

A-Level English Literature: Suggested Reading List

Below is a *suggested* reading list. It is not exhaustive and you can go beyond it – but it is a good starting point.

The Gothic or the female Gothic:

- Dracula (Bram Stoker) - 19th C
- The Pardoner's Tale (Geoffrey Chaucer) - 19th C
- Hamlet (Shakespeare) - 19th C
- Frankenstein (Mary Shelley) - 19th C
- The Loney (Andrew Michael Hurley)
- The Bloody Chamber (Angela Carter)
- Blood Meridian (Cormac McCarthy)
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- A Good Man Is Hard to Find (Flannery O'Connor)
- Northanger Abbey (Jane Austen) - 19th C
- The Monk (Mathew Lewis) - 19th C
- The Picture of Dorian Gray (Oscar Wilde) - 19th C
- Wilkie Collins The Moonstone/The Woman in White - 19th C

Text which explore ideas about women and/or women's voice:

- The Poisonwood Bible (Barbara Kingsolver)
- A Doll's House (Henrik Ibsen) - 19th C
- The Bloody Chamber (Angela Carter)
- Geoffrey Chaucer 'The Wife of Bath's Tale' - 19th C
- My Brilliant Friend (Ellena Ferante)
- John Keats Poetry - 'Lamia', 'Isabella or The Pot of Basil', 'The Eve of St Agnes'
- George Bernard Shaw any pre-1900 play by this writer
- Woman, Girl, Other (Bernadine Evaristo)

Texts which may be linked by ideas about disordered minds/narrators:

- House of Leaves (Mark Z Danielewski)
- Perfume (Patrick Susskind)
- Lolita (Vladimir Nabokov)
- A Scanner Darkly (Phillip k Dick)
- Slaughter House 5 (Kurt Vonnegut)
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' - 19th C

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Texts which may be linked by ideas about colonialism and postcolonialism:

- Things Fall Apart (Chinua Achebe)
- Heart of Darkness (Joseph Conrad) - 19th C
- The Reluctant Fundamentalist (Mohammed Elbarazi)

Texts about depictions of marriage:

- Madame Bovary (Flaubert) - 19th C
- What We Talk About When We Talk About Love (Raymond Carver)
- Jude the Obscure (Thomas Hardy) - 19th C
- An American Marriage (Tayari Jones)
- Happy Days (Samuel Beckett)
- A Doll's House (Ibsen)
- A Thousand Splendid Suns (Khaled Hosseini)

Texts about dystopian visions of the future:

- The Power (Naomi Alderman)
- The Road (Cormac McCarthy)
- Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep (Philip K Dick)

Further texts recommended by the exam board:

- Jane Austen Mansfield Park
- Anne Brontë The Tenant of Wildfell Hall
- Charles Dickens Hard Times
- George Eliot Middlemarch
- The Mill on the Floss
- Elizabeth Gaskell North and South
- William Makepeace Thackeray Vanity Fair

A selection of other canonical texts:

- Jane Austen Persuasion Pre-1900
- Charlotte Brontë Jane Eyre Pre-1900
- Emily Brontë Wuthering Heights Pre-1900
- Kate Chopin The Awakening Pre-1900
- Thomas Hardy Tess of the D'Urbervilles Pre-1900
- F. Scott Fitzgerald The Great Gatsby
- E.M. Forster A Room with a View
- L.P. Hartley The Go-Between
- Daphne Du Maurier Rebecca
- Ian McEwan Atonement
- Joan Littlewood Oh! What a Lovely War

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- R.C. Sherriff *Journey's End*
- Pat Barker *Regeneration*
- Sebastian Faulks *Birdsong*
- Rebecca West *The Return of the Soldier*
- Erich Maria Remarque *All Quiet on the Western Front*
- Susan Hill *Strange Meeting*
- Ernest Hemingway *A Farewell to Arms*
- Robert Graves *Goodbye to All That*
- Sebastian Barry *A Long, Long Way (post-2000)*
- Ben Elton *The First Casualty (post-2000)*
- Pat Barker *Life Class (post-2000)*
- Peter Whelan *The Accrington Pals*
- Richard Curtis and Ben Elton *Blackadder Goes Forth*
- David Haig *My Boy Jack (post-2000)*
- Margaret Atwood *The Handmaid's Tale*
- Graham Swift *Waterland*
- Caryl Churchill *Top Girls*
- Tennessee Williams *A Streetcar Named Desire*
- Michael Frayn *Spies (post-2000)*
- Ken Kesey *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest*
- Arundhati Roy *The God of Small Things*
- Kathryn Stockett *The Help (post-2000)*
- Alice Walker *The Color Purple*
- Jeanette Winterson *Oranges are not the Only Fruit*
- Richard Yates *Revolutionary Road*
- Brian Friel *Translations*
- Arthur Miller *All My Sons*
- Timberlake Wertenbaker *Our Country's Good*
- Tennessee Williams *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*