

## Summer Preparation for A Level English Literature: Reading List

Over the summer, you must read *Othello* (Shakespeare) and *Tragedy: A very Short Introduction* and re-read *Great Expectations* (Dickens). These books are in school now. Please come and collect them. If you cannot come into school before the end of term, you will have to buy the books. Also, do use the summer holidays to read for pleasure: choose from the list below, browse the Library or ask Mrs. Scott for recommendations. N.b. You will find it useful to 'dip in' to as many books as possible. For example, read the beginning of *Middlemarch*, if not the whole novel

### Modern Prose

*The Blind Assassin* Margaret Atwood  
*Engleby* Sebastian Faulks  
*The Corrections* Jonathan Franzen  
*The Secret History*, Donna Tartt  
*The Kite Runner* Khaled Hosseini  
*Beloved* Toni Morrison  
*Atonement\** Ian McEwan  
*Wolf Hall* Hilary Mantel  
*Vernon God Little* DBC Pierre  
*The Children's Book*, AS Byatt

### English Classics

*Persuasion* Jane Austen  
*Jane Eyre* Charlotte Brontë\*  
*A Clockwork Orange* Anthony Burgess  
Anything by Charles Dickens\*  
*Middlemarch* George Eliot  
*A Passage to India* EM Forster  
*Tess of the D'Urbervilles* Thomas Hardy  
*Brave New World* Aldous Huxley  
*1984* George Orwell  
*Dracula* Bram Stoker\*  
*Gulliver's Travels*, Jonathan Swift\*  
*Brideshead Revisited* Evelyn Waugh  
*Mrs. Dalloway* Virginia Woolf

### American

*Fiesta: The Sun Also Rises*, Ernest Hemingway  
*Revolutionary Road*, Richard Yates  
*The Great Gatsby* Scott Fitzgerald  
*The Scarlet Letter* Nathaniel Hawthorne  
*Washington Square* Henry James  
*The Bell Jar* Sylvia Plath  
*The Shipping News* Annie Proulx  
*The Catcher in the Rye* JD Salinger  
*The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* Mark Twain  
*The Colour Purple* Alice Walker  
*Ethan Frome* Edith Wharton

### Short Stories

*The Dubliners*, James Joyce; Edgar Allen Poe\*, Angela Carter\*, Anton Chekhov\*, Katherine Mansfield, Guy de Maupassant, Raymond Carver, Ernest Hemingway, Flannery O'Connor, Eudora Welty

### Post-Modern and Experimental

*Christie Malry's Own Double Entry*, B.S. Johnson  
*The French Lieutenant's Woman*, John Fowles\*  
*The Crying of Lot 49*, Thomas Pynchon  
*White Noise*, Don DeLillo

### In Translation

*The Outsider* Albert Camus  
*Madame Bovary* Gustave Flaubert  
*Miss Smilla's Feeling for Snow* Peter Hoeg  
*Bonjour Tristesse* Françoise Sagan  
*Crime and Punishment*, Dostoyevsky  
*The Master and Margarita*, Mikhail Bulgakov

### Non-Fiction

*The Brontës\** Juliet Barker  
*Chaos: Making a New Science*, James Gleick  
*In Cold Blood* Truman Capote  
*Romantic Affinities: Portrait of an Age: 1780-1830\**  
Rupert Christiansen  
*John Keats*, Robert Gittings\*  
*The Unknown Tennessee Williams* Lyle Leverich\*  
*Memoirs* Tennessee Williams\*  
*A Year in the Life of Shakespeare\** James Shapiro

### Humour

*The Sot-Weed Factor* John Barth  
*Cold Comfort Farm* Stella Gibbons  
*Diary of a Nobody* G and W Grossmith  
*Catch 22* Joseph Heller  
*The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* Muriel Spark  
Any PG Wodehouse

### Drama

Any play by Tennessee Williams\*  
Any Shakespearean tragedy or comedy\*  
*Death of a Salesman* Arthur Miller\*  
*The Crucible* Arthur Miller\*  
*The Iceman Cometh* Eugene O'Neill\*  
*The Rivals*, Sheridan\*  
*The Man of Mode*, George Etherege\*  
*Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*, Tom Stoppard\*  
*Lady Windermere's Fan*, Oscar Wilde\*

### Poetry

Collections of Romantic poetry: Byron, Shelley, Keats, Wordsworth, Coleridge\*  
*The Whitsun Weddings*, Philip Larkin\*  
Collections by Christina Rossetti, Sylvia Plath, Tony Harrison, Lord Tennyson, John Clare  
*Paradise Lost*, John Milton

\* All useful background reading for AS or A2.