

Suggested reading for KS4

Below are some suggested novels, poems and non-fiction texts to read throughout your GCSE course and beyond. This list is not exhaustive! We encourage you to seek out a wide range of reading materials, both fiction and non-fiction.

1984 – George Orwell
For Whom The Bell Tolls – Ernest Hemingway
Adventures of Sherlock Holmes – Arthur Conan Doyle
All Quiet on the Western Front - Erich Maria Remarque
American Gods – Neil Gaiman
The Aeneid – Virgil
Anita and Me – Meera Syal
Atonement – Ian McEwan
Beowulf – translated by Seamus Heaney
Birdsong – Sebastian Faulks
The Book Thief – Markus Zusak
Brave New World – Aldous Huxley
Brick Lane by Monica Ali
Brighton Rock – Graham Greene
Catch-22 – Joseph Heller
The Catcher in the Rye – J.D. Salinger
The Color Purple – Alice Walker
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time – Mark Haddon
David Copperfield – Charles Dickens
Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? – Philip K. Dick
Enigma – Robert Harris
Fight Club – Chuck Palahniuk
Frankenstein – Mary Shelley
Girlfriend in a Coma – Douglas Coupland
The Grapes of Wrath – John Steinbeck
The Great Gatsby – F. Scott Fitzgerald
High Rise – JG Ballard
The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy – Douglas Adams
The House on Mango Street – Sandra Cisneros
The Illiad – Homer
I’m The King of the Castle – Susan Hill
Jonathan Strange and Mr Norrell – Susanna Clarke
Jane Eyre – Charlotte Bronte
Junk – Melvin Burgess
Life of Pi – Yann Martel
Lord of the Flies – William Golding
Mort – Terry Pratchett
Of Mice and Men – John Steinbeck
One Flew Over The Cuckoo’s Nest - Ken Kesey
Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit – Jeanette Winterson
Paddy Clarke Ha Ha Ha – Roddy Doyle
The Picture of Dorian Grey – Oscar Wilde
Rebecca – Daphne Du Maurier
Refugee Boy – Benjamin Zephaniah
Regeneration – Pat Barker
The Road – Cormac McCarthy
The Shadow of the Wind – Carlos Ruiz Zafón
Schindler’s Ark - Thomas Keneally
Slaughterhouse 5 – Kurt Vonnegut
The Day of the Triffids – John Wyndham

The Shining – Stephen King
The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde – Robert Louis Stevenson
The War of the Worlds – H.G. Wells
The Wasp Factory – Ian Banks
To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee
White Teeth – Zadie Smith
The Woman in Black – Susan Hill
Wuthering Heights – Emily Bronte

Short Stories:

- Roald Dahl (e.g. Lamb to the Slaughter)
- Ray Bradbury collections
- Ursula K. Le Guin collections
- Anton Chekov collections
- Edgar Allen Poe collections
- The Yellow Wallpaper – Charlotte Perkins Gilman
- Dubliners – James Joyce
- The ghost stories of M.R. James

Non-fiction:

- Touching The Void – Joe Simpson
- The Motorcycle Diaries – Che Guevara
- Fever Pitch – Nick Hornby
- A Walk In The Woods – Bill Bryson
- In Cold Blood – Truman Capote
- A People’s History of the United States – H. Zinn
- The Road to Wigan Pier – George Orwell
- The Autobiography of Malcolm X
- I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings – Maya Angelou
- Long Walk To Freedom – Nelson Mandela
- I Am Malala - Malala Yousafzai
- My Autobiography – Charlie Chaplin
- Speeches e.g. Martin Luther King Jr., Barack Obama, Winston Churchill, Emmeline Pankhurst ('Freedom or death'), Nelson Mandela, Malala Yousafzai, Leonardo DiCaprio at the UN etc.
- Get the Guardian/Times app and read their features, in-depth reports and opinion articles (or see their magazines/features section).

Shakespeare:

Any Shakespeare play (particularly King Lear, Hamlet) and his sonnets.

Poetry:

William Blake, Dylan Thomas, Seamus Heaney, Sylvia Plath, Robert Frost, Carol Ann Duffy, Christina Rossetti, Robert Browning, Simon Armitage, Grace Nichols, John Betjeman, Ted Hughes, Gillian Clarke, John Agard etc.