

Reading List for English Literature Students

Each half term, you will be asked to select a text and read it at your leisure. Towards the end of the term we will then come together to discuss what we have read and comment on what we have learned about, whether we enjoyed it and why you believe it.

10 Books to read before you leave school

1. We Need to Talk about Kevin – Lionel Shriver
2. Murder on the Orient Express – Agatha Christie
3. Americanah - Chimamanda Ngozie Adiche
4. Sorrow and Bliss - Meg Mason
5. The White Tiger – Aravind Adiga
6. Wise Children – Angela Carter
7. Behind the Scenes at the Museum – Kate Atkinson
8. A Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time – Mark Haddon
9. Red Sky in the Morning – Elizabeth Laird
10. The Silence of the Girls – Pat Barker

10 Classics to read before you leave school

1. The Great Gatsby – F. Scott Fitzgerald
2. The Bell Jar – Sylvia Plath
3. One Flew over a Cuckoo’s Nest – Ken Kesey
4. Wuthering Heights – Emily Bronte
5. Life of Pi – Yann Martel
6. Great Expectations – Charles Dickens
7. A Room with a View – E. M. Forster
8. Wide Sargasso Sea – Jean Rhys
9. Mrs Dalloway - Virginia Woolf
10. Trainspotting - Irvine Welsh

10 Plays to read before you leave school

1. Doctor Faustus – Christopher Marlowe
2. The Importance of Being Earnest – Oscar Wilde
3. Death of a Salesman – Arthur Miller
4. Oedipus Rex – Sophocles
5. Top Girls – Caryl Churchill
6. A Doll’s House – Henrik Ibsen
7. History Boys – Alan Bennett
8. The Crucible – Arthur Miller
9. Hamlet – William Shakespeare
10. Tis pity she’s a Whore – John Ford

10 Non-Fiction texts/ Critical texts/ Articles/ Essays to read before you leave school

1. The Madwoman in the Attic - Gilbert and Gubar
2. The Lost Continent – Bill Bryson
3. 159, A Year in the Life of William Shakespeare – James Shapiro
4. Narrative of the Life of Frederick Douglass, An American Slave – Frederick Douglass
5. The Diary of a Young Girl – Anne Frank
6. Why I Write – Joan Didion
7. Bad Feminist – Roxanne Gay
8. Mother Tongue – Amy Tan
9. How to be a Woman – Caitlin Moran
10. Trick Mirror – Jia Tolentino

10 Poetry Collections to read before you leave school

1. The World's Wife – Carol Ann Duffy
2. Sea of Strangers – Lang Leav
3. Leaves of Grass – Walt Whitman
4. And Still I rise – Maya Angelou
5. Plum – Hollie McNish
6. Don't call us Dead – Danez Smith
7. I am the Rage – Martina McGowan
8. Our Numbered Days – Neil Hilborn
9. The Princess Saves herself in this One – Amanda Lovelace
10. The Rape of the Lock – Alexander Pope

Before you commit to reading a specific text, research it first to ensure it sounds like something you would be interested in.

If you struggle to find a text, please ask in the Library or email your teacher who will endeavour to help you.