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|  | **Summer Reading List** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  | All of these texts could be read from a feminist or post-colonial viewpoint (you will need to look up those terms!)  |
|  | Choose one to read over the summer, which you will then write a coursework essay on in Year 12. |  |
| ***Achebe, Chinua*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Things Fall Apart | The story of how European colonialism affects the people in a West African community. |
| ***Ali, Monica*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Brick Lane | A young Bangladeshi girl comes to terms with arriving in the East End for an arranged marriage. |
| ***Atwood, Margaret***  | Any novel or short story collection (you can't do *The Handmaid's Tale*) would be good. |
| ***Austen, Jane***  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Pride and Prejudice | Brittle romantic comedies set in the early years of the 19th Century. |  |  |
| Sense & Sensibility |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Mansfield Park |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Emma |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Northanger Abbey |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Boyd, William***  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| A Good Man in Africa | A post-colonial comedy about an Englishman's attempts to make sense of African society. |
| Brazzaville Beach  | Powerful story of a woman coming to terms with her past. |  |  |  |
| An Ice-cream War | Two brothers enlist to fight the Germans in East Africa. |  |  |  |
| ***Bronte, Charlotte*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jane Eyre |  | The classic tale of a governess and her enigmatic employer. |  |  |  |
| ***Bronte, Emily*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Wuthering Heights | Love and passion on the Yorkshire Moors. |  |  |  |  |
| ***Carey, Peter*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Jack Maggs | A convict returns from Australia to early Victorian London. |  |  |  |
| True History of the Kelly Gang | The story of Australia's Robin Hood. Written in a challenging style, but a brilliant  |  |
|  |  | depiction of life in early Australia.  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Oscar and Lucinda | A beautiful, bizarre love story about two oddballs, set in 19th Century Australia. |  |
| ***Carter, Angela***  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The Bloody Chamber | Dark and disturbing reworkings of classic fairy tales. |  |  |  |
| The Magic Toyshop | Bizarre story of a girl moving in with peculiar relatives. |  |  |  |
| Nights at the Circus | Part woman, part swan: Sophie Fevvers is a circus artiste on a journey through  |  |
|  |  | turn of the century London and Russia. |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Chopin, Kate*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The Awakening | Set in and around New Orleans at the end of the 19th Century,  |  |  |
|  |  | the story of a young woman with unconventional views. |  |  |  |
| ***Coetzee, JM***  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Disgrace |  | A university professor deals with the consequences of an affair in post-Apartheid South Africa. |
| Foe |  | Robinson Crusoe's tale retold from a female perspective. |  |  |  |
| ***Collins, Wilkie*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The Moonstone | One of the earliest detective novels, the quest for a fabulous Indian treasure. |  |
| The Woman in White | Brooding Gothic melodrama, full of mental asylums, evil villains and women wearing white. |
| ***Conrad, Joseph*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Heart of Darkness | A brutal depiction of colonialism in Central Africa. |  |  |  |  |
| ***Defoe, Daniel***  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Robinson Crusoe | 18th Century novel about a castaway surviving on a desert island. |  |  |
| ***Forna, Amanatta*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The Memory of Love | Set in Sierra Leone, a real slow burner. |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Forster, E.M.*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| A Passage To India | A culture clash novel set in the days of the Indian Raj. |  |  |  |
| Howard's End | An Edwardian romance depicting a clash of cultures between two families. |  |
| A Room With A View | A cheerful romantic comedy of young love and Italy. |  |  |  |
| ***Ishiguro, Kazuo***  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The Remains of the Day | A haunting relationship between a repressed butler and an opinionated house keeper.  |
|  |  | Very subtle, but funny. |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Never Let Me Go | A disturbing tale of boarding school life with a horrific twist. |  |  |  |
| ***Kureishi, Hanif***  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The Buddha of Suburbia | Karim, a dreamy teenager, is desperate to escape suburban South London  |  |
|  |  | and experience the forbidden fruits which the 1970s seem to offer. |  |  |
| ***Lessing, Doris*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The Grass is Singing | A tragic story of a crumbling marriage, set in southern Africa during the Apartheid era. |
| ***Levy, Andrea***  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Small Island | Warm romantic comedy about the trials and tribulations of the Windrush immigration. |
| The Long Song  | The story of a slave in Jamaica during the years when slavery was abolished. |  |
| ***Mistry, Rohinton*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| A Fine Balance | A fairly hefty novel set in 1970s India. |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Morrison, Toni*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Beloved |  | Brilliant but disturbing novel about a freed slave in America after the Civil War. |  |
| Song of Solomon  | A fascinating depiction of the American Black community in the mid-20th Century. |  |
| The Bluest Eye | Set in 1940s Ohio, a savage portrayal of a poor black family. |  |  |  |
| ***Naipaul, VS***  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| In A Free State | A complex novel about social and political change in Africa. |  |  |  |
| The Bend in the River | A picture of post-colonial Africa and the challenges people face in it. |  |  |
| A House for Mr Biswas | Set in post-colonial Trinidad, a tragi-comedy about an endearing failure. |  |  |
| ***Ngozi Adichie, Chimamanda*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Half of a Yellow Sun | Deals with the end of colonialism in Nigeria. |  |  |  |  |
| ***Perkins Gilman, Charlotte***  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The Yellow Wallpaper  | Superb short stories from an early feminist American author. |  |  |  |
| and Other Stories |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Plath, Sylvia***  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The Bell Jar | A semi-autobiographical account of a woman's breakdown. |  |  |  |
| ***Proulx, Annie*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Fine Just the Way It Is | Astonishing collections of short stories set in the Mid-West of America, |  |  |
| Bad Dirt |  | featuring a range of vivid and strange characters. Beautifully written. |  |  |
| Close Range |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Heartsongs  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Rhys, Jean*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Wide Sargasso Sea | A strange prequel to the Jane Eyre story, set in the post-slavery era of the Caribbean. |
| ***Roy, Arundhati***  |   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The God of Small Things | A story of twins and their eccentric family in India.  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Shelley, Mary*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Frankenstein | The ultimate tale of plastic surgery taken to extreme lengths. |  |  |  |
| ***Stevenson, Robert Louis*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| South Sea Tales | Stories that challenge the myth of British Imperialism at the end of the 19th Century. |
| ***Stockett, Kathryn*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The Help |  | Friendships crossing boundaries of race and class in 1960s Mississippi. |  |  |
| ***Stoker, Bram*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Dracula |  | Classic Gothic horror |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| ***Swift, Jonathan***  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Gulliver's Travels | A bizarre 18th Century novel about a sailors journeys to fantastical lands. |  |
| ***Walker, Alice*** |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The Color Purple | The harrowing tale of Celie, a poor black American girl between the wars |  |
| ***Wells, HG***  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| The Time Machine | The Granddaddy of Science Fiction. Disturbing stories that predicted  |  |  |
| The War of the Worlds | many of the scientific developments and catastrophes of today. |  |  |
| The Island of Dr Moreau |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
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