

Reading List B.A. and M.A. English Literature and Culture

This list contains the works of English literature that must be known at the end of a BA programme. They may appear in any exam without notice!

Many of these texts are covered in lectures and seminars. You can use the methods acquired there to access all the others in self-study.

A title printed in bold means that this work must be read and studied in its entirety. All other titles are also recommended for in-depth reading. However, you should at least be able to describe them and place them in the history of literature.

1. The Middle Ages

Caedmon's Hymn

Beowulf

Anglo-Saxon Chronicle

Geoffrey Chaucer, *The Canterbury Tales*: “General Prologue”, “The Wife of Bath’s Prologue and Tale”

2. The Renaissance (1485-1600)

Thomas More, *Utopia*

Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*

William Shakespeare, *Hamlet*, *A Midsummer Night’s Dream*, *King Lear*, *The Merchant of Venice*

Ben Jonson, *The Alchemist*

William Shakespeare, *Sonnets No. 18* (“Shall I compare thee to a summer’s day?”), *Nr. 130* (“My mistress’ eyes are nothing like the sun”), *Nr. 20* (“A woman’s face with Nature’s own hand painted”), *Nr. 73* (“That time of year thou mayst in me behold”)

John Donne, “The Flea” und *Holy Sonnet 14* (“Batter my heart, three-personed God”)

Katherine Philips, “A Married State”

Sir Thomas Wyatt: “Who so list to hunt”, “They flee from me”

Edmund Spenser: “One day I wrote her name upon the strand”

3. The Restoration and the 18th Century

Alexander Pope, *Essay on Man*

Thomas Hobbes, *Leviathan*

John Milton, *Paradise Lost*, Book I

John Bunyan, *The Pilgrim's Progress*, Part I

Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko*

Laurence Sterne, *Tristram Shandy*

Horace Walpole, *The Castle of Otranto*

Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe*

Jonathan Swift, *Gulliver's Travels* and "A Modest Proposal"

Samuel Richardson, *Pamela: or, Virtue Rewarded*

Frances Burney, *Evelina*

William Wycherley, *The Country Wife*

George Etherege, *The Man of Mode*

John Gay, *The Beggar's Opera*

Andrew Marvell, "To His Coy Mistress"

Thomas Gray, "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard"

James Thomson, "Rule, Britannia!"

4. The Romantic Period

Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*

Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of the Life of Olaudah Equiano, or Gustavus Vassa, the African*

Jane Austen, *Pride and Prejudice*

Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein*

Robert Burns, "To a Mouse"

William Blake, "The Chimney Sweeper" (aus *Songs of Innocence*) and "The Chimney Sweeper" (aus *Songs of Experience*), "The Tyger" and "London"

Samuel Taylor Coleridge, "Kubla Khan"

William Wordsworth, "Tintern Abbey", "Daffodils" and "The World Is Too Much with Us"

Percy Bysshe Shelley, "Ozymandias" and "Ode to the West Wind"

John Keats, "Ode on a Grecian Urn" and "On First Looking into Chapman's Homer"

5. The Victorian Period

Emily Brontë, *Wuthering Heights*

Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre*

Elizabeth Gaskell, *North and South*

Charles Dickens, *Great Expectations*

Sheridan Le Fanu, "Carmilla"

George Eliot, *The Mill on the Floss*

Thomas Hardy, *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*

Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland*

Bram Stoker, *Dracula*

Robert Louis Stevenson, *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*

Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest*

Rudyard Kipling, "The White Man's Burden" and "The Man Who Would Be King"

Robert Browning, "My Last Duchess"

Alfred, Lord Tennyson, "The Lady of Shalott"

Christina Rossetti, "Goblin Market"

Matthew Arnold, "Dover Beach"

Dante Gabriel Rossetti, "The Blessed Damozel"

6. The Early 20th Century to WWII

H.G. Wells, *The Time Machine*

Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*

George Orwell, *The Road to Wigan Pier*

Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness*

D.H. Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers*

James Joyce, *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* and "The Dead"

Virginia Woolf, *Mrs Dalloway* and "The Mark on the Wall"

Katherine Mansfield, "Bliss"

Frank O'Connor, "Guests of the Nation"

George Bernard Shaw, *Pygmalion*

Sean O'Casey, *The Plough and the Stars*

John Millington Synge, *The Playboy of the Western World*

William Butler Yeats, "Easter 1916" and "The Second Coming"

Wilfred Owen, “Dulce et Decorum Est” and “Strange Meeting”

Rupert Brooke, “The Soldier”

T. S. Eliot, “The Love Song of J. Alfred Prufrock”

W. H. Auden, “September 1, 1939” and “Musée des Beaux Arts”

Dylan Thomas, “The Force That through the Green Fuse Drives the Flower”, “Do Not Go Gentle into That Good Night” and *Under Milk Wood*

7. Post-WWII Literature

Samuel Selvon, *The Lonely Londoners*

Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart*

John Fowles, *The French Lieutenant’s Woman*

Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea*

Muriel Spark, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*

Doris Lessing, “To Room Nineteen”

Samuel Beckett, *Waiting for Godot*

John Osborne, *Look Back in Anger*

Alan Sillitoe, *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*

Harold Pinter, *The Dumb Waiter*

Philip Larkin, “Church Going” and “The Whitsun Weddings”

Ted Hughes, “The Thought-Fox”

Silvia Plath, “Lady Lazarus” and “Daddy”

Derek Walcott, “The Schooner Flight” and “A Far Cry from Africa”

Seamus Heaney, “Digging” and “Punishment”

8. Contemporary Literature

Salman Rushdie, *Midnight’s Children*

Hanif Kureishi, *The Buddha of Suburbia*

Byatt, A.S., *Possession*

Julian Barnes, *England, England*

J.M. Coetzee, *Disgrace*

Zadie Smith, *White Teeth*

Ian McEwan, *Atonement*

Andrea Levy, *Small Island*

Kazuo Ishiguro, *Never Let Me Go*

Caryl Churchill, *Top Girls*

Tom Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead*

Sarah Kane, *Blasted*

Martin McDonagh, *The Beauty Queen of Leenane*

Jez Butterworth, *Jerusalem*

Linton Kwesi Johnson, "Inglan is a Bitch"

Tony Harrison, "Them & [uz]"

Eavan Boland, "The Doll's Museum in Dublin"

Carol Ann Duffy, "Queen Kong" and "September 2014"

Daljit Nagra, "Look We Have Coming to Dover" and "In a White Town"