



ENGLISH LITERATURE

Course: OCR A-Level English Literature

TASK: A READING LIST

The best preparation for English Literature A-Level is reading! The more you read, the easier you will find it to understand the kinds of texts you will encounter on the course.

This list gives you a general guide to the type of books you might read to help you to develop your understanding and knowledge.

Try to read at least 3 books from the list over the summer to keep yourself sharp, as well as experiencing some brilliant works of art.

Recent / Contemporary British Fiction

Regeneration – Pat Barker

A History of the World in 10 ½ Chapters – Julian Barnes

Captain Corelli's Mandolin – Louis de Bernieres

Girl. Woman. Other – Bernadine Evaristo

Birdsong – Sebastian Faulks

Spies – Michael Frayn

The Remains of the Day – Kazuo Ishiguro

Atonement – Ian McEwan

Conversations with Friends – Sally Rooney

White Teeth - Zadie Smith

The Way Home – Rose Tremain

British Classics

Sense and Sensibility, Persuasion - Jane Austen

Jane Eyre – Charlotte Bronte

Wuthering Heights – Emily Bronte

The Moonstone – Wilkie Collins

Great Expectations – Charles Dickens

Rebecca - Daphne du Maurier

A Room With a View – E. M. Forster

The French Lieutenant's Woman – John Fowles

The Power and the Glory – Graham Greene

Far from the Madding Crowd - Thomas Hardy

American

A Visit from the Goon Squad – Jennifer Egan

Middlesex – Jeffrey Eugenides

Tender is the Night – F. Scott Fitzgerald

One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest – Ken Kesey

All The Pretty Horses - Cormac McCarthy

The Bluest Eye – Toni Morrison

Where the Crawdads Sing – Delia Owens

The Bell Jar - Sylvia Plath

The Catcher in the Rye – J. D Salinger

The Secret History – Donna Tartt

Slaughterhouse-Five – Kurt Vonnegut

Literature from other English-speaking countries

Things Fall Apart – Chinua Achebe

Half of a Yellow Sun – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

The White Tiger - Aravind Adiga

The Handmaid's Tale – Margaret Atwood

The True History of the Ned Kelly Gang – Peter Carey

Disgrace - JM Coetzee

The Inheritance of Loss – Kiran Desai

A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man – James Joyce
Schindler's Ark – Thomas Keneally
The Shipping News – Annie Proulx
The God of Small Things – Arundhati Roy
The Joy Luck Club – Amy Tan
The Color Purple – Alice Walker

In Translation

The House of the Spirits - Isabel Allende
My Beautiful Friend – Elena Ferrante
Madame Bovary - Gustave Flaubert
The Unbearable Lightness of Being – Milan Kundera
Love in the Time of Cholera – Gabriel Garcia Marquez
Death in Venice – Thomas Mann
The Reader - Bernhard Schlink
Therese Raquin – Emile Zola

Non-Fiction

I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings - Maya Angelou
The Fire Next Time – James Baldwin
In Cold Blood – Truman Capote
Wild Swans - Jung Chang
An Evil Cradling - Brian Keenan
Bad Blood - Lorna Sage

Short Stories

Anton Chekhov, James Joyce, Katherine Mansfield,
Guy de Maupassant, Alice Munro, Edgar Allen Poe,
DH Lawrence

Poetry

Read widely:

Romantics: William Blake, William Wordsworth, John Keats

19th century: Alfred Lord Tennyson, Robert Browning, Christina Rossetti, Thomas Hardy, Walt Whitman, Emily Dickinson

20th – 21st centuries: Maya Angelou, Sylvia Plath, Ted Hughes, Simon Armitage, Carol Ann Duffy, Alice Oswald, T. S. Eliot. Dylan Thomas

USEFUL WEBSITES

<https://lithub.com/>

<https://poetrysociety.org.uk/>

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/>

<https://www.the-tls.co.uk/>

<https://www.lrb.co.uk/>

WHERE TO VISIT

The National Theatre

The Globe Theatre

The British Library for free exhibitions

QUERIES

If you have any further questions regarding the course, please contact the Head of English, Ms Feenstra:

english@sacredh.lbhf.sch.uk



WHAT TO WATCH

<https://thecrashcourse.com/topic/literature/>

WHAT TO LISTEN TO

<https://overduepodcast.com/>

<https://www.nationalreview.com/podcasts/the-great-books/>

<https://www.lostladiesoflit.com/>