

## Texts suggested for the MA and LA Reading List Exam

### I EARLY ENGLISH LITERATURE

#### Poetry

“Cædmon’s Hymn” (c.658-80)

Anon., *Beowulf* (c.678-1000)

William Langland, *Piers Plowman* (c. 1362-90)

Anon., *Sir Gawain and the Green Knight* (c. 1375-1400)

Geoffrey Chaucer, “Prologue” to *The Canterbury Tales*, tale from *The Canterbury Tales* (1387-1400)

Sir Thomas Malory, *Le Morte d’Arthur* (1485) (Norton selection)

#### Drama

Anon., *The Castle of Perseverance* (c.1405-25)

Anon., *Mankind* (c. 1470)

Anon., *The Second Shepherds’ Play* (c. 1475)

Anon., *Everyman* (c. 1485-1500)

### II EARLY MODERN ERA & EARLY 17TH CENTURY (1500-1660)

#### Poetry

Sir Thomas Wyatt the Elder, “I Find No Peace”, “My Galley, “Whoso List to Hunt”, “They Flee from Me” (1557)

Henry Howard, Earl of Surrey, “Love, That Doth Reign”, “The Soote Season”, “Alas! So all Things Now Do Hold Their Peace” (1557)

Edmund Spenser, *The Faerie Queene* (1590-96)

Sir Philip Sidney, *Astrophil and Stella* (1591)

Christopher Marlowe, “Hero and Leander” (1598)

William Shakespeare, “Sonnet 18”, “Sonnet 130”

Aemilia Lanyer, “The Description of Cooke-ham” (1611)

John Donne, “The Sun Rising”, “A Valediction: Forbidden Mourning”, “Go and Catch a Falling Star”, “The Ecstasy”, “The Good-Morrow”, “The Flea” (1633)

George Herbert, “Coloss. III.3.”, “Easter Wings”, “Time”, “The Flower”, “The Altar” (1633)

Andrew Marvell, “An Horatian Ode” (1650), “Upon Appleton House” (1651) “To his Coy Mistress” (1681)

Henry Vaughan, “The Retreat” (1650), “They Are All Gone into the World of Light!” (1655)

Margaret Cavendish, “A World Made by Atomes” (1653)

Katherine Philips, “To My Excellent Lucasia, on Our Friendship”, “On the 3rd of September, 1651”, “Upon the Double Murder of King Charles” (1664)

John Milton, *Paradise Lost* (Books I and IX) (1667)

#### Drama

William Shakespeare, tragedy, comedy, history play

Thomas Kyd, *The Spanish Tragedy* (1592)

Christopher Marlowe, *Doctor Faustus*, *The Jew of Malta* (1592)

Ben Jonson, *Volpone* (1606), *The Alchemist* (1610)

John Webster, *The Duchess of Malfi* (1613)  
Thomas Middleton, *The Changeling* (1622), *A Chaste Maid in Cheapside* (c. 1611-13/1630)

#### Prose Fiction

Thomas More, *Utopia* (1516) (Norton selection)  
Sir Philip Sidney, *Arcadia* (1590-93) (selections)  
John Bunyan, *The Pilgrim's Progress* (1678) (Norton selection)

#### Non-Fiction

Sir Philip Sidney, *The Defence of Poesy* (1595) (Norton selection)  
Thomas Hobbes, "Introduction" to *Leviathan* (1651)

### **III RESTORATION & 18TH CENTURY (1660-1785)**

#### Poetry

John Dryden, *Absalom and Achitophel* (1681)  
Jonathan Swift, "A Description of a City Shower" (1710), "The Lady's Dressing Room" (1732), "The Bubble" (1721)  
Alexander Pope, *The Rape of the Lock* (1712), *The Dunciad* (Book IV) (1743), *An Essay on Man* - Epistle 1 and 2 (1733-34) (Norton selection), "Summer"  
Thomas Gray, "Elegy Written in a Country Churchyard" (1751)

