

Dear Guardians/Learners,

Below you will find a list of texts that we recommend learners read in years 9-11. Learners can choose any of these texts to enjoy reading at home, and this will greatly improve their chances of achieving a good grade in GCSE English Literature and Language. In addition, reading has numerous benefits such as instilling a greater understanding of the people and the world around us, emotional well-being, and increased confidence.

When learners come across a word they haven't seen before, they should quickly look it up in a dictionary or on a search engine to widen their range of vocabulary.

We have tried to include a diverse range of books, including LGBTQ+ literature and books by black writers.

Guardians - please be aware that some of these books contain adult themes and may include violence, sex or horror.

We hope you enjoy the texts you choose to read, and please feel free to ask anyone in the English department for further advice on what is suitable for you or for any recommendations.

Novels

1984 – George Orwell
Anita and Me – Meera Syal
Atonement – Ian McEwen
Beowulf – trans. Seamus Heaney
Birdsong – Sebastian Faulks
Boy Meets Boy – David Levithan
The Book Thief – Markus Zusak
Brighton Rock – Graham Greene
Carry On- Rainbow Rowell
Catch 22 – Joseph Heller
The Catcher in the Rye – J.D. Salinger
The Color Purple – Alice Walker
Crongton Knights & Straight Outta Crongton - Alex Wheatle
The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time – Mark Haddon
A Tale of Two Cities – Charles Dickens
Dracula – Bram Stoker
East of Eden– John Steinbeck
Enigma – Robert Harris
Fever Pitch – Nick Hornby
Fight Club – Chuck Palahniuk
Frankenstein – Mary Shelley
Girlfriend in a Coma – Douglas Coupland
The Great Gatsby – F.Scott Fitzgerald
Half of the Yellow Sun - Chimamanda Ngoze Adiche
Her Name is James - CJ Heath
The Black Flamingo- Dean Atta

The Hate You Give – Angie Thomas
 The Help - Kathryn Stockett
 The Hitchhiker’s Guide to the Galaxy – Douglas Adams
 I, Claudius-Robert Graves Jonathan Strange and Mr Norrell – Susanna Clarke
 I know why the Caged Bird Sings - Maya Angelou
 Jane Eyre – Charlotte Bronte
 Life of Pi – Yann Martel Lord of the Flies – William Golding
 The Lost World-Arthur Conan Doyle
 The Love and Lives of Rukhsana Ali- Sabina Khan
 The Neapolitan Novels-Elena Ferrante
 Noughts and Crosses – Malorie Blackman
 Notes on a Scandal – Zoe Heller
 Notes from a Small Island – Bill Bryson
 Oranges are not the Only Fruit- Jeanette Winterson
 The Picture of Dorian Grey – Oscar Wilde
 Pigeon English-Stephen Kelman
 Rebecca – Daphne Du Maurier
 Refugee Boy – Benjamin Zephaniah
 Release- Patrick Ness
 The Road – Cormac McCarthy
 Shadow of the Wind – Carlos Ruiz Zafón
 The Shining – Stephen King
 The Sign of Four and Other Stories-Arthur Conan Doyle
 The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde – Robert Lewis Stevenson
 A Tale of Two Cities – Charles Dickens
 The Rest of Us Just Live Here- Patrick Ness
 The Turn of the Screw – Henry James
 The Underground Railroad - Colson Whitehead
 To Kill a Mockingbird – Harper Lee
 The War of the Worlds – H.G. Wells
 The Wasp Factory – Ian Banks
 White Teeth – Zadie Smith
 Woman in Black – Susan Hill
 The Woman in White – Wilkie Collins

Any Shakespeare play or collection of sonnets

Poetry: Rudyard Kipling, 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, Lemn Sissay, Mary Angelou, Grace Nichols,

Plays:

A View From The Bridge-Arthur Miller,
 An Inspector Calls-JB Priestley,
 The History Boys-Alan Bennett,
 DNA-Dennis Kelly

Short stories:

AQA Anthology: Telling Tales-Variou writers,

A Parisian Affair and Other Stories-Guy De Maupassant,
Bloodchild and other stories- Octavia Butler
Diverse Shorts: Literature to Promote Critical Thinking- Various writers, published by
English & Media Centre
Proud- Various LGBTQ+ writers and poets
Men Without Women-Ernest Hemingway,
The Complete Crime Stories-James M. Cain, Collection-F. O'Connor