

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 will be studying these texts.

Prose:

- Chinua Achebe Things Fall Apart
- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie Purple Hibiscus, Americanah
- **Margaret Atwood The Handmaid's Tale**, Oryx and Crake, The Blind Assassin
- Jane Austen Pride and Prejudice, Emma, Sense and Sensibility
- Charlotte Brontë Jane Eyre Emily Brontë Wuthering Heights
- Angela Carter The Bloody Chamber, Nights at the Circus,
- Joseph Conrad The Secret Agent, The Heart of Darkness
- Charles Dickens Great Expectations, Hard Times, Bleak House
- Daphne Du Maurier Rebecca
- Sebastian Faulks Birdsong, Charlotte Gray
- F. Scott Fitzgerald The Great Gatsby, Tender is the Night
- E.M. Forster A Room with a View, A Passage to India
- Graham Greene Brighton Rock
- Thomas Hardy Far from the Madding Crowd, Tess of the D'Urbervilles
- L.P. Hartley The Go-Between
- Ernest Hemingway For Whom the Bell Tolls, A Farewell to Arms
- **Khaled Hosseini A Thousand Splendid Suns**
- Aldous Huxley Brave New World
- Kazuo Ishiguro The Remains of the Day, Never Let Me Go
- James Joyce Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, Dubliners
- D.H Lawrence Sons and Lovers, Women in Love
- Harper Lee To Kill a Mockingbird
- Hilary Mantel Wolf Hall, Bring out the Bodies
- Ian McEwan Atonement, Enduring Love
- Toni Morrison Beloved
- Iris Murdoch The Bell, The sea, the sea
- George Orwell Nineteen Eighty-Four
- Arundhati Roy The God of Small Things
- Sylvia Plath The Bell Jar
- Jean Rhys Wide Sargasso Sea
- John Steinbeck The Grapes of Wrath, East of Eden
- Bram Stoker Dracula
- Alice Walker The Colour Purple
- Sarah Waters The Little Stranger
- Jeanette Winterson Oranges are not the only Fruit
- Zadie Smith White Teeth, NW, On Beauty
- Virginia Woolf Mrs. Dalloway, To the Lighthouse

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

Poetry:

- Simon Armitage
- WH Auden
- **William Blake**
- 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
- 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
- Henrik Ibsen
- **Arthur Miller**
- Harold Pinter
- **William Shakespeare**
- George Bernard Shaw
- Richard Brinsley Sheridan
- Polly Stenham
- Sam Shephard
- Tom Stoppard
- John Webster
- Tennessee Williams
- Oscar Wilde