

KS4 Reading List

The GCSE syllabus is more demanding than ever. Students need to be able to engage with a wide range of challenging texts from the 19th to the 21st century as part of the Language and Literature courses.

Below are some set texts on the AQA and other exam board GCSE English Literature syllabuses. Students will be required to study one text from the 19th Century section and one text from the modern section, either prose or drama. However, to support their learning students could also read the texts they are not studying.

This list is not exhaustive. If you can't find anything here, please speak to your English teacher or Mrs Fenton for assistance. You could also search the library catalogue, which can be accessed through RM Unify.

19th Century Novels

The Strange Case of Dr

Jekyll and Mr Hyde - Robert Louis Stevenson

A Christmas Carol - Charles Dickens

Great Expectations - Charles Dickens

Jane Eyre - Charlotte Bronte

Frankenstein - Mary Shelley

Pride and Prejudice - Jane Austen

The Sign of Four - Sir Arthur Conan

Doyle

Modern Texts - Prose

Lord of the Flies - William Golding

Animal Farm - George Orwell

Never Let Me Go - Kazuo Ishiguro

Anita and Me - Meera Syal

Pigeon English - Stephen Kelman

Coram Boy - Jamila Gavin

Boys Don't Cry - Malorie Blackman

Modern Texts - Drama

An Inspector Calls - JB Priestley

Blood Brothers - Willy Russell

The History Boys - Alan Bennett (M)

DNA - Dennis Kelly

The Curious Incident of the

Dog in the Night-Time - Mark

Haddon

A Taste of Honey - Shelagh

Delaney (M)

The Empress - Tanika Gupta

Below is the extended recommended reading list. Remember, the new GCSE focuses heavily on 19th Century texts. Therefore, we would suggest reading one 19th Century novel, another novel from the reading list and a novel of your choice. You should repeat this pattern to ensure you are reading a wide variety of challenging novels.

More 19th Century Novels

Sense and Sensibility (1811) - Jane Austen

The Three Musketeers (1844) - Alexander Dumas

Wuthering Heights (1847) - Emily Bronte

The Scarlet Letter (1850) - Nathaniel Hawthorne

Moby Dick (1851) - Herman Melville

The Woman in White (1859) - Wilkie Collins

Silas Marner (1861) - George Eliot

The Picture of Dorian Gray (1890) - Oscar Wilde

Tess of the D'Urbervilles (1891) - Thomas Hardy

Dracula (1897) - Bram Stoker

The Turn of the Screw (1898) - Henry James

20th Century Best from the UK

A Room with a View (1908), *Maurice* (1971) - E M Forster

The Murder of Roger Ackroyd (1926) - Agatha Christie

Orlando (1928) - Virginia Woolf

Brighton Rock (1938) - Graham Greene (V/M)

Nineteen Eighty Four (1949) - George Orwell

The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie (1961) - Muriel Spark

The Bloody Chamber (1979) - Angela Carter

The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy (1979) - Douglas Adams

V for Vendetta (1982) - Alan Moore (V)

Empire of the Sun (1984) - J G Ballard (V)

The Fifth Child (1988) - Doris Lessing (M)

Birdsong (1993) - Sebastian Faulks (M)

Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit (1992) - Jeanette Winterson (M)

20th Century American Classics

The Age of Innocence (1920) - Edith Wharton
The Great Gatsby (1922) - F. Scott Fitzgerald
Of Mice and Men (1937) - John Steinbeck
The Catcher in the Rye (1951) - J D Salinger
The Outsiders (2016) - S E Hinton
A Farewell to Arms (1952) - Ernest Hemmingway
To Kill a Mockingbird (1960) - Harper Lee
Beloved (1986) - Toni Morrison

War & Conflict

All Quiet on the Western Front (1929) - Erich Maria Remarque
Catch 22 (1961) - Joseph Heller
Regeneration (1991) - Pat Barker
One day in the life of Ivan Denisovich (1962) Alexander Solzhenitsyn

Science Fiction

War of the Worlds (1898) - H G Wells
Day of the Triffids (1951) - John Wyndham
Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep (1968)
- Philip K Dick

Dystopian

Brave New World (1932) - Aldous Huxley
1984 (1949) - George Orwell
Fatherland (2009) - Robert Harris
The Handmaid's Tale (1985) - Margaret Atwood (M)

Mystery & Thriller

The 39 Steps (1915) - John Buchan
Rebecca (1938) - Daphne du Maurier
The Talented Mr Ripley (1955) - Patricia Highsmith (M)

Horror

The Birds (1952) - Daphne du Maurier
The Shining (1977) - Stephen King
The Woman in Black (1983) - Susan Hill

Poetry

The World's Wife (1999) - Carol Ann Duffy
Look We Have Coming to Dover! (2007) - Daljit Nagra

Drama

Journey's End (1928) - R. C. Sherriff
The Crucible (1953) - Arthur Miller (M)
Our Day Out (1983) - Willy Russell
Barber Shop Chronicles (2017) - Inua Ellams

Contemporary Reads

Good Omens (1990) - Neil Gaiman and Terry Pratchett
The Blind Assassin (2000) - Margaret Atwood
All the Light You Cannot See (2015) - Anthony Doer
Life of Pi (2001) - Yan Martel
The Lovely Bones (2002) - Alice Sebold (M)
The Time Traveller's Wife (2003) - Audrey Niffenegger
The Kite Runner (2003) - Khaled Hosseini (M)
The Boxer (2019) - Nikesh Shukla
Chinglish (2020) - Sue Cheung
Looking for Alaska (2005) - John Green
The Black Flamingo (2020) - Dean Atta
MAUS: A Survivor's Tale (2003) - Art Spiegelman (M)
One Day (2009) - David Nicholls
The Help (2009) - Katherine Stockett
The Crossover (Graphic) (2020) - Kwame Alexander
Room (2010) - Emma Donoghue (M)
Eleanor and Park (2012) - Rainbow Rowell
We Were Liars (2014) - E Lockhart
The Humans (2018) - Matt Haig
All the Bright Places (2015) - Jennifer Niven
Crongton Knights (2016) - Alex Wheatle
Love, Simon (2018) - Becky Albertalli
Speak (Graphic) (2020) - Laurie Halse Andersen
Chocolat (2000) - Joanne Harris
Persepolis (Graphic) (2000) - Marjane Satrapi
Circe (2019) - Madeline Miller
Rosie Loves Jack - (2018) Mel Darbon
Homefire (2018) - Kamila Shamsie
Captain Corelli's Mandolin (1995) - Louis de Bernieres
Atonement (2002) - Ian McEwan (M)

Non Fiction

The Diary of a Young Girl (1947) - Anne Frank
In Cold Blood (1966) - Truman Capote
Touching the Void (1988) - Joe Simpson
Natives : race and class in the ruins of empire (2019) - Akala
Fever Pitch (1992) - Nick Hornby
Notes from a Small Island (1995) - Bill Bryson
Longitude (2005) - Dava Sobel
We Should All Be Feminists (2014) - Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
Call The Midwife (2012) - Jennifer Worth
The Tattooist of Auschwitz (2018) Heather Morris
Prisoners of geography : ten maps that explain everything about the world (2016) - Tim Marshall