

English Literature A Level Reading List

Childhood

Pre-1900: *What Maisie Knew*, Henry James
Hard Times, Charles Dickens

Post-1900: *The Kite Runner*, Khaled Hosseini
We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves,
Karen Joy Fowler

Colonisation and its Aftermath

Pre-1900: *Heart of Darkness*, Joseph Conrad
The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn, Mark
Twain

Post-1900: *A Passage to India*, E M Forster
The Lonely Londoners, Sam Selvon

Crime and Detection

Pre-1900: *The Moonstone*, Wilkie Collins
Post-1900: *In Cold Blood*, Truman Capote
The Murder Room, P D James

Science and Society

Pre-1900: *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley
The War of the Worlds, H G Wells
Post-1900: *Never Let Me Go*, Kazuo Ishiguro

The Supernatural

Pre-1900: *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, Oscar
Wilde
Post-1900: *The Little Stranger*, Sarah Waters
Beloved, Toni Morrison

Women and Society

Pre-1900: *The Yellow Wallpaper*
Middlemarch
The Woman in White, Wilkie Collins
Post-1900: *Mrs Dalloway*, Virginia Woolf
A Thousand Splendid Suns, Khaled Hosseini.
The Bloody Chamber, Angela Carter

Villains and Anti-Heroes

Pre-1900 *A Woman of No Importance*
Vanity Fair, William Makepeace Thackeray
Post 1900 *Brighton Rock*, Graham Greene
Clockwork Orange, Anthony Burgess
American Psycho, Bret Easton Ellis

Sibling Relationship

Pre-1900 *The Mill on the Floss*, George Eliot
Sense and Sensibility, Jane Austen
Post 1900 *Catcher in the Rye*, J.D Salinger
Wise Children, Angela Carter
White Teeth, Zadie Smith
Shock of the Fall,
*Sons and Lovers/The Rainbow/Women in
Love – D H Lawrence*
The Catcher in the Rye, J D Salinger
The Magic Toyshop, Angela Carter
We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves,
Karen Joy Fowler
The Girls, Lori Lansens

Dystopian Novels

Pre 1900 *Frankenstein*, Mary Shelley
The Time Machine, H G Wells
Post 1900 *Nineteen Eighty Four*, George
Orwell
Clockwork Orange, Anthony Burgess
Never Let Me Go, Kazuo Ishiguro
Swastika Night, Katherine Budrekin
Fahrenheit 451, Ray Badbury

Social Barriers to Love/ Love and Class

Pre 1900 – *Middlemarch*, George Eliot
North and South, Elizabeth Gaskell
Mansfield Park, Jane Austen
Post 1900 – *Lady Chatterley's Lover*, D H
Lawrence
Strange Fits of Passion, Anita Shreeve
The Collector, John Fowles

Truth and Lies

Pre 1900: *A Picture of Dorian Gray*, Oscar
Wilde
The Woman in White, Wilkie Collins
Post 1900: *A Secret History*, Donna Tartt
The Catcher in the Rye, J D Salinger

English Literature A Level Reading List

Female Relationships

Pre 1900: Vanity Fair, William Makepeace

Thackeray

Post 1900: Fingersmith, Sarah Waters

Affinity, Sarah Waters

The Passion, Jeanette Winterson

Alienation

Pre 1900 – Frankenstein, Mary Shelley

Post 1900 - The Woman Warrior, Maxine

Hong Kingston

Never Let me Go

Marriage

Emma, Jane Austen

The Rainbow, D H Lawrence

The Importance of Being Earnest

Vile Bodies, Evelyn Waugh

Presentation of men

Pre 1900: A Dolls's House, Henrik Ibsen

Vanity Fair, William Makepeace Thackeray

Post 1900: Brideshead revisited, Evelyn

Waugh

Pre 1900 texts

Northanger Abbey – Jane Austen

Mansfield Park – Jane Austen

The Tenant of Wildfell Hall – Anne Bronte

The Moonstone – Wilkie Collins

The Woman in White – Wilkie Collins

Hard Times – Charles Dickens

Middlemarch – George Eliot

The Mill on the Floss – George Eliot

North and South – Elizabeth Gaskell

The Yellow Wallpaper – Charlotte Perkins

Gilman

Frankenstein – Mary Shelley

Vanity Fair – William Makepeace Thackeray

The Picture of Dorian Gray – Oscar Wilde