

International Section Lycee reading list

Dear OIB students,

Please go to Foyle's bookshop on Tottenham Court Road if you get the chance. It's such a wonderful experience in buying and enjoying books in London, and you simply won't get it elsewhere. Also, check book events in your local library and let me know if there's something which might benefit the group.

Enjoy!

20th Century novels which will change your life (read these for fun, they won't specifically help with your exam)

Title	Author	Genre
Possession	A S Byatt	Contemporary Victoriana
The Handmaid's Tale	Margaret Atwood	Science Fiction at its best
The Unbearable Lightness of Being	Milan Kundera	Realism, set in post-communist Czech Republic
Broken Verses	Kamilla Shamsie	Realism, set in Pakistan.
New York Trilogy	Paul Auster	Detective novel about detectives writing detective novels. Brilliant.
Brave New World	Aldous Huxley	Dystopia. Unmissable.
Chronicle of a Death Foretold	Gabriel Garcia Marquez	Magical Realism. Revenge and murder. Great stuff
The God of Small Things	Arundhati Roy	Realism, set in India
Midnight's Children	Salman Rusdie	Magical Realism
Perfume	Patrick Suskind	Disturbing Murder Mystery

The Grapes of Wrath	John Steinbeck	More on migrant farmers, but far more beautiful and disturbing than Of Mice and Men!
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Great Essays/ non-fiction

Title	Author	Topic
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- De Profundis - Pen, Pencil and Poison - The Soul of Man Under Socialism - The House Beautiful	Oscar Wilde	Aesthetics, philosophy
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(Various essays) Down and Out in Paris and London Burmese Days The Road to Wigan Pier	George Orwell	Philosophy, politics
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- <i>The Renaissance</i> (just the conclusion; the rest is very dry)	Walter Pater	Aesthetics, relevance of aesthetics to contemporary life
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<i>Beyond Good and Evil</i>	Friedrich Nietzsche	A history of both concepts, arguing they are founded on notions of power
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A Vindication of the Rights of Women	Mary Wollstonecraft	A landmark essay for the development of women's rights
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Must-read 19thC prose

Title	Author	Genre
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Great Expectations	Charles Dickens	19 th c realism denouncing poverty and class hypocrisy
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Heart of Darkness	Joseph Conrad	19 th c revisiting of British
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The Ballad of Reading Gaol	Oscar Wilde	Wilde's last work; a poem composed in prison
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Orlando	Virginia Woolf	Early 20 th c England
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Wuthering Heights	Emily Bronte	19 th century Victorian dark love story
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Jane Eyre	Charlotte Bronte	19 th century Victorian dark love story
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Tales of Mystery and Imagination	Edgar Allen Poe	19 th century gothic fiction
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Late 19th C Drama

Title	Author	Genre
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Pygmalion	George Bernard Shaw	Late 19th century play on language and class set in London
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The Importance of Being Earnest	Oscar Wilde	19 th century comic drama
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If you're in a dry spot, read some well-written biographies for entertainment

Title	Author	Country
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Dreams from my Father	Barack Obama	USA
The Audacity of Hope		

The Long Way Round	Ewan McGregor, Charlie Boorman	Many
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The Autobiography of Malcolm X	Malcolm X	USA
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