



# GCSE English Literature

## W I D E R R E A D I N G



### **As I Descended** by Robin Talley

A Macbeth-inspired story of revenge and redemption, where fair is foul, and foul is fair. Maria Lyon and Lily Boiten are their school's ultimate power couple, but one thing stands between them and their perfect future: campus superstar Delilah Dufrey...



### **Coram Boy** by Jamila Gavin

The Coram man takes babies and money from desperate mothers, promising to deliver them safely to a Foundling Hospital in London. Instead, he murders them and buries them by the roadside, to the helpless horror of his mentally ill son, Mish...



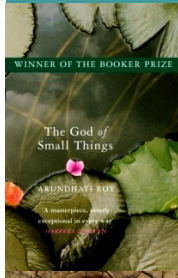
### **Kindred** by Octavia E. Butler

In 1976, Dana dreams of being a writer. In 1815, she is assumed a slave. When Dana first meets Rufus on a Maryland plantation, he's drowning. She saves his life, and it will happen again and again. And each time Dana saves him, the more aware she is that her own life might be over before it's even begun.



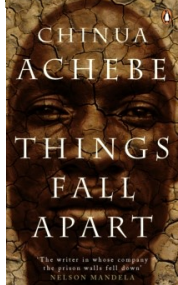
### **The Thirty-Nine Steps** by John Buchan

When Richard finds the corpse of a freelance spy in his London flat, he goes on the run, fearing that his life is in danger. He becomes struggles to unravel the mystery while staying one step ahead of his pursuers, who will stop at nothing to keep their secrets.



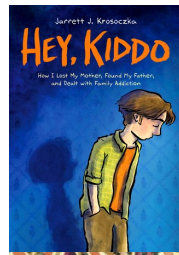
### **The God of Small Things** Arundhati Roy

Set against a background of political turbulence in Kerala, this novel tells the story of twins Esthappen and Rahel. Amongst the vats of banana jam and heaps of peppercorns in their grandmother's factory they try to craft a childhood for themselves.



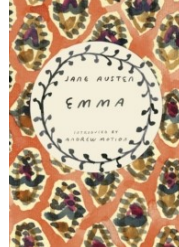
### **Things Fall Apart** by Chinua Achebe

Okonowo is the greatest warrior alive. His fame has spread like a bushfire in West Africa and he is one of the most powerful men of his clan. But he also has a fiery temper. When outsiders threaten the traditions of his clan, Okonowo takes violent action. Will his dangerous pride eventually destroy him?



### **Hey, Kiddo** by Jarrett J. Krosoczka

Jarrett's mom is an addict, in and out of rehab, he doesn't know his father, and lives with his loving, loud, opinionated grandparents. This graphic novel is a memoir about growing up in a family grappling with addiction, and finding the art that helps you survive.



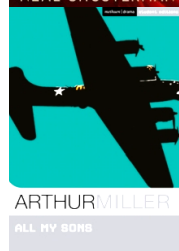
### **Emma** by Jane Austen

Beautiful, clever, rich and single: Emma Woodhouse is perfectly content with her life and sees no need for either love or marriage. Nothing, however, delights her more than interfering in the romantic lives of others.



### **Scythe** by Neal Shusterman

In a world where disease, war and crime have been eliminated, the only way to die is to be randomly killed by professional scythes. Citra and Rowan are scythes' apprentices, and despite wanting nothing to do with the vocation, they must learn the art of killing.



### **All My Sons** by Arthur Miller

In Joe and Kate Keller's family garden, an apple tree - a memorial to their son Larry, lost in the Second World War - has been torn down by a storm. But his loss is not the only part of the family's past they can't put behind them. Not everybody's forgotten the court case that put Joe's business partner in jail...



### **Casino Royale** by Ian Fleming

Le Chiffre is a businessman with expensive tastes - and a chief Soviet operative. As his lifestyle threatens to ruin him, his only hope of survival is to risk his paymasters' money at the baccarat table. Across from him sits James Bond, the finest gambler in the British secret service.



### **A Clockwork Orange** by Anthony Burgess

In this nightmare vision of youth in revolt, fifteen-year-old Alex and his friends set out on a diabolical orgy of robbery, rape, torture and murder.

Alex is jailed for his teenage delinquency and the State tries to reform him - but at what cost?

