

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	<i>Things Fall Apart</i>
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	<i>Purple Hibiscus, Americanah</i>
Monica Ali	Brick Lane
Kate Atkinson	<i>Behind the Scenes at the Museum</i>
Margaret Atwood	The Handmaid's Tale, Oryx and Crake, The Blind Assassin
Jane Austen	<i>Pride and Prejudice, Emma, Sense and Sensibility</i>
Louis de Bernieres	<i>Captain Corelli's Mandolin</i>
Charlotte Brontë	Jane Eyre
Emily Brontë	<i>Wuthering Heights</i>
Antony Burgess	A Clockwork Orange
Ray Bradbury	Fahrenheit 451
AS Byatt	<i>Possession</i>
Angela Carter	The Bloody Chamber, Nights at the Circus,
Wilkie Collins	<i>The Woman in White</i>
Joseph Conrad	<i>The Secret Agent, The Heart of Darkness</i>
Charles Dickens	<i>Great Expectations, Hard Times, Bleak House</i>
Daphne Du Maurier	<i>Rebecca</i>
George Eliot	The Mill on The Floss, Middlemarch
Sebastian Faulks	<i>Birdsong, Charlotte Gray</i>
William Faulkner	<i>As I Lay Dying, Light in August</i>
F. Scott Fitzgerald	The Great Gatsby, Tender is the Night
E.M. Forster	<i>A Room with a View, A Passage to India</i>
Elizabeth Gaskell	<i>North and South, Wives and Daughters</i>
Gabriel Garcia Marquez	<i>Love in the Time of Cholera</i>
William Golding	<i>Lord of the Flies</i>
Graham Greene	<i>Brighton Rock</i>
Kate Grenville	The Secret River
Thomas Hardy	<i>Far from the Madding Crowd, Tess of the D'Urbervilles</i>
L.P. Hartley	<i>The Go-Between</i>
Joseph Heller	<i>Catch-22</i>
Ernest Hemingway	<i>For Whom the Bell Tolls, A Farewell to Arms</i>
Khaled Hosseini	<i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i>
Aldous Huxley	Brave New World
Kazuo Ishiguro	<i>The Remains of the Day, Never Let Me Go</i>
Henry James	<i>The Turn of the Screw and Other Stories</i>
James Joyce	<i>Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, Dubliners</i>
D.H Lawrence	<i>Sons and Lovers, Women in Love</i>
Harper Lee	<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>
Andrea Levy	Small Island
Hilary Mantel	<i>Wolf Hall, Bring out the Bodies</i>
Ian McEwan	<i>Atonement, Enduring Love</i>
Toni Morrison	Beloved
Iris Murdoch	<i>The Bell, The sea, the sea</i>
George Orwell	Nineteen Eighty-Four

Sylvia Plath
Annie Proulx
Jean Rhys
Henry Roth
Philip Roth
J. D. Salinger
Mary Shelley
Zadie Smith
Muriel Spark
John Steinbeck
Bram Stoker
Patrick Suskind
Donna Tartt
W.M. Thackeray
Mark Twain
Alice Walker
Sarah Waters
Evelyn Waugh
HG Wells
Edith Wharton
Oscar Wilde
Jeanette Winterson
Tom Wolfe
Virginia Woolf

The Bell Jar
Postcards, The Shipping News
Wide Sargasso Sea
Call it sleep
Goodbye Columbus
The Catcher in the Rye
Frankenstein
White Teeth, NW, On Beauty
The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie
The Grapes of Wrath, East of Eden
Dracula
Perfume
The Secret History
Vanity Fair
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn
The Colour Purple
The Little Stranger
Brideshead Revisited
The Time Machine
The Age of Innocence
The Picture of Dorian Gray
Oranges are not the only Fruit
The Bonfire of the Vanities
Mrs. Dalloway, To the Lighthouse

Poetry:

Simon Armitage
WH Auden
William Blake
Elizabeth Barrett Browning
Lord Byron
Geoffrey Chaucer
Gillian Clarke
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
Siegfried Sassoon
Percy Shelley
Stevie Smith
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
Oliver Goldsmith
Henrik Ibsen
Ben Jonson
Christopher Marlowe
Arthur Miller
Harold Pinter
William Shakespeare
George Bernard Shaw
Richard Brinsley Sheridan
Polly Stenham
Sam Shephard
Tom Stoppard
John Webster
Tennessee Williams
Oscar Wilde