

RECOMMENDED READING LIST (CANON)

LAST UPDATED MARCH 2011

THIS IS A BOILED-DOWN CANON FOR YOUR PERSONAL USE, IT DOES NOT CLAIM TO BE FULLY REPRESENTATIVE, YET ANY OF THE WORKS HERE QUOTED IS WORTH READING! FOR EVEN MORE INSPIRATION, CHECK YOUR TUTOR'S INDIVIDUAL LISTS ON THEIR WEBSITES OR LOOK THROUGH THE RESPECTIVE NORTON ANTHOLOGIES.

THIS CANON IS SUBDIVIDED INTO EPOCHS AND GENRES; IT GIVES WORKS IN THE ORDER PROSE – POETRY – DRAMA; EACH CATEGORY IS IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER.

A) BRITISH & IRISH LITERATURE**Medieval Literature**

Chaucer, Geoffrey. *The Canterbury Tales*. F.ex.: "The Wife of Bath". 1387–1400.

Tudor Age (1485-1603)

More, Thomas. *Utopia*. 1516.

Shakespeare, William. Sonnets: 18 ("Shall I Compare Thee to a Summer's Day?") // 116 ("Let Me Not to the Marriage of True Minds") // 130 ("My Mistress's Eyes Are Nothing Like the Sun"). c. 1594.

Marvell, Andrew. "To His Coy Mistress". c. 1651–2.

Shakespeare, William. *A Midsummernight's Dream*. c. 1600./ *Hamlet, Prince of Denmark*. c. 1601.

Restoration & 18th Century (c. 1660-1780)

Defoe, Daniel. *Robinson Crusoe*. 1719.

Swift, Jonathan. *Gulliver's Travels*. Books 3 and 4. 1726.

Fielding, Henry. *Tom Jones*. 1749.

Sterne, Laurence. *Tristram Shandy*. 1759–67.

Goldsmith, Oliver. *The Vicar of Wakefield*. 1766.

Burney, Fanny. *Evelina*. 1778.

Milton, John. *Paradise Lost*, Book I. 1667.

Bunyan, John. *The Pilgrim's Progress*. 1678.

Pope, Alexander. *An Essay on Man*. 1733.

Gray, Thomas. "Elegy Written in a Country Church-Yard". 1751.

Congreve, William. *The Way of the World*. 1700.

Gay, John. *The Beggar's Opera*. 1728.

Sheridan, Richard Brinsley. *The School for Scandal*. 1777.

Regency / Romantic Period (1780–1830)

Wollstonecraft, Mary. *A Vindication of the Rights of Woman*. 1792 (non-fictional).

Austen, Jane. *Pride and Prejudice*. 1813.

Shelley, Mary. *Frankenstein, or The Modern Prometheus*. 1818.

Blake, William. *Songs of Innocence*. 1789. / *Songs of Experience*. 1794. (f. ex. "The Lamb", "London")

Wordsworth, William. *Lyrical Ballads*, esp. "The Prelude" / "Lines composed a few miles above Tintern Abbey". 1798.

Coleridge, Samuel Taylor. f. ex. "Kubla Khan". *The Ancient Mariner*. 1798.

Byron, Lord George. "She Walks in Beauty". 1814.

Keats, John. "Ode to a Nightingale". 1819.

Victorian Age (1830–1900)

Brontë, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre*. 1847.

Brontë, Emily. *Wuthering Heights*. 1847.

Thackeray, William M. *Vanity Fair*. 1847-48.

Gaskell, Elizabeth. *North and South*. 1855.

Eliot, George. *The Mill on the Floss*. 1860.

Collins, Wilkie. *The Woman in White*. 1860.

Dickens, Charles. *Great Expectations*. 1861.

Carroll, Lewis. *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*. 1865.

Stevenson, Robert L. *The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde*. 1886.

Wilde, Oscar. *The Picture of Dorian Gray*. 1890.

Hardy, Thomas. *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*. 1891.

Wells, H.G. *The Time Machine*. 1895.

Stoker, Bram. *Dracula*. 1897.

Tennyson, Alfred. *The Idylls of the King*, 1-4. 1859.

Arnold, Matthew. "Dover Beach". 1867.

Barret Browning, Elizabeth. *Sonnets*. F.ex. "How Do I Love Thee? Let Me Count the Ways". 1845.

Hopkins, Gerard Manley. "The Sea and the Skylark". 1877.

Hardy, Thomas. "The Darkling Thrush". 1900.

Wilde, Oscar. *The Importance of Being Earnest*. 1899.

Edwardian, Georgian and Modernist Literature (1900–WWII)

Conrad, Joseph. *Heart of Darkness*. 1902.

Lawrence, D.H.. *Sons and Lovers*. 1913.

Ford, Ford Madox. *The Good Soldier*. 1915.

