

# Taster for A-Level English Literature

## Summer Holiday – English Literature - Homework

### Task:

- *Read a novel appropriate to the standard of A-Level English Literature (on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> pages is a recommended reading list)*

Write a 1000 word book review of the novel.

Your book review should include content based on the following:

- An introduction that gives some background information about the novel and the author.
- A brief summary of the main events of the story (this should only be one paragraph as the focus should be reviewing rather than just retelling).
- A paragraph on your viewpoint on the novel – what you enjoyed about it, why it was engaging and why you think others consider it a quality piece of literature.
- A paragraph in which you explain what the main themes of the story are (for example: good versus evil; man's struggle against inequality; self-discovery and personal growth; suffering; love etc).
- A paragraph in which you analyse what you think the writer is saying about one of those themes with evidence (quotations) analysed to support your viewpoint.
- A paragraph explaining any criticisms of the novel and why you have those criticisms (writing "I just think it's boring" is not acceptable).
- A conclusion summarising your thoughts about the novel.

# A-Level English Literature reading list

This is by no means an exhaustive list of literature but I do hope that there might be something here for everyone.

## The classics

- Pride and Prejudice / Mansfield Park / Emma / Northanger Abbey – Jane Austen
- The Tenant of Wildfell Hall – Anne Bronte
- Jane Eyre – Charlotte Bronte
- Wuthering Heights – Emily Bronte
- The Woman in White / The Moonstone – Wilkie Collins
- Great Expectations / Oliver Twist / A Tale of Two Cities / Hard Times – Charles Dickens
- Middlemarch / Mill on the Floss / Adam Bede – George Eliot
- North and South – Elizabeth Gaskell
- King Solomon's Mines / She – H Rider Haggard
- Far From the Madding Crowd / The Mayor of Casterbridge / Jude the Obscure – Thomas Hardy
- Rob Roy – Walter Scott
- Dracula – Bram Stoker
- Frankenstein – Mary Shelley

## Early 20<sup>th</sup> Century Classics

- The Outsider – Albert Camus
- A Room With a View / Howards End / A Passage to India – E.M. Forster
- The Go-Between – L.P. Hartley
- Grand Sophy – Georgette Heyer
- Dubliners / A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man – James Joyce
- The Trial – Franz Kafka
- Mrs Dalloway / To the Lighthouse – Virginia Woolf

## Modern Classics

- Eva Luna / The House of Spirits / Zorro – Isabelle Allende
- The Handmaid's Tale / Cat's Eye / Alias Grace / MaddAddam Trilogy (Oryx and Crake; The Year After the Flood; MaddAddam) – Margaret Atwood
- If On a Winter's Night a Traveller – Italo Calvino
- The Bloody Chamber – Angela Carter
- The Rotters' Club – Jonathan Coe
- The Woman Who Walked into Doors – Roddy Doyle
- The Crimson Petal and the White – Michel Faber
- Birdsong / Engleby – Sebastian Faulks
- Sophie's World – Jostein Gaarder
- The Woman in Black – Susan Hill
- Fever Pitch / High Fidelity – Nick Hornby
- The Kite Runner / A Thousand Splendid Suns – Khaled Hosseini
- The Remains of the Day – Kazuo Ishiguro
- The Historian – Elizabeth Kostova

- The Buddha of Suburbia / The Black Album – Hani Kureishi
- Love in the Time of Cholera – Gabriel Garcia Marquez
- Life of Pi – Yann Martel
- Enduring Love / Atonement / Saturday / On Chesil Beach – Ian McEwan
- Vernon God Little – DBC Pierre
- The Satanic Verses – Salman Rushdie
- White Teeth – Zadie Smith
- The Colour Purple – Alice Walker
- The Night Watch – Sarah Waters
- Trainspotting – Irvine Welsh

### **American Classics**

- Mildred Pierce – James M Cain
- Wonder Boys – Michael Chabon
- The Big Sleep – Raymond Chandler
- The Great Gatsby – F. Scott Fitzgerald
- On the Road – Jack Kerouac
- One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s Nest – Ken Kesey
- Lolita – Vladimir Nabokov
- The Catcher in the Rye – J.D. Salinger
- We Need to Talk About Kevin – Lionel Shriver
- Revolutionary Road – Richard Yates

### **Science Fiction / Dystopian Fiction**

- Brave New World – Aldous Huxley
- The Demolished Man – Alfred Bester
- Fahrenheit 451 – Ray Bradbury
- Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep? – Philip K Dick
- The Left Hand of Darkness – Ursula K LeGuin
- I Am Legend – Richard Matheson
- 1984 – George Orwell
- The Time Machine / The Invisible Man / The War of the Worlds – H.G. Wells