#### Drama

William Wycherley, *The Country Wife* (1675)  
George Etherege, *The Man of Mode* (1676)  
Aphra Behn, *The Rover* (1677)  
John Dryden, *All for Love* (1677)  
William Congreve, *The Way of the World* (1700)  
John Gay, *The Beggar's Opera* (1728)  
George Lillo, *The London Merchant* (1731)  
Oliver Goldsmith, *She Stoops to Conquer* (1773)  
Richard Brinsley Sheridan, *The School for Scandal* (1777), *The Rivals* (1775)

#### Prose Fiction

Aphra Behn, *Oroonoko, or The Royal Slave* (1688)  
Jonathan Swift, *A Tale of a Tub* (1704), *Gulliver's Travels* (1726)  
Daniel Defoe, *Robinson Crusoe* (1719), *Moll Flanders* (1722)  
Samuel Richardson, *Pamela, or Virtue Rewarded* (1740)  
Henry Fielding, *Shamela* (1741), *Tom Jones* (1749)  
Samuel Johnson, *Rasselas* (1759)  
Lawrence Sterne, *The Life and Opinions of Tristram Shandy, Gentleman* (1759-1767)  
Fanny Burney, *Evelina* (1778)

#### Non-Fiction

John Dryden, *An Essay of Dramatic Poesy* (1668)  
John Locke, *An Essay Concerning Human Understanding* (1690) (Norton selection)  
Jonathan Swift, "A Modest Proposal" (1729)  
Edmund Burke, *A Philosophical Inquiry into the Origin of our Ideas of the Sublime and Beautiful* (1757) (Norton selection)

## IV ROMANTIC PERIOD (1785-1830)

### Poetry

- William Cowper, *The Task* (1785) (Norton selection), "The Negro's Complaint" (1788)  
William Blake, "The Lamb" (1789), "The Little Black Boy" (1789), "The Chimney Sweeper" (1789), "The Tyger" (1794), "The Sick Rose" (1794), "London" (1794), poems from *Songs of Innocence and Experience* (1789/1794)  
Mary Robinson, "January, 1795"  
Robert Burns, "Holy Willie's Prayer" (1789), "Tam o'Shanter" (1791), "A Red, Red Rose" (1796)  
Anna Letitia Barbauld, "Epistle to William Wilberforce" (1791), "The Rights of Woman" (c. 1792/1825)  
Charlotte Smith, "The Emigrants" (1793)  
William Wordsworth, "Lines Composed a Few Miles above Tintern Abbey" (1798), "Old Man Travelling" (1798), "The Tables Turned" (1798), *The Prelude* (selections) (1798-1850), "Michael" (1800), "I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud" (1807), "Composed upon Westminster Bridge" (1807), poems from *Lyrical Ballads* (1798/1800)  
Samuel Taylor Coleridge, "The Rime of the Ancient Mariner" (1798), "Frost at Midnight" (1798), "Dejection" (1798) (1802), "Kubla Khan" (c. 1797-98/1816), "Christabel" (1816), selected poems from *Lyrical Ballads* (1798/1800)  
Lord Byron, "Solitude" in *Childe Harold's Pilgrimage* (1812), "She Walks in Beauty" (1815), *Manfred* (1817), *Don Juan - Canto I* (1819)  
Percy Bysshe Shelley, "Hymn to Intellectual Beauty" (1817), "Ozymandias" (1818), "Ode to the West Wind" (1820)  
John Keats, "On Seeing the Elgin Marbles" (1817), "Ode to Psyche" (1820), "Ode on a Grecian Urn" (1820), "To Autumn" (1819), "La Belle Dame sans Merci" (1820), "Lamia" (1820), "Ode to a Nightingale" (1820), "The Eve of St. Agnes" (1820)  
Letitia Elizabeth Landon, "The Proud Ladye" (1825), "A Legend of Tintagel Castle" (1833)

