

# A Level English Literature at All Saints

## Read the course texts:

The following texts are from the A Level course and are ones that you will study across the two years. Read as many as you can before the course to prepare yourself.

### **Tragedy:**

*Othello* by William Shakespeare  
*Death of a Salesman* by Arthur Miller  
*Lamia, Isabella, La Belle Dame Sans Merci and Eve of St Agnes*  
by John Keats

### **Crime:**

*Atonement* by Ian McEwan  
*Hamlet* by William Shakespeare  
*Rime of the Ancient Mariner* by Samuel Taylor Coleridge

## Some links to look at:

### **Watch a Crash Course in English Literature**

If you want to consider why we read and write, this is a very quick synopsis of why we study Literature:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSYw502dJNY>

### **Beginning to explore literary theory**

Literary theory is a key part of the study of English Literature and is the focus of your Non-Exam Assessment. Watch the following masterclasses to give you an introduction:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6s1-8sWutQ> (Feminist)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nmlhEWiYE3o> (Marxist)

### **Why Literature Matters**

The danger of a single story - <https://shorturl.at/yVRIS>

How books can open your mind - <https://youtu.be/6ibCtsHgZ3Y>

How and why we read -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSYw502dJNY>

## Complete your own personal reading:

The best thing you can do to prepare for studying English Literature is to read a wide range of diverse and challenging texts. Here are some great examples we would recommend:

### **Novels:**

*Normal People* by Sally Rooney  
*Girl, Woman, Other* by Bernardine Evaristo  
*Life of Pi* by Yann Martel  
*Americanah* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie  
*In Cold Blood* by Truman Capote  
*Wide Sargasso Sea* by Jean Rhys  
*The Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck  
*Queenie* by Candice Carty-Williams  
*The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath  
*Oranges are not the Only Fruit* by Jeanette Winterson  
*On the Road* by Jack Kerouac  
*If Beale Street Could Talk* by James Baldwin  
*The Bloody Chamber* by Angela Carter  
*Slaughter House Five* by Kurt Vonnegut

### **Plays:**

*The History Boys* by Alan Bennett  
*A Streetcar Named Desire / Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* by Tennessee Williams  
*A View from the Bridge/ The Crucible* by Arthur Miller  
*Wise Children* by Angela Carter

### **Poetry:**

*Howl* by Allen Ginsberg  
*Feminine Gospels / The World's Wife* by Carol Ann Duffy  
*And Still I Rise* by Maya Angelou  
*I Too* by Langston Hughes  
*Your Silence will not Protect you* by Audre Lorde  
*The Whitsun Weddings* by Philip Larkin  
*Collected Poems* by Sylvia Plath

