

Robinson English Reading List

Before arriving in Cambridge, you will hopefully have an opportunity to explore reading that will be central to your study of English at university: texts concerning the history and theory of literature and its criticism, of poetics and of narrative and dramatic form. Your first term in Cambridge will involve studying Modern literature and below are some suggestions for what you might begin reading. A more precise plan for the term will be sent to you toward the end of summer.

The main thing to do for now is to challenge yourself to read attentively some long or difficult works of literature from these centuries (19th, 20th, 21st), whether that's George Eliot's *Middlemarch*, the *Complete Poems* of Claude McKay, or the *Collected Screenplays* of Harold Pinter. We recommend you read some writing from before 1945 and some from after. Otherwise, the choice is yours.

Supplement this with some reading of non-fiction prose titles—essays, letters, histories—from the list below. *Part A* has some titles usually available in the form of relatively cheap paperback editions, or in public libraries, and so should be your starting point. *Part B* contains more inaccessible titles to encounter once in Cambridge.

Summer Reading: Part A

- James Baldwin, *Notes of a Native Son*
- Gillian Beer, *Darwin's Plots*
- J.M. Coetzee, *Stranger Shores*
- Lydia Davis, *Essays*
- George Eliot, 'Address to Working Men, by Felix Holt' (essays of George Eliot, Gutenberg)
- W.S Graham, *The Nightfisherman: Selected Letters*
- Doris Lessing, *A Small Personal Voice*
- Alison Light, *Mrs Woolf and the Servants*
- Audre Lorde, *Sister Outsider*
- Claudia Rankine, *Citizen: An American Lyric*
- Richard Rorty, 'Trotsky and the Wild Orchids'
- Susan Sontag, *Against Interpretation*
- Ahmad Aijaz, *In Theory: Classes, Nations, Literature*
- Derek Attridge, *Peculiar Language*
- Mutlu Knouk Blasing, *Lyric Poetry*
- Judith Butler, *Bodies That Matter*
- Teju Cole, *Known and Strange Things*
- Martha Nussbaum, *Love's Knowledge*
- Sianne Ngai, *Ugly Feelings*
- Christopher Ricks, *The Force of Poetry*
- Hannah Arendt, *Reflections on Literature and Culture*
- Terry Eagleton, *How to Read a Poem*

Summer Reading: Part B

- Sarah Ahmed, *The Promise of Happiness*
- Isobel Armstrong, *Victorian Glassworlds*
- Matthew Bevis, *The Art of Eloquence*
- J. M Coetzee, *White Writing*
- Georgina Colby, ed., *Reading Experimental Writing*
- Steven Connor, *Beyond Words*
- Veronica Forrest-Thomson, *Poetic Artifice*
- Paul Gilroy, *The Black Atlantic*
- Édouard Glissant, *Caribbean Discourse: Selected Essays*
- Eric Griffiths, *The Printed Voice of Victorian Poetry*
- Sarah Grochala, *The Contemporary Political Play*
- Sally Ledger & Roger Luckhurst, eds, *The Fin de Siècle*
- Meredith Martin, *The Rise and Fall of Meter*
- Joshua Miller, *Accented America*
- D. A., Miller, *The Novel and the Police*
- Thiong'o, Ngũgĩ wa, *Decolonising the Mind: the Politics of Language in African Literature*
- Bruce Robbins, *The Servant's Hand: English Fiction from Below*
- Alan Sinfield, *Literature, Politics and Culture in Postwar Britain*
- Lyndsey Stonebridge, *The Judicial Imagination: Writing After Nuremberg*
- David Trotter, *The Making of the Reader*
- Clair Wills, *The Best Are Leaving; Emigration & Post-war Irish Literature*
- Laura Marcus, *The Tenth Muse: Writing About Cinema in the Modernist Period*