

## L4 Summer Holiday Reading

Next year's U4 will be working towards GCSEs in English Language and English Literature. For the English Literature GCSE, every set will study a Shakespeare play and an anthology of poetry. You will also study a modern novel or play and a work of nineteenth-century prose. For the English Language IGCSE, you will study an anthology of poetry and prose texts, including non-fiction, short stories and extracts from novels. The lists below give some ideas for summer reading, both for its own sake and as preparation for GCSE/IGCSE.

A good place to start would be a collection of short stories, such as:

- *The Glimpse of Truth* ed. David Miller
- *The Penguin Book of the Contemporary British Short Story* ed. Philip Hensher
- *The Penguin Book of the British Short Story* ed. Philip Hensher (especially volume ii)
- *The Granta Book of the American Short Story* ed. Richard Ford

Some novels worth exploring are:

- Classic GCSE texts such as Harper Lee's *To Kill a Mockingbird*, \*William Golding's *Lord of the Flies*, and Barry Hines's *A Kestrel for a Knave*
- Dystopian novels such as \*George Orwell's *1984*, \*Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale*, Ray Bradbury's *Fahrenheit 451*, Aldous Huxley's *Brave New World*, \*John Lanchester's *The Wall* and \*Dave Eggers' *The Circle*.
- A novel about 'coming of age' (or *Bildungsroman*) such as \*Lloyd Jones's *Mister Pip*, \*Chimamanda Adichie's *Purple Hibiscus*, \*J.D. Salinger's *The Catcher in the Rye*, or Jeanette Winterson's *Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit*. Some classics related to these include Dickens's *Great Expectations* and *David Copperfield*, Charlotte Brontë's *Jane Eyre* and \*Mark Twain's *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.
- Nineteenth-century gothic texts such as Oscar Wilde's *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, \*Bram Stoker's *Dracula* and Henry James's *The Turn of the Screw*. Mary Shelley's *Frankenstein*, Wilkie Collins' *The Woman in White* and Emily Brontë's *Wuthering Heights* would also make good further reading. More recent writers inspired by the gothic include Susan Hill's *The Woman in Black*.

And some good non-fiction to read would be:

- Joe Simpson, *Touching the Void* (an account of a mountaineering trip gone wrong)
- William Dalrymple, *In Xanadu* (an account of a journey overland through Asia)
- Helen Macdonald, *H is for Hawk* (a much praised book about taming a hawk)
- George Orwell, *Down and Out in Paris and London* (1930s poverty made vivid)
- Robert Macfarlane, *Mountains of the Mind* (a meditation on nature and man)
- Laurie Lee, *As I Walked Out One Midsummer Morning* (young man walks through Spain)
- Eric Schlosser, *Command and Control* (a frightening account of nuclear weapons)
- Sam Leith, *You talkin' to me?* (how to sound very clever indeed)
- Brian MacArthur (ed.), *The Penguin Book of Modern Speeches* (classics of C20 and C21 oratory)

Texts with an asterisk (\*) by them include sensitive content; some of the short stories in the collections mentioned above may also include sensitive content.