



RET Sixth Form Reading for Pleasure – Contemporary Fiction

This list contains some good quality and enjoyable fiction for English Literature A Level students. Regular reading is a crucial part of your independent activity for this A level. For any students who feel they have temporarily 'lost' the reading habit, here are suggestions to restart it. For others who would like to widen the range of their reading, we hope these will support your ongoing reading journey and offer some pleasure and relaxation.

Jo Baker	<i>Longbourne</i> (2013) – a re-imagining of <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> , in which the servants take the centre stage.
Jon Banville	<i>Snow</i> (2020) – crime fiction set in Ireland.
William Boyd	<i>Ordinary Thunderstorms</i> (2009) – conspiracy story set in London ; <i>Love is Blind</i> (2019) – globe-trotting love story.
Candace Carty-Williams	<i>Queenie</i> (2019) – the life and loves of British-Jamaican Queenie Jenkins.
Carys Davies	<i>West</i> (2019) – an epic in miniature, set in Pennsylvania in 1815.
Naoise Dolan	<i>Exciting Times</i> (2020) – a millennial Irish expat becomes entangled in a love triangle.
Emma Donoghue	<i>Room</i> (2010) – five year old Jack is held captive in a small room along with his mother. Based on a true story.
Sebastian Faulks	<i>Birdsong</i> (1993) – heart-breaking love story during WW1; <i>Engleby</i> (2007) – crime at Cambridge University
Nathan Filer	<i>The Shock of the Fall</i> (2013) – story of trauma and grief told by a 19 year old narrator.
Gillian Flynn	<i>The Girl on the Train</i> (2015) – thriller.
Yaa Gyasi	<i>Homegoing</i> (2016) – historical fiction set in Ghana.
Mark Haddon	<i>A Spot of Bother</i> (2006) – examines mental health issues from the patient's perspective.

Robert Harris	<i>Fatherland</i> (1992) – set in an alternative world where Hitler won the 2 nd World War.
Emma Healey	<i>Elizabeth is Missing</i> (2014) – mystery.
Zoe Heller	<i>Notes on a Scandal</i> (2003) – illicit relationships at a comprehensive school.
Susan Hill	<i>The Various Thoughts of Men</i> (2004) – creepy thriller.
Gail Honeyman	<i>Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine</i> (2017) – witty and moving story from a very unusual narrator.
Nick Hornby	<i>About a Boy</i> (1998) – coming of age novel which explores issues of male identity.
Tayari Jones	<i>An American Marriage</i> (2018) – an African-American couple’s marriage is torn apart by a wrongful conviction for rape.
Andrea Levy	<i>Small Island</i> (2005) – Jamaicans Gilbert and Hortense struggle to find love and acceptance in London during World War 2.
Robert Ludlum	<i>Bourne Identity</i> (1980) – spy fiction thriller.
Hilary Mantel	<i>Eight Months on Ghazzah Street</i> (1988) – unsettling mystery and culture clashes in Saudi Arabia.
Sarah Perry	<i>Melmoth</i> (2018) - modern historical Gothic.
Sarah Moss	<i>Summerwater</i> (2020) – different perspectives on a rainy Scottish holiday (it’s much more fun than it sounds...)
Celeste Ng	<i>Little Fires Everywhere</i> (2017) – friendship and mystery in the American suburbs.
David Nicholls	<i>Sweet Sorrow</i> (2019) – a modern re-working of <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> .
Delia Owens	<i>Where the Crawdads Sing</i> (2018) – coming of age mystery story.
Maggie O’Farrell	<i>After You’d Gone</i> (2002) – love and tragedy in a novel which plays with time and multiple narrative perspectives.
Alice Sebold	<i>The Lovely Bones</i> (2002) – a murdered girl watches from Heaven as her family struggle with grief.
Zadie Smith	<i>NW</i> (2012) – experimental novel following four different characters living in contemporary London
Amor Towles	<i>A Gentleman in Moscow</i> (2016) – Count Alexander Rostov is under house arrest in a luxury hotel in early Soviet Russia.
Sadie Jones	<i>Snakes</i> (2019) – disturbing story of marriage, family relationships and the corrupting effects of too much money.
Amy Tan	<i>The Joy-Luck Club</i> (1993) – four Chinese women delve into their pasts and try to find answers.

Colm Tóibín	<i>Brooklyn</i> (2009) – young Irish girl Eilis Lacey emigrates to America to find work and love.
Sarah Waters	<i>The Little Stranger</i> (2009) – Gothic supernatural thriller
Jeanette Winterson	<i>Oranges are not the Only Fruit</i> (1985) – same-sex relationships, organised religion and the concept of faith.
Patrick deWit	<i>The Sisters Brothers</i> (2011) – darkly comic Western novel set in California in 1851.
PG Woodhouse	<i>The Code of the Woosters</i> (1938) – the master of 20 th century comedy at his best.
Markus Zusak	<i>The Book Thief</i> (2005) – historical novel set in Nazi Germany.