Joyce, James. *Dubliners*. 1914. *Ulysses*. 1922.

Forster, Edward Morgan. *A Passage to India*. 1924.

Woolf, Virginia. *Mrs Dalloway*. 1925. / *To The Lighthouse*. 1927.

Huxley, Aldous L. *Brave New World*. 1932.

Isherwood, Christopher. *Goodbye to Berlin*. 1939.

Brooke, Rupert. "The Old Vicarage, Grantchester." 1912.

Sassoon, Siegfried. *The War Poems*. F.ex. "The Dug-Out". "Everyone Sang". C. 1917.

Owen, Wilfred. "Dulce et Decorum Est". 1917.

Eliot, T.S. *The Waste Land*. 1922.

Yeats, William Butler. "Sailing to Byzantium". 1928.

Spender, Stephen. "The Pylons". 1933.

Synge, John Millington. *The Playboy of the Western World*. 1907.

Shaw, George Bernhard. *Pygmalion*. 1913.

Literature since 1945

Orwell, George. *Nineteen Eighty-four*. 1949.

Golding, William. *Lord of the Flies*. 1954.

Amis, Kingsley. *Lucky Jim*. 1954.

Murdoch, Iris. *Under the Net*. 1954.

Sillitoe, Alan. *Saturday Night and Sunday Morning*. 1958.

Behan, Brendan. *Borstal Boy*. 1958.

Spark, Muriel. *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*. 1961.

Burgess, Anthony. *A Clockwork Orange*. 1962.

Fowles, John. *The French Lieutenant's Woman*. 1969.

Lodge, David. *Changing Places*. 1975.

Greene, Graham. *The Human Factor*. 1978.

Barnes, Julian. *Metroland*. 1980.

Amis, Martin. *London Fields*. 1989.

Ishiguro, Kazuo. *The Remains of the Day*. 1989.

Byatt, A.S. *Possession*. 1990.

Kureishi, Hanif. *The Buddha of Suburbia*. 1990.

Doyle, Roddy. *the woman who walked into doors*. 1996.

Barker, Pat. *Liza's England*. 1997.

Kay, Jackie. *Trumpet*. 1998.

McEwan, Ian. *Atonement*. 2001.

Auden, W.H. "Stop All the Clocks". 1936.

MacNeice, Louis. "The British Museum Reading Room". 1939.

Betjeman, John. "In Westminster Abbey". c.1958.

Larkin, Philip. "The Whitsun Weddings". 1958.

Gunn, Thom. "His Rooms in College". 1979.

Heaney, Seamus. "A Call", in *The Spirit Level*. 1996.

- O'Neill, Eugene. *The Innocent Cometh*. 1946.
- Beckett, Samuel. *Waiting for Godot*. 1952 (Engl. version 1955).
- Thomas, Dylan. *Under Milk Wood*. 1954.
- Osborne, John. *Look Back in Anger*. 1956.
- Arden, John. *Serjeant Musgrave's Dance*. 1959.
- Pinter, Harold. *The Caretaker*. 1960.
- Wesker, Arnold. *Chips with Everything*. 1962.
- Stoppard, Tom. *Rosencrantz and Guildenstern Are Dead*. 1966.
- Ayckbourn, Alan. *Sisterly Feelings*. 1979.
- Shaffer, Peter. *Amadeus*. 1979.
- Churchill, Caryl. *Top Girls*. 1982.
- Frayn, Michael. *Copenhagen*. 1998.

B) US-AMERICAN WORKS

18th and 19th Centuries

- Franklin, Benjamin. *The Autobiography*. (extracts) 1771–90.
- Paine, Thomas. *Common Sense*. 1776.
- Cooper, James Fennimore. *The Pioneers*. 1823.
- Poe, Edgar Allan. *The Fall of the House of Usher*. 1839.
- Hawthorn, Nathaniel. *The Scarlet Letter*. 1850.
- Melville, Herman. *Moby Dick*. 1851.
- Beecher Stowe, Harriet. *Uncle Tom's Cabin*. 1852.
- Thoreau, Henry David. *Walden*. 1854.

James, Henry. *The Portrait of a Lady*. 1881.

Chopin, Kate. *The Awakening*. 1899.

Early 20th Century

Sinclair, Upton. *The Jungle*. 1906.

Wharton, Edith. *The Age of Innocence*. 1920.

Sinclair, Lewis. *Babbitt*. 1922.

Anderson, Sherwood. *Winesburg, Ohio*. 1923.

Dos Passos, John. *Manhattan Transfer*. 1925.

Fitzgerald, F. Scott. *The Great Gatsby*. 1925.

Faulkner, William. *The Sound and the Fury*. 1929.

Hemingway, Ernest. *A Farewell to Arms*. 1929.

