



## English Literature

### Wider Reading

- “The Art of Fiction’ by David Lodge
- ‘How Fiction Works’ by James Wood
- ‘The Ode Less Travelled’ by Stephen Fry
- ‘The Poet’s Craft’ by Sandy Brownjohn
- Browse The Poetry Society - <https://poetrysociety.org.uk/>

### Enrichment Activities

- Each weekend, buy The Guardian or The Observer and enjoy the best literary supplements in the British press.
- Grab a pen and a piece of paper and plan some ideas for poetry or prose, then craft your writing over the summer months. Whether you keep it to yourself or share it with others, just be creative and produce something that you are truly proud of.
- Watch Dead Poets Society. Then watch it again.

### Recommended Literature texts

#### Prose:

Chinua Achebe *Things Fall Apart*

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie *Purple Hibiscus, Americanah*

Monica Ali *Brick Lane*

Margaret Atwood *The Handmaid’s Tale, Oryx and Crake, The Blind Assassin*

Jane Austen *Pride and Prejudice, Emma, Sense and Sensibility*

Charlotte Brontë *Jane Eyre*

Emily Brontë *Wuthering Heights*

AS Byatt *Possession*

Angela Carter *The Bloody Chamber, Nights at the Circus*

Joseph Conrad *The Secret Agent, The Heart of Darkness*

Charles Dickens *Bleak House*

Daphne Du Maurier *Rebecca*

George Eliot *The Mill on The Floss, Middlemarch*

Sebastian Faulks *Birdsong, Charlotte Gray*

F. Scott Fitzgerald *The Great Gatsby, Tender is the Night, The Beautiful and Damned*  
E.M. Forster *A Room with a View, A Passage to India*  
Elizabeth Gaskell *North and South, Wives and Daughters*  
Gabriel Garcia Marquez *Love in the Time of Cholera*  
Graham Greene *Brighton Rock*  
Thomas Hardy *Far from the Madding Crowd, Tess of the D'Urbervilles*  
L.P. Hartley *The Go-Between*  
Ernest Hemingway *For Whom the Bell Tolls, A Farewell to Arms*  
Khaled Hosseini *A Thousand Splendid Suns, The Kite Runner*  
Aldous Huxley *Brave New World*  
Kazuo Ishiguro *The Remains of the Day, Never Let Me Go*  
James Joyce *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, Dubliners*  
Jhumpa Lahiri *The Namesake*  
D.H Lawrence *Sons and Lovers, Women in Love*  
Andrea Levy *Small Island*  
Hilary Mantel *Wolf Hall, Bring out the Bodies*  
Ian McEwan *Atonement, Enduring Love*  
Toni Morrison *Beloved*  
Iris Murdoch *The Bell, The sea, the sea*  
George Orwell *Nineteen Eighty-Four*  
Arundhati Roy *The God of Small Things*  
Sylvia Plath *The Bell Jar*  
Annie Proulx *Postcards, The Shipping News*  
Jean Rhys *Wide Sargasso Sea*  
John Steinbeck *The Grapes of Wrath, East of Eden*  
Bram Stoker *Dracula*  
Sarah Waters *The Little Stranger*  
Jeanette Winterson *Oranges are not the only Fruit*  
Zadie Smith *White Teeth, NW, On Beauty*  
Virginia Woolf *Mrs. Dalloway, To the Lighthouse*

**Poetry (any collections by the following):**

Simon Armitage  
W. H. Auden  
William Blake  
Elizabeth Barrett Browning  
Lord Byron  
Samuel Taylor Coleridge  
Emily Dickinson  
Carol Ann Duffy  
T. S. Eliot  
Seamus Heaney  
Ted Hughes  
John Keats  
Philip Larkin  
John Milton  
Wilfred Owen

Sylvia Plath  
Christina Rossetti  
Siegfried Sassoon  
Percy Shelley  
Alfred Lord Tennyson  
William Wordsworth

### **Drama (major works by the following):**

Samuel Beckett  
Alan Bennett  
Bertolt Brecht  
Anton Chekhov  
Henrik Ibsen  
Arthur Miller  
Harold Pinter  
William Shakespeare  
George Bernard Shaw  
Tom Stoppard  
John Webster  
Tennessee Williams  
Oscar Wilde

### **Extension tasks**

The following tasks are designed to enrich your cultural capital and Literature reference points, and can be undertaken with relative ease, despite current lockdown restrictions.

### **Watching a Live Performance...**

Although traditional methods of watching plays and performances are not available to us during these turbulent times, *The National Theatre* have offered a fantastic and FREE alternative. Use the login details below at <https://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com>

**Username: 2Kz)1Mk\*w)**

**Password: 0Hd\*9Qk!v%**

For a temporary period, plays can be accessed remotely ensuring students studying from home can still watch them.

You can watch both contemporary plays and Shakespearean performances but I would suggest that you watch

- *Othello*
- *Frankenstein*
- *A Streetcar Named Desire*

During the performances, consider the following:

- The use of stagecraft – lighting, props, music, mise en scene
- Characterisation – how have the major characters been presented? Consider where the power dynamics reside. Is there a discrepancy between the presentations on stage and in print? Consider your own personal response to these characters
- What major themes have been presented in each production – how has this been achieved on stage?

### **Contemporary poetry...**

Watch the following performances by contemporary poet, Roger Robinson, who won the T S Eliot prize for poetry this year, and allows you to experience some more uplifting poetry, given the current climate.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0iaU5xDUcoQ>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ShuNr5VjpPA>