KS3 English – Recommended Reading

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| Book Title | Author |
| **Fantasy** |
| Alice’s Adventures in Wonderland | Lewis Carroll |
| Matilda | Roald Dahl |
| Midnight Zoo | Sonya Hartnett |
| Northern Lights (Dark Materials Trilogy) \* | Philip Pullman |
| Peter Pan | J. M. Barrie |
| Phantom Tollbooth | Norton Juster |
| Sword in the Stone | T. H. White |
| The Wizard of Oz | Baum L Frank |
| Watership Down | Richard Adams |
| Harry Potter and the Philosopher’s Stone and others | J. K. Rowling |
| Skellig | David Almond |
| The Hogfather | Terry Pratchett |
| Tales of the Greek Heroes | Roger Lancelyn Green |
| Beowulf | Michael Morpurgo |
| A Monster Calls\* | Patrick Ness |
| **Children’s Literature** |
| A Little Princess | Frances Hodgson Burnett |
| The Jungle Book | Rudyard Kipling |
| The Secret Garden | Frances Hodgson Burnett |
| Wonder\* | R. J. Palacio |
| The Silver Sword | Ian Serallier |
| Tell Me No Lies | Marlorie Blackman |
| Face | Benjamin Zephaniah |
| Bully | Yvonne Coppard |
| Crongton Nights | Alex Wheatle |
| Nought and Crosses \*\* | Malorie Blackman |
| Refugee Boy | Benjamin Zephaniah |
| **Historical Fiction** |
| I am David | Anne Holm |
| Stop the Train | Geraldine McCaughrean |
| The Machine Gunners | Robert Westall |
| War Horse | Michael Morpurgo |
| Private Peaceful | Michael Morpurgo |
| Regeneration | Pat Barker |
| Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry | Mildred. D. Taylor |
| The Book Thief | Markus Zusak |
| **Non-Fiction** |
| Chinese Cinderella | Adeline Yen Mah |
| I Am Malala: How One Girl Stood Up For Education and Changed the World \*\* | Malala Yousafzai |
| A Little History of the World  | E. H. Gombrich |
| Horrible Histories: Vile Victorians, Elegant Edwardians and Terrible Tudors | Terry Deary and Martin Brown |
| The Diary of a Young Girl \*\* | Anne Frank |
| My Family and Other Animals | Gerald Durrell |
| A Little History of Science | William Bynum |
| Toast | Nigel Slater |
| No One is Too Small to Make a Difference \* | Greta Thunberg |
| You are Awesome \* | Matthew Syed |
| Into the Wild | Jon Krakauer |
| Blame My Brain | Nicola Morgan |
| **Coming of Age (Bildungsroman)** |
| Little Women \* | L. M. Alcott |
| The Old Man and the Sea | Ernest Hemingway |
| Jane Eyre \*\* | Charlotte Bronte |
| The Weight of Water | Sarah Crossan |
| **Crime Fiction/Mystery** |
| Trash | Andy Mulligan |
| Skeleton Key | Anthony Horowitz |
| The House of Silk | Anthony Horowitz |
| Sherlock Holmes | Sir Arthur Conan Doyle |
| The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time \*\* | Mark Haddon |
| **Literary Fiction** |
| Great Expectations \*\* | Charles Dickens |
| A Kestrel for a Knave | Barry Hines |
| Animal Farm | George Orwell |
| Oliver Twist | Charles Dickens |
| The Pearl | John Steinbeck |
| **Fable or Philosophical** |
| The Alchemist | Paolo Coelo |
| Sophie’s World | Jostein Gaarder |
| **Poetry** |
| Songs of Innocence and Experience  | William Blake |
| The World’s Wife | Carol Ann Duffy |
| **Adventure** |
| White Fang | Jack London |
| Huckleberry Finn | Mark Twain |
| The Wind Singer | William Nicholson |
| **Young Adult** |
| Kit’s Wilderness | David Almond |
| Stone Cold | Robert Swindells |

**Novels with \* are part of the Tutor Read Aloud Form Programme in year 7.**

**Novels with \*\* are part of the Tutor Read Aloud Form Programme in years 8 and 9.**

KS4 English – Recommended Reading

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| Book Title | Author |
| **Fantasy** |
| The Colour of Magic – Discworld Series | Terry Pratchett |
| The Lord of the Rings (& sequels) | J. R. R. Tolkien |
| The Hobbit | J. R. R. Tolkien |
| **Plays** |
| Pygmalion | George Bernard Shaw |
| A Doll’s House | Henrik Ibsen |
| The Importance of Being Earnest | Oscar Wilde |
| Dr Faustus | Christopher Marlowe |
| **Historical Fiction** |
| The Color Purple | Alice Walker |
| Resistance | Owen Sheers |
| Tamar | Mal Peet |
| The Grapes of Wrath | John Steinbeck |
| Birdsong | Sebastian Faulks |
