

Recommended reading list for English Literature A Level

The list that follows is by no means exhaustive, but it should give you somewhere to start when faced with a whole library full of possibilities!

The texts in bold are currently on the set text list. You might be studying these texts as AS or A2; it will depend on your teacher. Happy reading!

Prose:

Chinua Achebe
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
Monica Ali
Margaret Atwood
Jane Austen
Charlotte Brontë
Emily Brontë
AS Byatt
Angela Carter
Joseph Conrad
Charles Dickens
Daphne Du Maurier
George Eliot
Sebastian Faulks
F. Scott Fitzgerald
E.M. Forster
Elizabeth Gaskell
Gabriel Garcia Marquez
Graham Greene
Thomas Hardy
L.P. Hartley
Ernest Hemingway
Khaled Hosseini
Aldous Huxley
Kazuo Ishiguro
James Joyce
Jhumpa Lahiri
D.H Lawrence
Harper Lee
Andrea Levy
Hilary Mantel
Ian McEwan
Toni Morrison
Iris Murdoch
George Orwell
Arundhati Roy
Sylvia Plath
Annie Proulx
Jean Rhys
John Steinbeck
Bram Stoker
Alice Walker
Sarah Waters
Jeanette Winterson
Zadie Smith
Virginia Woolf

Things Fall Apart

Purple Hibiscus, Americanah

Brick Lane

The Handmaid's Tale, Oryx and Crake, The Blind Assassin

Pride and Prejudice, Emma, Sense and Sensibility

Jane Eyre

Wuthering Heights

Possession

The Bloody Chamber, Nights at the Circus,

The Secret Agent, The Heart of Darkness

Great Expectations, Hard Times, Bleak House

Rebecca

The Mill on The Floss, Middlemarch

Birdsong, Charlotte Gray

The Great Gatsby, Tender is the Night

A Room with a View, A Passage to India

North and South, Wives and Daughters

Love in the Time of Cholera

Brighton Rock

Far from the Madding Crowd, Tess of the D'Urbervilles

The Go-Between

For Whom the Bell Tolls, A Farewell to Arms

A Thousand Splendid Suns

Brave New World

The Remains of the Day, Never Let Me Go

Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, Dubliners

The Namesake

Sons and Lovers, Women in Love

To Kill a Mockingbird

Small Island

Wolf Hall, Bring out the Bodies

Atonement, Enduring Love

Beloved

The Bell, The sea, the sea

Nineteen Eighty-Four

The God of Small Things

The Bell Jar

Postcards, The Shipping News

Wide Sargasso Sea

The Grapes of Wrath, East of Eden

Dracula

The Colour Purple

The Little Stranger

Oranges are not the only Fruit

White Teeth, NW, On Beauty

Mrs. Dalloway, To the Lighthouse

Poetry:

Simon Armitage

WH Auden

William Blake

Evan Boland

Elizabeth Barrett Browning

Lord Byron

Geoffrey Chaucer

ST Coleridge

Emily Dickinson

Carol Ann Duffy

TS Eliot

Seamus Heaney

Ted Hughes

John Keats

Philip Larkin

John Milton

Wilfred Owen

Sylvia Plath

Christina Rossetti

Jacob Sam-La Rose

Siegfried Sassoon

Percy Shelley

Alfred Lord Tennyson

William Wordsworth

Drama:

You could also try and watch performances of work by the following dramatists:

Samuel Beckett

Alan Bennett

Bertolt Brecht

Jez Butterworth

Anton Chekhov

Shelagh Delaney

Brian Friel

Henrik Ibsen

Arthur Miller

Harold Pinter

William Shakespeare

George Bernard Shaw

Richard Brinsley Sheridan

Polly Stenham

Sam Shephard

Tom Stoppard

John Webster

Tennessee Williams

Timberlake Wertenbaker

Oscar Wilde

Non Fiction:

Anon: ***I Am The Secret Footballer***

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

Allie Brosh: ***Hyperbole and a Half***

Bill Bryson: ***The Lost Continent, Notes from a Small Island***

Alan Bennett: *Writing Home*

Vera Brittain: *Testament of Youth*

Truman Capote: ***In Cold Blood***

Jenny Diski: ***Skating to Antarctica***

Anna Funder: ***Stasiland***

Anne Frank: *The Diary of a Young Girl*

Robert Graves: *Goodbye To All That*

Stephen Grosz: ***The Examined Life***

George Orwell: ***Down and Out in Paris and London***

Alexander Masters: ***Stuart: A Life Backwards***

Helen Macdonald: *H is for Hawk*

Nelson Mandela: *Long Walk to Freedom*

Solomon Northrop: ***Twelve Years a Slave***

Jeannette Winterson: ***Why Be Happy When You Could be Normal?***

Xinran: ***What the Chinese Don't Eat***