### Drama

- Joanna Baillie, *De Monfort* (1798)  
Matthew Lewis, *Timour the Tartar* (1811)  
Percy Bysshe Shelley, *The Cenci* (1819), *Prometheus Unbound* (1820)

### Prose Fiction

- Horace Walpole, *The Castle of Otranto* (1764)  
Olaudah Equiano, *The Interesting Narrative of Olaudah Equiano* (1789)  
Ann Radcliffe, *The Mysteries of Udolpho* (1794)  
Jane Austen, *Sense and Sensibility* (1811), *Pride and Prejudice* (1813), *Emma* (1815), *Persuasion* (1817)  
Walter Scott, *Waverley* (1814)  
Mary Shelley, *Frankenstein, or The Modern Prometheus* (1818)

### Non-Fiction

- Mary Wollstonecraft, *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman* (1792) (Norton selection)  
Joanna Baillie, "Introductory Discourse" to *A Series of Plays* (1798)  
William Wordsworth, "Preface" to *Lyrical Ballads* (1800)  
Percy Bysshe Shelley, "A Defence of Poetry" (1821/1840) (Norton selection) 5

## V VICTORIAN AGE (1830-1900)

### Poetry

Alfred Lord Tennyson, "Ulysses" (1833/1842), "The Lady of Shalott" (1842), selection from *In Memoriam* (1850) (Norton selection)  
Robert Browning, "Porphyria's Lover" (1836), "My Last Duchess" (1842)  
Elisabeth B. Browning, "A Man's Requirements" (1846), "Sonnet 21", "Sonnet 22", "Sonnet 32", "How Do I Love Thee?" (Sonnet 43) from *Sonnets from the Portuguese* (1850)  
Coventry Patmore, *The Angel in the House* (1854-62)  
Matthew Arnold, "Lines Written in Kensington Gardens" (1852), "Dover Beach" (1867)  
George Meredith, *Modern Love* (1862)  
Christina Rossetti, "Goblin Market", "Winter: My Secret", "Remember", "Up-Hill" (1862)  
Dante Gabriel Rossetti, "Aspecta Medusa" (1865), "Body's Beauty" (1868), "The Sonnet" (1881)  
Gerard Manly Hopkins, "The Windhover" (1877), "The Caged Skylark" (1877)  
Thomas Hardy, "The Farm Woman's Winter" (1906)

### Drama

Thomas Holcroft, *A Tale of Mystery* (1802)  
Douglas William Jerrold, *The Rent Day* (1832)  
Oscar Wilde, *Salome* (1893), *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895)  
George Bernard Shaw, *Mrs. Warren's Profession* (1902)

### Prose Fiction

Charles Dickens, *Oliver Twist* (1837-38), *Hard Times* (1854), *Great Expectations* (1860-61)  
Charlotte Brontë, *Jane Eyre* (1847)  
Emily Brontë, *Wuthering Heights* (1847)  
William Makepeace Thackeray, *Vanity Fair* (1847-48)  
Elizabeth Gaskell, *North and South* (1854-55)  
Wilkie Collins, *Moonstone* (1868)  
George Eliot, *Adam Bede* (1859), *Middlemarch* (1871-72)  
Lewis Carroll, *Alice in Wonderland* (1865), *Through the Looking Glass* (1871)  
Robert Louis Stevenson, *Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* (1886)  
Oscar Wilde, *The Picture of Dorian Gray* (1890)  
Thomas Hardy, *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* (1891), *Jude the Obscure* (1895)  
Bram Stoker, *Dracula* (1897)  
Arthur Conan Doyle, *The Hound of the Baskervilles* (1902)

### Non-Fiction

Thomas Carlyle, *Past and Present* (1843) (Norton selection)  
Matthew Arnold, *Culture and Anarchy* (1869) (Norton selection)  
Charles Darwin, *The Descent of Man* (1871) (Norton selection)