| Catch 22 | Joseph Heller |
| Beloved | Toni Morrison |
| Half of a Yellow Sun | Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie |
| Things Fall Apart | Chinua Achebe |
| White Teeth | Zadie Smith |
| **Non-Fiction** |
| The Five: The Untold Lives of the Women Killed by Jack the Ripper? | Hallie Rubenhold |
| 50 Speeches that Made the Modern Worlds | Chambers |
| She Speaks: The Power of Women’s Voices | Yvette Cooper |
| Outspoken: 50 Speeches by Incredible Women from Boudicca to Michelle Obama | Debra Coughlin |
| The Essays and Non-Fiction of Charles Dickens | Charles Dickens |
| **Coming of Age (Bildungsroman)** |
| Brick Lane | Monica Ali |
| About a Boy | Nick Hornby |
| To Kill a Mockingbird | Harper Lee |
| The Kiterunner | Khaled Hosseini |
| The Catcher in the Rye | J. D. Salinger |
| Wuthering Heights | Emily Bronte |
| Atonement | Ian McEwan |
| The Perks of Being a Wallflower | Stephen Chbosky |
| **Gothic Fiction** |
| The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde | Robert Louis Stevenson |
| Dracula | Bram Stoker |
| The Picture of Dorian Gray | Oscar Wilde |
| **Thriller/Suspense** |
| Brighton Rock | Graham Greene |
| V For Vendetta | Alan Moore & David Lloyd |
| Heroes | Robert Cormier |
| The Girl with the Dragon Tattoo (Millennium Series) | Stieg Larsson |
| **Literary Fiction** |
| A Room With a View | E. M. Forster |
| Hard Times | Charles Dickens |
| Remains of the Day | Kazuo Ishiguro |
| Pride and Prejudice | Jane Austen |
| The Great Gatsby | F. Scott Fitzgerald |
| A Passage to India | E.M. Forster |
| Emma | Jane Austen |
| **Philosophical Fiction** |
| Life of Pi | Yann Martel |
| **Poetry** |
| Answering Back: Living Poets Reply to the Poetry of the Past | Carol Ann Duffy |
| One Hundred and Fifty Favourite Poems: English Language Classics | Christopher Wilson |
| **Adventure** |
| Gulliver’s Travels | Jonathan Swift |
| Around the World in Eighty Days | Jules Verne |
| **Young Adult** |
| Lord of the Flies | William Golding |
| The Fault in Our Stars | John Green |
| (Un)Arranged Marriage | Bali Rai |
| Are you there God? It’s Me, Margaret. | Judy Blume |
| Forever  | Judy Blume |
| **Autobiographical** |
| I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings | Maya Angelou |
| The Sorrows of Young Werther | Johann Wolfgang von Goethe |
| Anita and Me | Meera Syal |
| The Bell Jar | Sylvia Plath |
| **Science-Fiction** |
| Frankenstein | Mary Shelley |
| Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep | Philip K Dick |
| The War of the Worlds | H. G. Wells |
| The Time Machine | H. G. Wells |
| **Dystopian Fiction** |
| 1984 | George Orwell |
| Brave New World | Aldous Huxley |
| A Clockwork Orange | Antony Burgess |
| The Hunger Games (& Sequels) | Suzanne Collins |
| Fahrenheit 451 | Ray Bradbury |
| Never Let Me Go | Kazuo Ishiguro |



KS5 English – Recommended Reading

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| **Fiction** |
| Book Title | Author | Description |
| A Thousand Splendid Suns | Khaled Hosseini | A "mother-daughter story" that focuses primarily on female characters and their roles in Afghan society. |
| Exit West | Mohsin Hamed | A fictional insight into emigration and the plight of refugees. The novel is about a young couple, Saeed and Nadia, who live in an unnamed city undergoing civil war and finally have to flee, using a system of magical doors, which lead to different locations around the globe. |
| The Color Purple | Alice Walker | Taking place mostly in rural Georgia, this epistolary novel focuses on the life of African-American women in the Southern United States in the 1930s, addressing numerous issues including their exceedingly low position in American social culture |
| Small Island | Andrea Levy | A novel that offers an insight into post-war Britain and race relations. |
| Wuthering Heights | Emily Bronte | A classic of English literature; it was controversial because of its unusually stark depiction of mental and physical cruelty, and it challenged strict Victorian ideals regarding religious hypocrisy, morality, social classesand gender inequality. A real contrast to ‘Jane Eyre, and fascinating in terms of narrative framework, protagonists and setting, |
