

Suggested work for prospective A Level Literature students

1. Use the EMC resource (GCSE to A-Level Home Learning resources – Activities)
2. There is a certain amount of teacher choice in the exam board's options, so it may alter depending on which class/teacher you have. But, last year, everyone did the same 2 novels, so that might be the best starting point if you want to get ahead on the course texts. We studied "The Little Stranger" by Sarah Waters and "Dracula" by Bram Stoker. "Dracula" is easily found for free online if you do not want to buy it. [The Project Gutenberg eBook of Dracula, by Bram Stoker.](#)
There are also many free study guides online which include chapter summaries and analyses, as well as audiobooks on youtube. Please make sure you read/listen to unabridged versions if you want to be well-prepared.
3. For the play, classes studied either "A Streetcar named Desire" or "Dr Faustus."
The best way of getting ahead on these is to find versions online to watch, as this is how they were designed to be experienced. Watch them a few times and read some reviews and critical views/articles about them.
4. It would be understandable if you did not want to read the texts without a teacher, in which case, read other texts that the exam board recommends in those categories. For example, for prose, they also set "The Picture of Dorian Gray" by Wilde, "Beloved" by Toni Morrison, "Frankenstein" by Mary Shelley, "Wuthering Heights" by Emily Bronte, "The Handmaid's Tale" by Margaret Atwood. You can find a full list of the exam board's set texts here (it's on the 17th page): [A Level English Literature](#)
5. For contexts, you can find some excellent background reading at the British Library Website:
Renaissance (Shakespeare/Marlowe)
[Discovering Literature: Shakespeare & Renaissance](#)
[Christopher Marlowe: the man, the myth and the mighty line](#)
Victorian (Stoker - Dracula; Christina Rossetti - U6th poet)
[Dracula: the Victorian vampire](#)
[Daughters of decadence: the New Woman in the Victorian fin de siècle](#)
[Christina Rossetti: religious poetry](#)
Post WW2 - gender and class:
[From the Blitz to Brexit: how society changed after the second world war](#)
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