

A level reading list

No reading list can possibly capture the wide variety and richness of books just waiting for you to read them. Here are just a few suggestions to get you started. We hope that you will enjoy exploring the school library and bookshops, and that you'll then be able to recommend lots of other titles to your teachers as well as to other students.

<i>Case Histories</i>	Kate Atkinson
<i>Alias Grace</i>	Margaret Atwood
<i>Regeneration</i>	Pat Barker
<i>Half of a Yellow Sun</i>	Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
<i>Captain Corelli's Mandolin</i>	Louis de Bernieres
<i>Wild Swans</i>	Jung Chang
<i>Birdsong</i>	Sebastian Faulkes
<i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-time</i>	Mark Haddon
<i>I'm the King of the Castle</i>	Susan Hill
<i>About a Boy</i>	Nick Hornby
<i>The Kite Runner</i>	Khaled Hosseini
<i>The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo</i>	Stieg Larsson
<i>Small Island</i>	Andrea Levy
<i>Mister Pip</i>	Lloyd Jones
<i>Beyond Black</i>	Hilary Mantel
<i>Angela's Ashes</i>	Frank McCourt
<i>On Chesil Beach</i>	Ian McEwan
<i>Beloved</i>	Toni Morrison
<i>The Tenderness of Wolves</i>	Stef Penney
<i>The Shipping News</i>	E Annie Proulx
<i>The God of Small Things</i>	Arundhati Roy
<i>White Teeth</i>	Zadie Smith
<i>The Road Home</i>	Rose Tremain
<i>Fingersmith</i>	Sarah Waters
<i>The Book Thief</i>	Markus Zusak
<i>Dissolution</i>	C. J. Sansom
<i>Profit Song</i>	Paul Lynch
<i>Orbital</i>	Samantha Harvey

Everything on the list above was written relatively recently, but it's a good idea to read some 'classics' too. Don't be put off by names of writers or works that you've heard and assume to be difficult or arduous! Give them a try, so you can make up your own mind.

<i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	Jane Austen
<i>Wuthering Heights</i>	Emily Bronte
<i>Heart of Darkness</i>	Joseph Conrad
<i>David Copperfield</i>	Charles Dickens
<i>The Mill on the Floss</i>	George Eliot
<i>The Mayor of Casterbridge</i>	Thomas Hardy
<i>The Turn of the Screw</i>	Henry James
<i>Frankenstein</i>	Mary Shelley
<i>To the Lighthouse</i>	Virginia Woolf
<i>A Room With a View</i>	E. M. Forster

Why not try dipping into some poetry, too? A good place to start would be with an anthology of poems. Try 'Being Alive' or 'Staying Alive', both edited by Nick Astley. Enjoy!

Pre-course task for A Level English Literature and A Level English Language and Literature students

Welcome to the OAKES English Literature or English Language and Literature A Level. It's fair to assume that you have chosen to study English at A Level because you have a love of reading. If so, you are going to really enjoy this pre-course task. Reading widely is one of the most important activities when studying English, as well as wonderfully enjoyable. It is also one of the most helpful things you can do to prepare for the course.



Task 1: Choose a notebook in which to start your reading log.

- Your notebook should be small enough to bring into school, but large enough to document your reading over the summer **and** throughout the course.
- If you need support to acquire a notebook, please speak to one of the English teachers, or contact Mrs Barker.

Task 2: Choose a range of novels from the A level reading list that you haven't already read. Read them over the summer. You should aim for a minimum of 2.

Task 3: Each time you read a book, make an entry into your reading journal. Feel free to be creative with your approach to journaling your entries. Your entry could include:

- A brief summary of the characters and plot.
- The genre, tone and message of the book.
- Your thoughts on the text.
- Any helpful context you have researched to help guide your reading.
- Further reading or research that you have done as a consequence of reading the text.

Task 4: Complete one written task responding to one of the texts you have read. Be prepared to hand this in during your first lesson in September. Tasks might include:

- A written report
- Writing a missing chapter
- Re-writing the ending
- Re-writing a small part of the novel to change the perspective or highlight a different point of view.
- Write the thoughts of a character in a soliloquy
- Write a response to a character or event in poetic form.
- Create a graphic novel of a key scene.

You must bring your reading log and written task to the first lesson of term in September.

If you have any questions about this task, or about any of the novels on the reading list, please contact Mrs Barker at the following email address:

kbarker@netherhallschool.org

We look forward to meeting you in September.
The Oakes College English Department

