Memo

Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority

18 May 2021

Senior secondary

Number: 027/21

Review and refreshment of prescribed text lists for English senior syllabuses

Purpose

To inform schools about the review and refreshment of the prescribed text lists for English and English as an Additional Language (EAL), and Literature General senior syllabuses.

Background

English and EAL, and Literature General senior syllabuses are supported by lists of prescribed texts for study in Units 3 and 4. The lists reflect the diversity of Queensland’s school contexts and cultural sensibilities and allow schools sufficient flexibility to make choices about what is appropriate and equitable for their school community and students.

The current lists were developed by a Prescribed Text Selection Working Group, including English curriculum experts from the State, Catholic and Independent schooling sectors, following research and consultation with stakeholders. The lists were released in 2017 for use with students in Units 3 and 4 for the years of 2020, 2021 and 2022.

The prescribed text lists are reviewed and refreshed every three years.

Information

The QCAA has established two Prescribed Text Selection Advisory Panels to oversee the review and refreshment of the two current prescribed text lists. Panel members include experts from the three schooling sectors as well as the English Teachers Association of Queensland, universities, State Library of Queensland, Aboriginal communities, Torres Strait Islander communities, and the QCAA.

Stakeholder consultation

The QCAA is seeking feedback from schools on the current text lists via a survey about each list sent to principal’s delegates for English faculty leaders and their staff to complete. We request only one submission per survey per school.

Individual teachers, students, parents/carers and other education stakeholders are invited to suggest new additions to text lists via an online forum on goodreads.com at: www.goodreads.com/list/show/162483.Refreshing_Prescribed_Text_Lists.
Selection criteria and guidelines

Text selection will be made in accordance with the following criteria and guidelines.

Criteria for the text list

The text list as a whole will:

- meet the syllabus requirements
- reflect the cultural and social diversity of the Australian context and student cohorts
- provide a range and balance of texts and writers with respect to time, place and gender
- encourage critical and creative engagement
- include texts that provide affirming perspectives
- consider broad community standards and expectations in the context of a senior secondary study of texts.

Criteria for inclusion of texts

Texts selected for the list will:

- have merit in genre and style
- provide opportunities for sustained intensive study and challenge
- provide opportunities for student engagement.

Guidelines

- Texts include novels, nonfiction works, plays, poetry, and film and television programs.
- No single text is prescribed — schools have the opportunity to choose texts from the lists that are suitable for their contexts and cohorts.
- Schools can engage with writers from different times, places and cultures, and of varied outlook and gender.

Timeline

The refreshed prescribed text lists will be released in early Term 4, 2021 for use with students in Units 3 and 4 for 2023, 2024 and 2025.

What you need to do

Please share this memo with principal’s delegates, English Heads of Department, and teachers of English, EAL, and Literature at your school.

Weblinks

• The Goodreads list is available at:

Finding out more

Please email Learning Area Manager, English and Languages, at
EnglishandLanguages@qcaa.qld.edu.au, or phone (07) 3864 0129.

Jacqueline Wilton
Director, Curriculum Services Division

© State of Queensland (QCAA) 2021

Licence: https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by/4.0 | Copyright notice: www.qcaa.qld.edu.au/copyright —
lists the full terms and conditions, which specify certain exceptions to the licence. |
Attribution: ‘© State of Queensland (QCAA) 2021’ — please include the link to our copyright notice.