

## **A Level English Literature**

### **Set Texts:**

- Love Through the Ages Poetry pre-1900 (Poetry Anthology provided by AQA)
- F. Scott Fitzgerald – The Great Gatsby
- Pat Barker – Life Class
- William Shakespeare – Othello
- Up The Line to Death (Poetry of the First World War, edited by Brian Gardner)
- Journey's End – R.C. Sherriff

### **Suggested Further Critical Reading:**

- David Lodge – The Art of Fiction
- John Mullan – How Novels Work
- George Orwell – Why I Write

### **Summer Work:**

**Select a minimum of two texts from the longer reading list and complete them over the summer. Write a detailed review of each which considers:**

- Characterisation
- Narrative voice
- Structure and tone
- Contextual information which includes life at the time and relevant detail about the author.
- Bring your reviews with you to class in September and be prepared to present these to the class.

### **Things to Follow:**

@lettersofnote on Instagram

@penguinukbooks on Instagram

@britishlibrary on Twitter

@DrAminaYonis on Twitter

@RSC on Twitter

## 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  
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie  
Monica Ali  
Margaret Atwood  
Jane Austen  
Charlotte Brontë  
Emily Brontë  
AS Byatt  
Angela Carter  
Joseph Conrad  
Charles Dickens  
Daphne Du Maurier  
George Eliot  
Sebastian Faulks  
F. Scott Fitzgerald  
E.M. Forster  
Elizabeth Gaskell  
Gabriel Garcia Marquez  
Graham Greene  
Thomas Hardy  
L.P. Hartley  
Ernest Hemingway  
Khaled Hosseini  
Aldous Huxley  
Kazuo Ishiguro  
James Joyce  
Jhumpa Lahiri  
D.H Lawrence  
Harper Lee  
Andrea Levy  
Hilary Mantel  
Ian McEwan  
Toni Morrison  
Iris Murdoch  
George Orwell  
Arundhati Roy  
Sylvia Plath  
Annie Proulx  
Jean Rhys  
John Steinbeck  
Bram Stoker  
Alice Walker  
Sarah Waters  
Jeanette Winterson  
Zadie Smith  
Virginia Woolf

### **Things Fall Apart**

*Purple Hibiscus, Americanah*  
*Brick Lane*  
*The Handmaid's Tale, Oryx and Crake, The Blind Assassin*  
*Pride and Prejudice, Emma, Sense and Sensibility*

### **Jane Eyre**

*Wuthering Heights*  
*Possession*  
*The Bloody Chamber, Nights at the Circus,*  
*The Secret Agent, The Heart of Darkness*  
*Great Expectations, Hard Times, Bleak House*  
*Rebecca*  
*The Mill on The Floss, Middlemarch*  
*Birdsong, Charlotte Gray*  
**The Great Gatsby**, *Tender is the Night*  
*A Room with a View, A Passage to India*  
*North and South, Wives and Daughters*  
*Love in the Time of Cholera*  
*Brighton Rock*  
*Far from the Madding Crowd, Tess of the D'Urbervilles*  
*The Go-Between*  
*For Whom the Bell Tolls, A Farewell to Arms*  
*A Thousand Splendid Suns*  
*Brave New World*  
*The Remains of the Day, Never Let Me Go*  
*Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, Dubliners*  
**The Namesake**  
*Sons and Lovers, Women in Love*  
*To Kill a Mockingbird*  
*Small Island*  
*Wolf Hall, Bring out the Bodies*  
**Atonement**, *Enduring Love*  
*Beloved*  
*The Bell, The sea, the sea*  
*Nineteen Eighty-Four*  
**The God of Small Things**  
*The Bell Jar*  
*Postcards, The Shipping News*  
*Wide Sargasso Sea*  
*The Grapes of Wrath, East of Eden*  
*Dracula*  
*The Colour Purple*  
*The Little Stranger*  
**Oranges are not the only Fruit**  
*White Teeth, NW, On Beauty*  
*Mrs. Dalloway, To the Lighthouse*

**Poetry:**

Simon Armitage  
WH Auden  
**William Blake**  
**Evan Boland**  
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  
**Jacob Sam-La Rose**  
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  
**Brian Friel**  
Henrik Ibsen  
Arthur Miller  
Harold Pinter  
**William Shakespeare**  
George Bernard Shaw  
Richard Brinsley Sheridan  
Polly Stenham  
Sam Shephard  
Tom Stoppard  
John Webster  
**Tennessee Williams**  
**Timberlake Wertenbaker**  
**Oscar Wilde**

**Non Fiction:**

Anon: ***I Am The Secret Footballer***  
Maya Angelou: *I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings*  
Allie Brosh: ***Hyperbole and a Half***  
Bill Bryson: ***The Lost Continent, Notes from a Small Island***  
Alan Bennett: *Writing Home*  
Vera Brittain: *Testament of Youth*  
Truman Capote: ***In Cold Blood***  
Jenny Diski: ***Skating to Antarctica***  
Anna Funder: ***Stasiland***  
Anne Frank: *The Diary of a Young Girl*  
Robert Graves: *Goodbye To All That*  
Stephen Grosz: ***The Examined Life***  
George Orwell: ***Down and Out in Paris and London***  
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***