Miller, Henry. *Tropic of Cancer*. 1934.

Steinbeck, John. *The Grapes of Wrath*. 1939.

Bradstreet, Anne. "The Author to Her Book". 1678.

Wheatley, Phillis. "On Being Brought from Africa to America". 1773.

Poe, Edgar Allan. "The Raven". 1845.

Whitman, Walt. *Leaves of Grass*, f. ex.: "Song of Myself". 1855.

Longfellow, Henry Wadsworth. "Nature". 1876.

Dickinson, Emily. "To Make a Prairie". 1896.

Post WWII

Algren, Nelson. *The Man with the Golden Arm*. 1949.

Bowles, Paul. *The Sheltering Sky*. 1949.

Asimov, Isaac. *I, Robot*. 1950.

Salinger, Jerome D. *The Catcher in the Rye*. 1951.

Ellison, Ralph Waldo. *The Invisible Man*. 1952.

Baldwin, James. *Go Tell it on the Mountain*. 1953.

Bradbury, Ray. *Fahrenheit 541*. 1953.

Nabokov, Vladimir. *Lolita*. 1955.

Kerouac, Jack. *On the Road*. 1957.

Burroughs, William S. *Naked Lunch*. 1959.

Lee, Harper. *To Kill a Mockingbird*. 1960.

Heller, Joseph. *Catch 22*. 1961.

Plath, Sylvia. *The Bell Jar*. 1963.

Bellow, Saul. *Herzog*. 1964.

Capote, Truman. *In Cold Blood*. 1966.

Vonnegut, Kurt. *Slaughterhouse-Five*. 1969.

Angelou, Maya. *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*. 1970.

Pynchon, Thomas. *Gravity's Rainbow*. 1973.

Doctorow, Edgar L. *Ragtime*. 1975.

Oates, Joyce Carol. *Childwold*. 1976.

Thompson, Hunter S. *Fear and Loathing in Las Vegas*. 1978.

Walker, Alice. *The Color Purple*. 1982.

Boyle, Thomas Coraghessan. *World's End*. 1987.

Morrison, Toni. *Beloved*. 1987.

Wolfe, Tom. *The Bonfire of the Vanities*. 1987.

Ellis, Bret Easton. *American Psycho*. 1991.

Updike, John. *Rabbit at Rest*. 1991.

Auster, Paul. *Leviathan*. 1992.

Roth, Philip. *American Pastoral*. 1997.

DeLillo, Don. *Underworld*. 1997.

Cunningham, Michael. *The Hours*. 1998.

Eugenides, Jeffrey. *Middlesex*. 2002.

McCarthy, Cormack. *The Road*. 2007.

Franzen, Jonathan. *Freedom*. 2010.

Pound, Ezra. "In a Station of the Metro". 1913.

Frost, Robert. "The Road Not Taken". 1916.

Cummings, e.e. „Next to of Course God America“. 1926.

Ginsberg, Allen. *Howl*. 1956.

Wilder, Thornton. *Our Town*. 1938.

O'Neill, Eugene. *The Iceman Cometh*. 1946.

Williams, Tennessee, *A Streetcar Named Desire*. 1947.

Miller, Arthur. *Death of a Salesman*. 1949.

Albee, Edward. *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf?* 1962.

Shepard, Sam. *True West*. 1980.

Mamet, David. *Oleanna*. 1993.

C) NEW ENGLISH LITERATURES

Schreiner, Olive. *The Story of an African Farm*. 1883.

Paton, Alan. *Cry, the Beloved Country*. 1948.

Achebe, Chinua. *Things Fall Apart*. 1958.

Naipaul, V.S. *A House for Mr. Biswas*. 1961.

Rhys, Jean. *Wide Sargasso Sea*. 1966.

Carey, Peter. *Oscar and Lucinda*. 1968.

Lessing, Doris. *Memoirs of a Survivor*. 1975.

Malouf, David. *Johnno*. 1975.

Gordimer, Nadine. *Burger's Daughter*. 1979.

Desai, Anita. *Clear Light of the Day*. 1980.

Keneally, Thomas. *Schindler's Ark*. 1982.

Hulme, Keri. *The Bone People*. 1984.

Rushdie, Salman. *The Satanic Verses*. 1988.

Okri, Ben. *The Famished Road*. 1991.

Ondaatje, Michael. *The English Patient*. 1992.

Roy, Arundhati, *The God of Small Things*. 1997.

Coetzee, J.M.. *Disgrace*. 1999.

Atwood, Margaret. *The Blind Assassin*. 2000.

Walcott, David. *White Egrets*. 2010.

Soyinka, Wole. *Death and the King's Horseman*. 1975.

Thiongo, Ngugi wa. *Mother, Sing for Me!* 1986.

Mtwa, Percy. *Bopha*. 1986.