## VI MODERNISM & EARLY 20TH CENTURY LITERATURE (1900-1945)

### Poetry

W. H. Auden, "Musée des Beaux Arts" (1939), "The Unknown Citizen" (1939), "In Memory of W. B. Yeats" (1940), "Miss Gee" (1938)  
Wilfred Owen, "Dulce et Decorum Est" (1920), "Strange Meeting" (1920)  
William Butler Yeats, "The Second Coming" (1919), "Easter 1916" (1921), "Leda and the Swan" (1924), "Sailing to Byzantium" (1928), "High Talk" (1938)  
D.H. Lawrence, "Snake" (1921)  
W. H. Auden, "Musée des Beaux Arts" (1939), "The Unknown Citizen" (1939), "In Memory of W. B. Yeats" (1940)

### Drama

John Millington Synge, *In the Shadow of the Glen* (1903), *The Playboy of the Western World* (1907)  
John Galsworthy, *Justice* (1910)  
Noël Coward, *Hay Fever* (1925)  
Sean O'Casey, *The Plough and the Stars* (1926)

### Prose Fiction

H.G. Wells, *The War of the Worlds* (1897)  
Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* (1899), *The Secret Agent* (1907)  
Miles Franklin, *My Brilliant Career* (1901)  
D.H. Lawrence, *Sons and Lovers* (1913), *Women in Love* (1920), *Lady Chatterley's Lover* (1928)  
James Joyce, *Dubliners* (1914), *A Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man* (1916), *Ulysses* (1922)  
Katherine Mansfield, stories from *The Garden Party* (1922)  
E.M. Forster, *A Passage to India* (1924)  
Virginia Woolf, *Mrs Dalloway* (1925), *To the Lighthouse* (1927), *Orlando* (1928), *The Waves* (1931)  
Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World* (1932)  
Mulk Raj Anand, *Untouchable* (1935)  
Karen Blixen, *Out of Africa* (1937)

### Non-Fiction

Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own* (1929)

## VII 1945-PRESENT

### Poetry

Dylan Thomas, "A Refusal to Mourn" (1945), "Fern Hill" (1945), "Do Not Go Gentle into that Good Night" (1951), *Under Milkwood* (1954)  
Seamus Heaney, "Death of a Naturalist" (1966), "Digging" (1966), "Bog Queen" (1975), "Punishment" (1975)  
Philip Larkin, "High Windows" (1974), "The Explosion" (1974)  
Grace Nichols, "Like a Beacon" (1984)  
Ted Hughes, "The Thought Fox" (1995), "Tern" (1986), "Crow Goes Hunting" (1970)  
Carol Ann Duffy, "Education for Leisure" (1986), "Eurydice" (1999), "Medusa" (1999)  
Simon Armitage, "Poem" (1989)  
David Dabydeen, "Turner" (1994)

Vicki Feaver, "Lily Pond" (1994), "Ironing" (1994), "The Red Cupboard" (2006)  
Patience Agbabi, "Transformatrix" (2000)  
James Berry, "Devouring", "Empire Day" (2007)

### Drama

Samuel Beckett, *Waiting for Godot* (1952), *Endgame* (1957)  
John Osborne, *Look Back in Anger* (1956)  
Harold Pinter, *The Birthday Party* (1958), *The Dumb Waiter* (1960), *The Homecoming* (1965)  
Edward Bond, *Saved* (1965)  
Tom Stoppard, *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead* (1966)  
Alan Ayckbourn, *Absurd Person Singular* (1972), *Comic Potential* (1998)  
Peter Shaffer, *Amadeus* (1979)  
Brian Friel, *Translations* (1980)  
Caryl Churchill, *Top Girls* (1982), *Serious Money* (1987)  
Sarah Kane, *Blasted* (1995)  
Roy Williams, *Fallout* (2003)  
David Hare, *Stuff Happens* (2004)  
Bola Agbaje, *Belong* (2012)