| Lady Audley’s Secret | Mary Elizabeth Braddon | A classic novel of sensation uncovers the truth about its heroine in a plot involving bigamy, arson and murder. It challenges assumptions about the nature of femininity and investigates the narrow divide between sanity and insanity, using as its focus one of the most fascinating of all Victorian heroines. |
| Enduring Love | Ian McEwan | The plot, which has many twists and turns, concerns two strangers who become perilously entangled after witnessing a deadly accident. |
| Pride and Prejudice | Jane Austen | The novel follows the character development of Elizabeth Bennet, the dynamic protagonist of the book who learns about the repercussions of hasty judgments and comes to appreciate the difference between superficial goodness and actual goodness. Its humour lies in its honest depiction of manners, education, marriage, and money during the Regency era in Great Britain. |
| Tess of the D’Urbervilles | Thomas Hardy | Considered a major nineteenth-century English novel and possibly Hardy's fictional masterpiece, this novel received mixed reviews when it first appeared, in part because it challenged the sexual morals of late Victorian England. A good starting point for Hardy. |
| Wide Sargasso Sea | Jean Rhys | A feminist and anti-colonial response to Charlotte Brontë's novel Jane Eyre, describing the background to Mr Rochester's marriage from the point-of-view of his mad wife Antoinette Cosway, a Creole heiress. |
| Wild Swan | Jung Chang | A moving story and family history that spans a century, recounting the lives of three female generations in China. |
| Birdsong | Sebastian Faulks | A powerful story of love and war, Faulks developed the novel to bring more public awareness to the experience of war remembered by WWI veterans. |
| Oranges are not the Only Fruit | Jeanette Winterson | A compelling novel about a young woman dealing with the pressures of conformity in a world that demands she be something she is not. |
| The Handmaid’s Tale | Margaret Attwood | A dystopian novel that explores themes of subjugated women in a patriarchal society and the various means by which these women resist and attempt to gain individuality and independence. The novel's title echoes the component parts of Geoffrey Chaucer's The Canterbury Tales, which is a series of connected stories ("The Merchant's Tale", "The Parson's Tale", etc.).  |
| **1880-1910 – Component 3 Wider Reading – Unseen Prose** |
| Book Title | Author | Description |
| Washington Square | Henry James | 1880 - a structurally simple tragicomedy that recounts the conflict between a dull but sweet daughter and her brilliant, unemotional father |
| Adventures of Huckleberry Finn | Mark Twain | :1884 - Commonly named among the Great American Novels, this is told in the first person by Huckleberry "Huck" Finn and is noted for its colourful description of people and places along the Mississippi River. Set in a Southern antebellum society that had ceased to exist over 20 years before the work was published, it is an often scathing satire on entrenched attitudes, particularly racism. |
| The Mayor of Casterbridge: The Life and Death of a Man of Character | Thomas Hardy | 1886 - it is set in a fictional rural England with Casterbridge standing in for Dorchester in Dorset where the author spent his youth. The novel is considered to be one of Hardy's masterpieces, although it has been criticised for incorporating too many incidents: a consequence of the author trying to include something in every weekly published instalment. |
| Three Men in a Boat | Jerome K. Jerome | 1889 - a humorous account by English writer Jerome K. Jerome of a two-week boating holiday on the Thames from Kingston upon Thames to Oxford and back to Kingston |
