

## WHAT YOU CAN DO TO PREPARE:

To get ahead and be prepared for the start of the course in September, you need to do the following:

1. **A Crash Course in English Literature:**

If you want to consider why we read and write, this is a quick (quite blistering) synopsis of why we study Literature:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSYw502dJNY>

2. Read! Read anything by anybody. Choose anything you like – the more widely you read, the more secure you will be in your knowledge of literature and the more confident in making comparisons across texts. Understanding of literature is greatly enhanced by being able to cross-reference texts, ideas and styles. When you have finished the novel, write a review of it. You should include a discussion of the key things, the main characters and a personal response to the text.

## Recommended reading list for English Literature A Level

The list that follows is by no means exhaustive, but it should give you somewhere to start when faced with a whole library full of possibilities! Happy reading!

Chinua Achebe	Things Fall Apart
Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie	Purple Hibiscus
	Americanah
	Half of a Yellow Sun
Monica Ali	Brick Lane
Margaret Atwood	The Handmaid's Tale
	Oryx and Crake
	The Blind Assassin
Jane Austen	Pride and Prejudice
	Emma
	Sense and Sensibility
Iain Banks	The Wasp Factory
Pat Barker	The Silence of the Girls
William Beckford	Vathek
Charlotte Brontë	Jane Eyre
Emily Brontë	Wuthering Heights
Octavia Butler	Parable of the Sower
AS Byatt	Possession
Angela Carter	Nights at the Circus,
Joseph Conrad	The Secret Agent
Charles Dickens	Great Expectations
	Hard Times
	Bleak House
Daphne Du Maurier	Rebecca
George Eliot	The Mill on The Floss
	Middlemarch
Bernadine Evaristo	Girl, Woman, Other
William Faulkner	Light in August
Sebastian Faulks	Birdsong
	Charlotte Gray
F. Scott Fitzgerald	The Great Gatsby
	Tender is the Night
E.M. Forster	A Room with a View
Elizabeth Gaskell	North and South
	Wives and Daughters
Gabriel Garcia Marquez	Love in the Time of Cholera
Graham Greene	Brighton Rock
Mohsin Hamid	The Reluctant Fundamentalist
Thomas Hardy	Far from the Madding Crowd
	Tess of the D'Urbervilles
L.P. Hartley	The Go-Between
Ernest Hemingway	For Whom the Bell Tolls
	A Farewell to Arms
Khaled Hosseini	A Thousand Splendid Suns

Aldous Huxley	The Kite Runner
Kazuo Ishiguro	Brave New World
	The Remains of the Day
	Never Let Me Go
James Joyce	Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man
	Dubliners
Jhumpa Lahiri	The Namesake
Nella Larsen	Passing
D.H Lawrence	Sons and Lovers
	Women in Love
Harper Lee	To Kill a Mockingbird
Andrea Levy	Small Island
Hilary Mantel	Wolf Hall
	Bring out the Bodies
Cormac McCarthy	Outer Dark
Ian McEwan	Atonement
	Enduring Love
Toni Morrison	Beloved
Iris Murdoch	The Bell
	The sea, the sea
George Orwell	Nineteen Eighty-Four
Arundhati Roy	The God of Small Things
Sylvia Plath	The Bell Jar
Annie Proulx	Postcards
	The Shipping News
Ann Radcliffe	The Italian
Henry Roth	Call it Sleep
Jean Rhys	Wide Sargasso Sea
Sam Selvon	The Lonely Londoner
Zadie Smith	White Teeth
	NW
	On Beauty
John Steinbeck	The Grapes of Wrath
	East of Eden
Bram Stoker	Dracula
Alice Walker	The Colour Purple
Sarah Waters	The Little Stranger
Oscar Wilde	The Picture of Dorian Gray
Jeanette Winterson	Oranges are not the only Fruit
Virginia Woolf	Mrs. Dalloway
	To the Lighthouse