

## BRITISH SECTION

## Reading List

CLASS: Students entering 2GCSE in September 2025

## FRENCH – Summer Preparation

IGCSE French as a first language is a challenging subject with a part about a literary fiction text and another about non-fiction texts: you will need to ensure that your reading, comprehension and writing skills are strong, so reading regularly this summer is an effective way to improve your fluency.

- **Listen to podcasts on radiofrance.fr** : choose a subject you are interested in and listen to a program about it. At least one hour per week would be a good idea.

You also can listen to the news : <https://www.radiofrance.fr/franceculture/podcasts/journal-de-18h>  
or to French comedians : <https://www.radiofrance.fr/franceinter/podcasts/bouquet-l-humour-d-inter>

- **Choose and read 2 novels among the following**

When students return to school in September, they may be asked to write a short review on these 2 books in class.

## French classics

- **Vanina Vanini**, Stendhal (éd. Petits Classiques Larousse)
- **Le comte de Monte-Cristo**, Alexandre Dumas
- **Contes cruels**, Villiers de l'Isle-Adam
- **La Nuit des Temps**, René Barjavel

## Modern Fiction

- *La vie devant soi*, Romain Gary
- *L'enfant de sable*, Tahar Ben Jelloun
- *Stupeur et tremblements*, Amélie Nothom
- *Grâce et dénuement*, Alice Ferney
- *La belle amour humaine*, Lionel Trouillot
- *3000 façons de dire Je t'aime*, de Marie-Aude Murail (éd. Ecole des Loisirs, Medium poche)
- *No et moi*, de Delphine de Vigan (éd. Le livre de Poche)

## ENGLISH

Dear students;

We look forward to welcoming you back to the British Section in September. As all your subjects are taught and assessed in English, we would like you to read 6 of these titles over the summer.

There are some options within the titles outlined on the opposite page, but you must complete this reading before school starts in September. We encourage you to read even more than the minimum. You must read at least one from each category. You must pick two from the non-fiction and two from the fiction category. Do not select books you have already read or studied please.

When students return to school they may be preparing a short review on one book from one of these categories – you will not know until you return what category will be selected.

GCSE English Language and English Literature are challenging subjects, as we are sure you have gauged by now. You will need to ensure that your reading, comprehension and writing skills are strong, so reading regularly this summer is an effective way to improve your fluency, particularly for English, history and geography. Happy reading!

Kind regards,

British Section English Department

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**19<sup>th</sup> century fiction** (Select one title)

- **Jane Eyre** - Charlotte Brontë
- **Pride and Prejudice** – Jane Austen
- **Treasure Island** – R L Stevenson
- **Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde** – R L Stevenson
- **War of the Worlds / The Time Machine** – H G Wells
- **Dracula** – Bram Stoker
- **Oliver Twist / A Tale of Two Cities / David Copperfield** – Charles Dickens
- **The Woman in White** – Wilkie Collins

**Non-fiction** (Select two titles)

- **Notes from a Big Country / Notes from a Small Island / Neither Here Nor There** – Bill Bryson
- **Touching the Void** – Joe Simpson
- **Shooting an Elephant** (essays) / **Down and Out in Paris and London / Homage to Catalonia** – George Orwell
- **In the Heart of the Sea** – Nathaniel Philbrick
- **We Should All Be Feminists** – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- **The Good Immigrant** (essays) - ed. Nikesh Shukla
- **The Secret Footballer** – Anonymous
- **A Brief History of Everyone Who Ever Lived** - Adam Rutherford

**Fiction** (Select two titles)

- **The Catcher in the Rye** – J D Salinger
- **Passing** – Nella Larsen
- **Of Mice and Men** – John Steinbeck
- **I Capture the Castle** – Dodie Smith
- **The Miseducation of Cameron Post** – Emily M. Danforth
- **Anita and Me** – Meera Syal
- **To Kill a Mockingbird** – Harper Lee
- **A Tree Grows in Brooklyn** – Betty Smith
- **The Handmaid's Tale / Cat's Eye** – Margaret Atwood
- **A Separate Peace** – John Knowles
- **The Book Thief** – Markus Zusak
- **The Old Man and the Sea / A Farewell to Arms** – Ernest Hemingway
- **1984** – George Orwell
- **The Hobbit / Lord of the Rings** – JRR Tolkien



- ***Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep?*** – Philip K Dick
- ***I am Legend*** – Richard Matheson
- ***The Outsiders*** – S.E. Hinton
- ***Invisible Son*** – Kim Johnston

**Autobiography/Biography** (Select one title)

- ***The Life and Times of the Thunderbolt Kid*** – Bill Bryson
- ***Incidents in the Life of a Slave Girl*** – Harriet Jacobs
- ***Cider With Rosie*** – Laurie Lee
- ***The Diary of Anne Frank*** – Anne Frank
- ***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*** – Maya Angelou
- ***Going Solo*** – Roald Dahl
- ***I am Malala*** – Malala Yousafzai
- ***Fight Like a Girl – 50 Feminists Who Changed the World*** – Laura Barcella
- ***Unbelievable*** – Jessica Ennis