| The Picture of Dorian Gray | Oscar Wilde | 1890 – Enthralled by his own exquisite portrait, Dorian Gray exchanges his soul for eternal youth and beauty. Influenced by his friend Lord Henry Wotton, he is drawn into a corrupt double life; indulging his desires in secret while remaining a gentleman in the eyes of polite society. Only his portrait bears the traces of his decadence. The novel was a *succès de scandale* and the book was later used as evidence against Wilde at the Old Bailey in 1895. It has lost none of its power to fascinate and disturb. |
| The Sign of Four | Arthur Conan Doyle | 1890 – featuring Sherlock Holmes and Doctor Watson this novel has a complex plot involving service in India, the Indian Rebellion of 1857, a stolen treasure, and a secret pact among four convicts ("the Four" of the title) and two corrupt prison guards. It presents the detective's drug habit and humanizes him in a way that had not been seen previously. |
| The Yellow Wallpaper | Charlotte Perkins Gilman | 1892 - It is regarded as an important early work of American feminist literature, due to its illustration of the attitudes towards mental and physical health of women in the 19th century |
| The Diary of a Nobody | George & Weedon Grossmith | 1892 - a classic work of humour, that helped to establish a genre of humorous popular fiction based on lower or lower-middle class aspirations, and was the forerunner of numerous fictitious diary novels in the later 20th century |
| The Time Machine | H. G. Wells | 1893 - The Time Machine is a science fiction novella by H. G. Wells, published in 1895 and written as a frame narrative. The work is generally credited with the popularization of the concept of time travel by using a vehicle or device to travel purposely and selectively forward or backward through time. |
| Dracula | Bram Stoker | 1895 - It introduced the character of Count Dracula and established many conventions of subsequent vampire fantasy. |
| The Turn of the Screw | Henry James | 1896 - Classified as both gothic fiction and a ghost story, the novella focuses on a governess who, caring for two children at a remote estate, becomes convinced that the grounds are haunted. |
| Moonfleet | John Meade Falkner | 1896 - The plot is an adventure tale of smuggling, treasure, and shipwreck set in 18th century England. |
| War of the Worlds | H. G. Wells | 1898 – a science fiction novel that is one of the earliest stories to detail a conflict between mankind and an extra-terrestrial race. The novel is the first-person narrative of both an unnamed protagonist in Surrey and of his younger brother in London as southern England is invaded by Martians. |
| The Awakening | Kate Chopin | 1899 - Set in New Orleans and on the Louisiana Gulf coast at the end of the 19th century, the plot centres on Edna Pontellier and her struggle between her increasingly unorthodox views on femininity and motherhood with the prevailing social attitudes of the turn-of-the-century American South. |
| Heart of Darkness | Joseph Conrad | 1902 – a novella by Polish-English novelist Joseph Conrad about a narrated voyage up the Congo River into the Congo Free State in the *Heart of Africa*. Charles Marlow, the narrator, tells his story to friends aboard a boat anchored on the River Thames. This setting provides the frame for Marlow's story of his obsession with the successful ivory trader Kurtz. Conrad offers parallels between London ("the greatest town on earth") and Africa as places of darkness. |
| A Room with a View | E. M. Forster | 1908 – This is about a young woman in the restrained culture of Edwardian era England. Set in Italy and England, the story is both a romance and a humorous critique of English society at the beginning of the 20th century |
| **Plays** |
| Play Title | Playwright | Description |
| The White Devil | John Webster | The play explores the differences between the reality of people and the way they depict themselves as good, "white", or pure. |
| Cat on a Hot Tin Roof | Tennessee Williams | Set in the "plantation home in the Mississippi Delta" of Big Daddy Pollitt, a wealthy cotton tycoon, the play examines the relationships among members of Big Daddy's family, primarily between his son Brick and Maggie the "Cat", Brick's wife. |
