

## **English Department reading list**

Reading widely is excellent preparation for any English course. A-level Language & Literature and A-level Literature students should aim to read both fiction and non-fiction, for example reading a variety of newspapers and magazines as well as novels. Look for texts that are outside your usual reading, but also look for texts that sound interesting. There are plenty of fiction and non-fiction texts out there. With a little browsing through a library, a bookshop or online you will find hundreds of suitable books. You could also look for lists of winners or nominees of the Booker Prize, Orange Prize or Costa Book Award, or find a list of the 100 greatest literary works. For A-level Language students, there are plenty of excellent introductions to the topics covered by the course – take a look at the A-level Language list below.

### **A-level English Language & Literature and A-level English Literature**

*A Secret History* Donna Tartt

*Black Swan Green* David Mitchell

*Breath* Tim Winton

*Brick Lane* Monica Ali

*Brighton Rock* Graham Greene

*Collected Poems* Audre Lorde

*Disgrace* J. M. Coetzee

*Enduring Love* Ian McEwan

*Girl with a Pearl Earring* Tracy Chevalier

*Girl, Woman, Other* Bernadine Evaristo

*If This is a Man* Primo Levi

*Norwegian Wood* Haruki Murakami

*On Beauty* Zadie Smith

*Once in a House on Fire* Andrea Ashworth

Jeanette Winterson

*Perfume* Patrick Süskind

Jane Austen

*Seasonal Quartet* Ali Smith  
*Small Island* Andrea Levy  
*Sophie's Choice* William Styron  
*The Bell Jar* Sylvia Plath  
*The Bluest Eye* Toni Morrison  
*The Color Purple* Alice Walker  
*The God of Small Things* Arundhati Roy  
*The Ice Storm* Rick Moody  
*The Paying Guests* Sarah Waters  
*The Road Home* Rose Tremain  
*The Shipping News* Annie Proulx

### **A-level English Language**

*Bagels, Bumf and Buses – A Day in the Life of the English Language* Simon Horobin  
*Because Internet – Understanding the New Rules of Language* Gretchen McCulloch  
*Dent's Modern Tribes – The Secret Languages of Britain* Susie Dent  
*Language Handbook – Key Thinkers on Key Topics* English & Media Centre  
*Language Myths* Laurie Bauer & Peter Trudgill  
*Language, Society & Power* Annabelle Mooney and Betsy Evans  
*Listen To Your Child – A Parent's Guide to Children's Language* David Crystal  
*Mastering Advanced English Language* Sara Thorne  
*The Babel Lexicon of Language* McIntyre et al.  
*The Language Wars – A History of Proper English* Henry Hitchings  
*The Myth of Mars and Venus – Do Men and Women Really Speak Different Languages*  
Deborah Cameron  
*The Prodigal Tongue – The Love-Hate Relationship Between British and American English* Lynne Murphy  
*The Stories of English* David Crystal  
*Words on the Move* John McWhorter

*You're All Talk – Why We Are What We Speak* Rob Drummond

*You Say Potato – The Story of English Accents* Ben Crystal and David Crystal