

A-level English Literature - NEA – Summer Reading List



In the summer term of Year 12, we study Bram Stoker's 'Dracula' or Oscar Wilde's 'The Importance of Being Earnest'. This is so that you explore themes you might be interested in pursuing in your NEA (Independent Comparative Study Essay).

Over the summer holidays, we would like you to **browse this reading list. Identify two themes that particularly interest you, and then choose one text from underneath each theme to read** in the holidays.

Themes in Dracula

Fear, fairytale and fantasy

The Bloody Chamber and other stories – A. Carter

Frankenstein – M. Shelley

The anti-hero / the allure of evil

Dr Faustus (play) – C. Marlowe

White Tiger – A. Adiga

The Talented Mr Ripley – P. Highsmith

The Reluctant Fundamentalist – M. Hamid

Richard III - Shakespeare

The Robber Bride – M. Atwood

The Marriage Portrait – M. O'Farrell

Salome – O. Wilde

Predation and power

The Tempest (play) - Shakespeare

The Bloody Chamber – A. Carter

The Emperor's Babe – B. Evaristo

Madness and delusions

Enduring Love – I. McEwan

Hamlet (play) - Shakespeare

The Yellow Wallpaper and other stories – C. Perkins Gilman

King Lear (play) - Shakespeare

Fear of the foreign and 'other'

Heart of Darkness – J. Conrad

Passage to India – EM Forster

Stories of Edgar Allen Poe

The Merchant of Venice (play) - Shakespeare

The Reluctant Fundamentalist – M. Hamid

The Crucible (play) – A. Miller

The gothic / the supernatural

The Crucible – A. Miller

Northanger Abbey – J. Austen

Frankenstein – M. Shelley

Great Expectations – C. Dickens

The Picture of Dorian Gray – O. Wilde

The Woman in White – W. Collins

Female empowerment, role of women and sexuality

The Bloody Chamber and other stories – A. Carter

The Rover (play) – A. Behn

The Mill on the Floss – G. Eliot

The Emperor's Babe (verse novel) – B. Evaristo

The Testaments – M. Attwood

A Doll's House (play) – H. Ibsen

Hedda Gabler (play) – H. Ibsen

A Woman of No Importance – O. Wilde

Wife of Bath's prologue and tale - Chaucer

Telling Tales (poetry) – P. Agbabe

Brick Lane – M. Ali

King Lear (Regan and Goneril) – Shakespeare

The Tenant of Wildfell Hall – A. Bronte

The Wife of Willesden (play) – Z. Smith

Yerma – F. Garcia Lorca (in translation)

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The Cherry Orchard – Chekhov (in translation)

Pygmalion – G. Bernard Shaw

The Marriage Portrait – M. O'Farrell

The Silence of the Girls – P. Barker

Forbidden love

Lady Chatterley's Lover – DH Lawrence

'Tis pity she's a whore (play) – J. Ford

Maurice – EM Forster

Mr Loverman – B. Evaristo

Brick Lane – M. Ali

The God of Small Things – A. Roy

Masculinity

The Rover (play) – A. Behn

Mr Loverman – B. Evaristo

Science and modernity

Frankenstein – M. Shelley

Machines Like Me – I. McEwan

Klara and the Sun – K. Ishiguro

The Island of Dr Moreau – HG Wells

Perversion and degeneracy

The Picture of Dorian Gray – O. Wilde

'Tis pity she's a whore (play) – J. Ford

Other themes:

Colonialism, race and enslavement

Strange Music – L. Fish

The Tempest (play) - Shakespeare

Blonde roots – B. Evaristo

Heart of Darkness – J. Conrad

Oroonoko – A. Behn

The Emperor's Babe – B. Evaristo

Wide Sargasso Sea – J. Rhys

A Passage to India – EM Forster

The Lonely Londoners – S. Selvon

Small Island – A. Levy

Justice, law and ethics

The Merchant of Venice (play) - Shakespeare

The Children's Act – I. McEwan

The Crucible – A. Miller

The Tale of Two Cities – C. Dickens

Parent and child relationships

King Lear (play) - Shakespeare

The Children's Act – I. McEwan

Burnt Sugar – A. Doshi

Frankenstein – M. Shelley

The Adoption Papers (poetry) – J. Kay

Bildungsroman /picaresque

Great Expectations – C. Dickens

The Buddha of Suburbia – H. Kureishi

White Tiger – A. Adiga

White Teeth – Z. Smith

Brick Lane – M. Ali

Transformations

Great Expectations – C. Dickens

Pygmalion (play) – G. Bernard Shaw (play)

Orlando – V. Woolf