### Prose Fiction

George Orwell, "Shooting an Elephant" (1936), *Animal Farm* (1945), *Nineteen Eighty-Four* (1949)  
William Golding, *Lord of the Flies* (1954)  
Sam Selvon, *The Lonely Londoners* (1956)  
Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea* (1966)  
John Fowles, *The French Lieutenant's Woman* (1969)  
Doris Lessing, "To Room Nineteen" (1978),  
Martin Amis, *Money* (1984)  
Kazuo Ishiguro, *The Remains of the Day* (1989), *Never Let Me Go* (2005)  
Emma Tennant, *Two Women of London* (1989)  
Hanif Kureishi, *The Buddha of Suburbia* (1990), "My Son the Fanatic" (1994), *The Black Album* (1995)  
Zadie Smith, *White Teeth* (2000)  
Ian McEwan, *Saturday* (2001)  
Monica Ali, *Brick Lane* (2003)  
Ali Smith, *How to Be Both* (2014)

### Non-Fiction

Terry Eagleton, "Introduction: What Is Literature?" (2010)  
John Berger, essays from *About Looking* (1980)

## **VIII. POSTCOLONIAL AND WORLD LITERATURES**

### Poetry

Chinua Achebe, "Refugee Mother and Child" (1971)  
Michael Ondaatje, "The Cinnamon Peeler" (1982)  
Kamau Brathwaite: "Bermudas", "I was Wash-Way in Blood" (1995)  
Derek Walcott: "Love after Love", "A Far Cry from Africa"  
Dionne Brand, *Ossuaries* (2010)  
Albert Wendt: "Stepping Stones" (2018)  
Dennis Brutus: "Nightsong: City", "The Sun on the Rubble"

Judith Wright: “The Surfer“, “The Killer“

Loineal Fogarty: “Dreamtime“

### Drama

Athol Fugard, John Kani, and Winston Ntshona, *Sizwe Bansi is Dead* (1972)

Derek Walcott, *Pantomime* (1978)

Jack Davis, *No Sugar* (1985)

Tomson Highway, *The Rez Sisters* (1986)

Jane Taylor, *Ubu and the Truth Commission* (1997)

### Prose Fiction

Alan Paton, *Cry, The Beloved Country* (1948)

Chinua Achebe, *Things Fall Apart* (1958)

Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children* (1981)

Joy Kogawa, *Obasan* (1981)

Nadine Gordimer, *July's People* (1981)

J.M. Coetzee, *Foe* (1986)

Patricia Grace, *Potiki* (1986)

Thomas King, *Green Grass, Running Water* (1993)

David Malouf, *Remembering Babylon* (1993)

Rohinton Mistry, *A Fine Balance* (1995)

Zakes Mda, *Ways of Dying* (1995)

Tomson Highway, *Kiss of the Fur Queen* (1998)

Margaret Atwood, *The Blind Assassin* (2000), “My Last Duchess” (2006)

Kate Grenville, *The Secret River* (2005)

Michael Ondaatje, *In the Skin of a Lion* (1987), *Anil's Ghost* (2000)

Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things* (1997)

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, *Purple Hibiscus* (2003)

Andrea Levy, *Small Island* (2004)

Aravind Adiga, *The White Tiger* (2008)

Kim Scott, *That Deadman Dance* (2010)

### Non-Fiction

Salman Rushdie, “Commonwealth Literature Does not Exist”, “Imaginary Homelands” (1991)

Ngũgĩ wa Thiong'o, *Decolonising the Mind* (1986)

Gayatri Spivak, “Can the Subaltern Speak?” (1988)

Edward Said, *Reflections on Exile and Other Essays* (2000)

Caryl Phillips, essays from *Colour Me English* (2011)

Arundhati Roy, essay from *My Seditious Heart* (2019)

Many of the shorter works listed above can be found in *The Norton Anthology of English Literature*, ed. Stephen Greenblatt, 2 vols., 9th ed., New York: Norton, 2012.