20th/ 21st Century fiction

Martin Amis - Money

Margaret Atwood - The Handmaid's Tale

Pat Barker - Regeneration

Anthony Burgess - A Clockwork Orange

Angela Carter - The Bloody Chamber

Joseph Conrad - Heart of Darkness

Jim Crace - Being Dead

Sebastian Faulks - Birdsong

E M Forster - Howard's End

James Joyce - A Portrait of the Artists as a Young Man

Philip Larkin - A Girl in Winter

D H Lawrence - Sons and Lovers/ The Rainbow

David Lodge - Small World

Ian McEwan - Sweet Tooth

Vladimir Nabokov - Lolita

Michael Ondaatje - The English Patient

George Orwell - Nineteen-Eighty-Four

Jeanette Winterson - Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit

Virginia Woolf - To the Lighthouse

Kate Atkinson- Life after Life

Douglas Kennedy- The Moment

Zadie Smith- On Beauty

David Nicholls - One Day

Classic novels

Jane Austen - Emma

Charlotte Bronte - Jane Eyre

Wilkie Collins - The Woman in White

Daniel Defoe - Moll Flanders

Charles Dickens - Great Expectations

Elizabeth Gaskell - North and South

Mary Shelley - Frankenstein

Bram Stoker - Dracula

William Thackeray - Vanity Fair

Oscar Wilde - The Picture of Dorian Gray

Robert Louis Stevenson- Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde

Edgar Allen Poe-The Turn of the Screw

John William Polidori- The Vampyre

Théophile Gautier- The Mummy's Foot

World Literature

This list contains some of the world's most celebrated novels and short stories.

Isabel Allende - The House of the Spirits

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie- Half of a Yellow Sun

André Gide - The Immoralist

Nikolai Gogol - Diary of a Madman and Other Stories

Hermann Hesse - Steppenwolf

Homer - The Odyssey

Franz Kafka - The Trial

Thomas Mann - Death in Venice
Guy de Maupassant - Short Stories
Yukio Mishima - The Sailor Who Fell From Grace with the Sea
Leo Tolstoy - Anna Karenina
Émile Zola - Thérèse Raquin

Drama

This list contains plays written both in English and other languages. (Plays written in other languages can be found in English translations.)

Samuel Beckett - Endgame

Alan Bennett - Talking Heads

Bertolt Brecht - Mother Courage and Her Children

Anton Chekhov - Seagull

Brian Friel - Translations

Trevor Griffiths - Comedians

Henrik Ibsen - A Doll's House

Ben Jonson - The Alchemist

Sarah Kane - 4:48 Psychosis

Christopher Marlowe - Doctor Faustus

Richard Brinsley Sheridan - The Rivals

William Shakespeare - Hamlet

George Bernard Shaw - Mrs Warren's Profession

Sophocles - Oedipus

Tom Stoppard - Indian Ink

John Webster - The Duchess of Malfi

Timberlake Wertembaker - Our Country's Good

Oscar Wilde - An Ideal Husband

Poetry

The best way to discover poetry is with an anthology such as The Oxford Book of English Verse or The Rattle Bag (edited by Ted Hughes and Seamus Heaney).

Some of the poets most worth looking out for are:

W H Auden

William Blake (Songs of Innocence and of Experience)

Elizabeth Barrett Browning (Sonnets from the Portuguese)

Robert Browning ('Porphyria's Lover')

Geoffrey Chaucer (The Canterbury Tales)

Samuel Taylor Coleridge ('The Rime of the Ancient Mariner')

John Donne ('The Flea')

John Keats ('Ode to a Nightingale')

Andrew Marvell ('To His Coy Mistress')

John Milton (Paradise Lost)

Wilfred Owen

Alexander Pope (The Rape of the Lock)

William Shakespeare (sonnets)

Alfred, Lord Tennyson ('The Lady of Shallott'))

William Wordsworth (The Two-Part Prelude)

William Butler Yeats ('The Second Coming')

Byron

P.B. Shelley

William Wordsworth