

English Literature A Level Reading List

Dystopian Novels

- **The Handmaid's Tale* – Margaret Atwood
- *1984 – George Orwell
- The Road* – Cormac McCarthy
- Parable of the Sower* – Octavia Butler
- Brave New World* – Aldous Huxley
- Fahrenheit 451* – Ray Bradbury
- Day of the Triffids / The Chrysalids* – John Wyndham
- Children of Men* – PD James
- The Power* – Naomi Alderman
- A Clockwork Orange* – Anthony Burgess
- The Time Machine* – HG Wells
- Memoirs of a Survivor* – Doris Lessing
- Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?* – Philip Dick
- Riddley Walker* – Russell Hoban
- Station Eleven* – Emily St John Mandel

*These may be your set texts so it's worth reading something different

Where to start? Here are some suggestions for quality reading over the summer that we hope will prove both enjoyable and challenging.

Fiction post-2000

- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie: *Purple Hibiscus / Americanah*
- Monica Ali: *Brick Lane*
- Jhumpa Lahiri: *The Namesake*
- Tara Westover: *Educated* (memoir)
- Anthony Doerr: *All the Light We Cannot See*
- Andrea Levy: *Small Island*
- Marcus Zusak: *The Book Thief*
- Rose Tremain: *The Road Home*
- Colm Toibin: *Brooklyn*

Fiction 1914-2000 – more modern classics

- Chinua Achebe: *Things Fall Apart*
- Margaret Atwood: *The Blind Assassin / Alias Grace*

Angela Carter: *The Bloody Chamber* (short stories) / *Nights at the Circus*
Daphne Du Maurier: **Rebecca**
Sebastian Faulks: *Birdsong* / *Charlotte Gray*
F. Scott Fitzgerald: *The Great Gatsby*
Gabriel Garcia Marquez: *Love in the Time of Cholera*
Graham Greene: *Brighton Rock*
Kazuo Ishiguro: *Never Let Me Go*
James Joyce: *Dubliners* (short stories)
Harper Lee: *To Kill a Mockingbird*
Ian McEwan: *Atonement*
Toni Morrison: *Song of Solomon*
Arundhati Roy: *The God of Small Things*
Sylvia Plath: *The Bell Jar*
Annie Proulx: *The Shipping News*
Jean Rhys: *Wide Sargasso Sea* (prequel to *Jane Eyre*)
John Steinbeck: *The Grapes of Wrath*
Alice Walker: *The Colour Purple*
Jeanette Winterson: *Oranges are not the only Fruit*
Zadie Smith: *White Teeth*
Virginia Woolf: *Mrs. Dalloway*

Fiction pre-1914

Jane Austen: *Pride and Prejudice* / *Emma* / *Sense and Sensibility*
Charlotte Brontë: *Jane Eyre*
Emily Brontë: *Wuthering Heights*
Charles Dickens: *Great Expectations* / *Hard Times*
George Eliot: *The Mill on The Floss* / *Silas Marner*
E.M. Forster: *A Room with a View*
Thomas Hardy: *Far from the Madding Crowd* / *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*
Bram Stoker: *Dracula*
Mary Shelley: *Frankenstein*
Oscar Wilde: *Picture of Dorian Gray*

Poetry

Kae Tempest
Simon Armitage
Evan Boland
Emily Dickinson
Carol Ann Duffy
Seamus Heaney
Ted Hughes
John Keats
Philip Larkin

Wilfred Owen

Sylvia Plath

Non-Fiction

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

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

Alan Bennett: *Writing Home*

Truman Capote: *In Cold Blood*

Jenny Diski: *Skating to Antarctica*

Anna Funder: *Stasiland*

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*