Terry Pratchett  
& Neil Gaiman



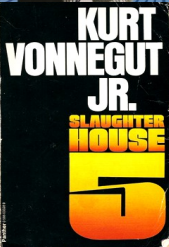
**Good Omens** by Terry Pratchett & Neil Gaiman

What if, for once, the predictions are right, and the Apocalypse really *is* due to arrive next Saturday, just after tea? It's a predicament that Aziraphale, a somewhat fussy angel, and Crowley, a fast-living demon, now find themselves in.



**Tess of the D'Urbervilles** by Thomas Hardy

When Tess is driven by family poverty to claim kinship with the wealthy D'Urbervilles and seek a portion of their fortune, meeting Angel Clare seems to offer her love and salvation. Now Tess must choose whether to reveal her past, or remain silent.



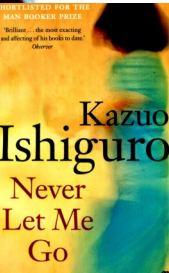
**Slaughterhouse 5** by Kurt Vonnegut

Centring on the infamous fire-bombing of Dresden in the Second World War, Billy Pilgrim is the protagonist of this bitter and funny time-travelling story of innocence faced with apocalypse.



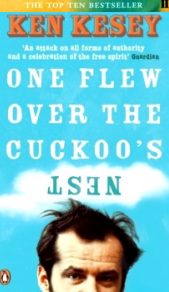
**Brighton Rock** by Graham Greene

A gang war is raging through the dark underworld of Brighton. Seventeen-year-old Pinkie has killed a man, and believes he will get away with it. Greene's gripping thriller exposes a world of loneliness and fear, of life lived on the 'dangerous edge of things'.



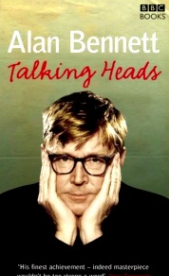
**Never Let Me Go** by Kazuo Ishiguro

The narrator, Kathy, hauntingly tells of her attempts to come to terms with her childhood at the seemingly idyllic Hailsham School, her job caring for 'donors', and with the fate that has always awaited her and her closest friends in the wider world



**One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest** by Ken Kesey

The unforgettable story of a mental ward and its inhabitants, especially the tyrannical Big Nurse Ratched, and Randle Patrick McMurphy, the brawling, fun-loving new inmate who resolves to oppose her.



**Talking Heads** by Alan Bennett

Alan Bennett sealed his reputation as the master of observation with this series of 12 ground-breaking monologues, originally filmed for BBC Television. At once darkly comic, tragically poignant and wonderfully uplifting, "Talking Heads" is widely regarded as a modern classic.



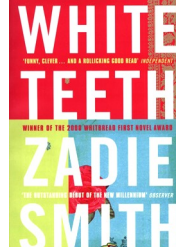
**I Capture the Castle** by Dodie Smith

This is the diary of Cassandra Mortmain, which tells of her extraordinary family and their crumbling castle home. Cassandra's father was once a famous writer, but the family are sliding into genteel poverty. Then new neighbours arrive, and Cassandra falls in love.



**The Shock of the Fall** by Nathan Filer

A gripping, ground-breaking portrait of a young man's descent into mental illness, written by a former psychiatric nurse. Struggling to deal with his brother's death, Matthew writes about his life.



**White Teeth** by Zadie Smith

An unforgettable portrait of London, *White Teeth* deals with friendship, love, war, three cultures and three families over three generations, one brown mouse, and the tricky way the past has of coming back and biting you on the ankle.



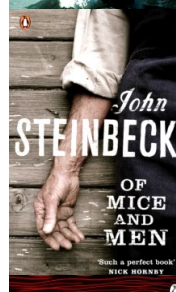
**Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy** by John Le Carré

A mole has infiltrated the highest ranks of the British Intelligence Service, almost destroying it. And so former spymaster George Smiley has been brought out of retirement in order to hunt down the traitor - even though it may be one of those closest to him.



**Murder on the Orient Express** by Agatha Christie

A much-loathed murder victim found aboard the luxurious Orient Express with multiple stab wounds, thirteen likely suspects, and an incomparably brilliant detective — what more could you want?



**Of Mice and Men** by John Steinbeck

Streetwise George and his big, childlike friend Lennie are drifters, searching for work in the fields and valleys of California. They have nothing except the clothes on their back, and a hope that one day they'll find a place of their own and live the American dream. But dreams come at a price.



**In Cold Blood** by Truman Capote

In this ground-breaking book, considered by many to be the first in the true crime genre, Capote reconstructs the real life murder of the Clutter family from information provided by newspaper articles and interviews. Heading up the investigation is Agent Al Dewey, but all he has are two footprints, four bodies, and a whole lot of questions.