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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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