| The Glass Menagerie | Tennessee Williams | The play has strong autobiographical elements, featuring characters based on its author, his histrionic mother, and his mentally fragile sister Laura. |
| The Prince | Niccolo Machiavelli | A ruthless manual for aspiring rulers, this play shocked Europe on publication with its ruthless tactics for gaining absolute power and its abandonment of conventional morality. |
| **Poetry** |
| Poetry Collection | Poet | Description |
| The World’s Wife | Carol Ann Duffy | Duffy's poems focus on either well known female figures or fictional counterparts to well-known male figures. The themes of the poems focus on the complexities of gender relations, the roles of women, and the often ill treatment of women through fictional, biblical, mythical, and historical contexts. |
| Mean Time | Carol Ann Duffy | Carol Ann Duffy dramatizes scenes from childhood, adolescence and adulthood, finding moments of grace or consolation in memory, love and language amid the complexities of life. These are powerful poems of loss, betrayal and desire |
| **Critical Theory and Criticism** |
| Book Title | Author | Description |
| Hamlet Poem Unlimited | Harold Bloom  | This is Bloom's attempt to uncover the mystery of both Prince Hamlet and the play, how both prince and drama are able to break through the conventions of theatrical mimesis and the representation of character, making us question the very nature of theatrical illusion. |
| Hamlet and his Problems | T.S. Eliot | Hamlet and His Problems is an essay written by T.S. Eliot in 1919 that offers a critical reading of Hamlet. Eliot's critique gained attention partly due to his claim that Hamlet is "most certainly an artistic failure."  |
| Coleridge: Lectures on Shakespeare (1811-1819) | Samuel Taylor Coleridge | Coleridge’s, now famous, criticisms of Hamlet and Shakespeare. |
| Shakespearean Tragedy | A.C. Bradley | A.C. Bradley was an English literary scholar best known for his works on Shakespeare. In these lectures, he takes us through some of his comments on Shakespeare’s plays, including his lecture on Hamlet. |
| Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory | Peter Barry | The bewildering variety of approaches, theorists and technical language is lucidly and expertly unravelled. Unlike many books which assume certain positions about the critics and the theories they represent, Beginning theory allows readers to develop their own ideas once first principles and concepts have been grasped. |
| Marx: A Very Short Introduction | Peter Singer | Presenting Marx as a philosopher primarily concerned with human freedom, rather than as an economist or a social scientist, Singer explains Marx's key ideas on alienation, historical materialism, and the economic theory of Capital, in plain English. |
| Feminism: A Very Short Introduction | Margaret Walters | This book provides an historical account of feminism, exploring its earliest roots as well as key issues including voting rights, the liberation of the sixties, and its relevance today. |
| Freud: A Very Short Introduction | Anthony Storr | Sigmund Freud (1856-1939) revolutionized the way in which we think about ourselves. From its beginnings as a theory of neurosis, Freud developed psycho-analysis into a general psychology which became widely accepted as the predominant mode of discussing personality and interpersonal relationships. |
| English Literature: A Very Short Introduction | Jonathan Bate | The focus is wide, shifting from the birth of the novel and the brilliance of English comedy to the deep Englishness of landscape poetry and the ethnic diversity of Britain's Nobel literature laureates. It also embraces the major literary movements such as Romanticism and Modernism, together with the most influential authors including Chaucer, Donne, Johnson, Wordsworth, Austen, Dickens and Woolf. |
| Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction | Jonathan Culler | This lucid introduction is useful for anyone who has wondered what all the fuss is about or who wants to think about literature today. |