

KS5 Reading list

You might have read some of these already but this list covers a wide and demanding range of books. Anything from this list will help your literature appreciation and give you confidence for tackling all sorts of texts in your studies.

Something from here would also be useful to discuss at a UCAS interview.

English writers: (Classics)

George Orwell – 1984; Animal Farm

Jane Austen – Pride and Prejudice; Emma, (any)

Joseph Conrad – Heart of Darkness; Lord Jim;

Charles Dickens – Great Expectations; David Copperfield, (any)

Graeme Greene – Our Man in Havana; The Power and the Glory (any)

George Eliot - Middlemarch

John Fowles – The Magus; The Collector

George Eliot – Mill on the Floss; Silas Marner

Thomas Hardy – Tess of the D’Urbervilles

Charlotte Bronte – Jane Eyre

Emily Bronte – Wuthering Heights

W.M. Thackeray – Vanity Fair

Oscar Wilde – The Picture of Dorian Gray

Evelyn Waugh – Brideshead Revisted; Decline and Fall (any)

Wilkie Collins – The Woman in White

Nevil Shute – A Town Like Alice

American writers:

John Steinbeck – The Grapes of Wrath; Of Mice and Men

Ernest Hemingway – For Whom the Bell Tolls

Edith Wharton – Age of Innocence

Harper Lee – To Kill a Mockingbird

Henry James – Turn of the Screw

Stephen Crane – The Red Badge of Courage

Ken Kesey – One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest

Sylvia Plath – The Bell Jar

Jean Rhys – Wide Sargasso Sea

J.D. Salinger – Catcher in the Rye

Nathaniel Hawthorne – The Scarlet Letter

Arthur Miller – The Crucible; (any)

V.S. Naipaul – A Bend in the River

Jack Kerouac – On the Road

Truman Capote – In Cold BloodWorld Writers

Khaled Hosseini - The Kite Runner; A Thousand Splendid Suns

Salman Rushdie – Midnight’s Children

Margaret Atwood – The Blind Assassin; Alias Grace

Arundhati Roy – The God of Small Things

Toni Morrison – Beloved; Song of Solomon

Leo Tolstoy – Anna Karenina; War and Peace

James Joyce – A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man

Gabriel Garcia Marquez – A Hundred Years of Solitude; Life in the Time of Cholera

Kazuo Ishiguro – Remains of the Day

Jung Chang – Wild Swans

J.M. Coatzee – Disgrace

Rohinton Mistry – A Fine Balance

Yann Martel – Life of Pi

Chinua Achebe – Things Fall Apart

Alan Paton – Cry, the Beloved Country

Alice Walker – The Colour Purple

Alexandre Dumas – The Count of Monte Cristo

Mario Puzo – The Godfather

Contemporary

Joseph Heller – Catch 22

Annie Proulx – The Shipping News

Philip Roth – American Pastoral

Angela Carter – Wise Children; Nights at the Circus

Ian McEwan – Enduring Love; Atonement

Donna Tartt – The Secret History

Iain Banks – The Wasp Factory

Anita Brookner – Hotel du Lac

Lionel Shriver – We Need to Talk about Kevin

Sebastian Faulks – Birdsong

Jeanette Winterson – Oranges are not the Only Fruit

Julian Barnes – A History of the World in 10 Days; (any)

J.G. Farrell – The Siege of Krishnapur

Michael Frayn - Spies

Doris Lessing – The Grass is Singing

Philip Pullman – His Dark Materials Trilogy

John Irving – The Cider House Rules (any)

Arthur Golden – Memoirs of a Geisha

Patrick Suskind – Perfume

Dodie Smith – I Capture the Castle

Irvine Welsh – Trainspotting

Terry Pratchett – The Colour of Magic

Michael Ondaatje – The English Patient

Andrea Levy – Small Island

Martin Amis – Money

J.G. Ballard – Super Cannes