machine*, *The History of Mr Polly*, *Island of Dr Moreau*, *War of the Worlds*

Oscar Wilde: *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

Jeanette Winterson: *Oranges are not the only fruit*

Virginia Woolf: *To the Lighthouse*, *Mrs Dalloway*, *Orlando*, *Road to Wigan Pier*

Poets:

Early: *Beowulf*, *Caedmon's Hymn*, *Dream of the Rood*

Medieval Lyrics: *Sir Orfeo*, *Sir Gawaine and the Green Knight*, *Piers Plowman*; Chaucer – *The Canterbury Tales* (Wife of Bath, Merchant, Pardoner, Reeve, Miller, Knight, Nun's Priest)

Elizabethan: Wyatt; Spenser; Sidney; Shakespeare; Jonson

Metaphysical: Donne; Herbert; Vaughan; Marvell

Restoration: Milton

Augustan: Butler; Dryden; Pope; Swift; Rochester

C18: Gray; Cowper; Crabbe; Burns; Goldsmith

Romantic: Blake; Clare; Wordsworth; Coleridge; Byron; Keats; Shelley

Victorian: Tennyson; Browning; Barrett-Browning; Arnold; Rossetti; Southey; Arnold

Fin-de-siecle: Wilde; Swinburne; Symons

Early C20: Blunden; Lawrence; Graves; de la Mare

War Poets: Brooke; Owen; Rosenberg; Sassoon

Modernist and Modern Armitage; Auden; Betjeman; Causley; Cope; Cummings; Davies; Duffy; Eliot;

Fanthorpe; Fenton; Frost; Gunn; Hardy; Harrison; Heaney; Henri; Hughes; Jennings; Larkin;

Lochhead; Macneice; McGough; Mitchell; Motion; Patten; Plath; Raine – Kathleen and Craig; Sitwell;

Smith Spender; Thomas – RS and Dylan; Walcott; Yeats; Zephaniah; Button Poetry on-line.

Playwrights – *visiting a theatre or watching a well-written film helps bring drama texts to life but you can also find drama scripts in the library and the department. If you would like recommended reads please ask your teacher or the Librarian.*

*Our main recommendation is that you go to the Theatre. The Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford Upon Avon offers substantial discounts for students, and there is a wealth of theatre for you to choose from in Oxfordshire and Warwickshire, not to mention all the London Theatres which are only a train journey away. **Many of these establishments are offering on-line production screenings during the current COVID-19 Lockdown. Visit their websites for more information.***

Appendix: NEA prohibited texts

Students cannot use the following texts for non-exam assessment as they appear on the exam set text lists.

| Author | Text |
|--------|------|
|--------|------|

Kate Atkinson *When Will There Be Good News?*

Margaret Atwood *The Handmaid's Tale*

W. H. Auden *Miss Gee*

Jane Austen *Emma*

B

| Author | Text |
|--------|------|
|--------|------|

John Betjeman *Death in Leamington*

William Blake *Songs of Innocence and Experience*

Robert Browning *The Laboratory*

Robert Browning *My Last Duchess*

Robert Browning *Porphyria's Lover*

Robert Burns *Tam o' Shanter (A Tale)*

C

| Author | Text |
|--------|------|
|--------|------|

Geoffrey Chaucer Extracts from the Prologue of *The Monk's Tale*

Geoffrey Chaucer *The Monk's Tale*

| Author | Text |
|-------------------------|--|
| Geoffrey Chaucer | <i>The Nun's Priest's Tale</i> including Prologue and Epilogue |
| Agatha Christie | <i>The Murder of Roger Ackroyd</i> |
| Samuel Taylor Coleridge | <i>The Rime of the Ancient Mariner</i> |
| George Crabbe | <i>Peter Grimes</i> |
| Jim Crace | <i>Harvest</i> |

D

| Author | Text |
|-----------------|---------------------|
| Charles Dickens | <i>Oliver Twist</i> |
| Charles Dickens | <i>Hard Times</i> |
| John Donne | <i>The Flea</i> |
| Carol Ann Duffy | <i>Mrs Sisyphus</i> |

F

| Author | Text |
|---------------------|-------------------------|
| U. A. Fanthorpe | <i>Not My Best Side</i> |
| F. Scott Fitzgerald | <i>The Great Gatsby</i> |
| Robert Frost | <i>Out, out -</i> |

G

| Author | Text |
|------------------|------------------------------|
| Oliver Goldsmith | <i>She Stoops to Conquer</i> |
| Graham Greene | <i>Brighton Rock</i> |

H

| Author | Text |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------|
| Thomas Hardy | <i>Tess of the D'Urbervilles</i> |
| Thomas Hardy | <i>The Convergence of the Twain</i> |
| Tony Harrison | <i>V</i> |
| Tony Harrison | <i>National Trust</i> |
| Tony Harrison | <i>Them and [uz]</i> |
| Tony Harrison | <i>Divisions</i> |
| Tony Harrison | <i>Working</i> |
| Tony Harrison | <i>Marked with D</i> |
| Khaled Hosseini | <i>The Kite Runner</i> |

I

| Author | Text |
|--------------|-----------------------|
| Henrik Ibsen | <i>A Doll's House</i> |

K

| Author | Text |
|------------|-------------------------------------|
| John Keats | <i>Lamia</i> |
| John Keats | <i>Isabella or The Pot of Basil</i> |
| John Keats | <i>La Belle Dame Sans Merci</i> |
| John Keats | <i>The Eve of St. Agnes</i> |

L

| Author | Text |
|---------------|-------------------------|
| Philip Larkin | <i>Sunny Prestatyn</i> |
| Andrew Levy | <i>Small Island</i> |
| Liz Lochhead | <i>My Rival's House</i> |

M

| Author | Title |
|---------------|------------------------------|
| Ian McEwan | <i>Atonement</i> |
| Arthur Miller | <i>Death of a Salesman</i> |
| John Milton | Extract from 'Paradise Lost' |

R

| Author | Title |
|--------|-------|
|--------|-------|

Christina Rossetti

Jessie Cameron

S

| Author | Title |
|--------|-------|
|--------|-------|

William Shakespeare

Othello

William Shakespeare

King Lear

William Shakespeare

Richard II

William Shakespeare

The Taming of the Shrew

William Shakespeare

Twelfth Night

William Shakespeare

Hamlet

William Shakespeare

Henry IV Part I

Jonathan Swift

A Satirical Elegy On the Death of a Late Famous General

T

| Author | Title |
|--------|-------|
|--------|-------|

Alfred Tennyson

Tithonus

W

| Author | Title |
|-------------|---------------------------------------|
| Oscar Wilde | <i>The Importance of Being Ernest</i> |
| Oscar Wilde | <i>The Ballad of Reading Gaol</i> |

Y

| Author | Title |
|-------------|-------------------------------|
| W. B. Yeats | <i>The Death of Cuchulain</i> |