

Prescribed text list for English and English as an Additional Language 2019–2021

The [Prescribed text list](#) was developed by the Prescribed Text Selection Working Group. The texts have been approved by the Queensland Curriculum and Assessment Authority (QCAA) as suitable for study in Units 3 and 4 of English and English as an Additional Language (EAL) for 2019–2021.

Texts were selected in accordance with the following criteria and guidelines:

Criteria

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 in 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 for text selection

The text list for English and EAL will adhere to the following guidelines:

- The text list
 - will contain a range of texts
 - must contain titles that are different from those on the Literature text list
 - must include at least one Shakespearean text.
- A text on the initial list must be in place for a minimum of three years and can remain for up to six years.
- From 2022, 25% of the texts on the prescribed text list will be retired annually.
- Once retired from a prescribed text list, a text cannot be restored to the text list for that subject for three years. That text, however, can be moved to the prescribed text list for the other English Learning Area subject.
- 8–10 text options will be available for the external assessment.
- Texts identified for the external assessment can be used in other areas of the course; however, no text from this list can be used for more than one piece of assessment for an individual student in an individual school setting.

Information for schools

The English and EAL list offers text choices across a range of texts, including prose, plays, poetry and multimedia.

For text selection, the syllabuses state:

- Across Units 3 and 4, students must study at least four texts from the prescribed text list. The selection must include three of the following four categories:
 - one complete play
 - one complete prose text (novel, non-fiction or a collection of short stories)
 - a selection of poetry (at least five poems)
 - a multimodal text (film, television program, documentary).
- A text studied in Unit 3 or Unit 4 cannot be studied in Unit 1 or Unit 2 of this syllabus, or in any units in the General syllabus of Literature.
- No single text is prescribed — schools will have the opportunity to choose texts suitable for their contexts and cohorts.
- The texts selected for each list will provide opportunities for student engagement with a range of writers from varied times and places, and with writers of varied outlook and gender.
- No writer, other than Shakespeare, is represented more than once. The study of Shakespeare is not mandated for an individual school.
- Schools will register their text choices for Units 3 and 4 in each of the General syllabuses of English and English as an Additional Language before the endorsement process begins.
- While the QCAA considers all texts on the list as suitable for study, teachers should be aware that some texts may contain sensitivities in relation to certain issues and topics. In selecting texts for study, teachers should make themselves aware of these prior to introducing the text to students.

External assessment

- *Burial Rites* — Hannah Kent
- *Cat's Eye* — Margaret Atwood
- *Hamlet* — William Shakespeare
- *Jane Eyre* — Charlotte Bronte
- *Macbeth* — William Shakespeare
- *Nineteen Eighty-Four* — George Orwell
- *The White Earth* — Andrew McGahan
- *We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves* — Karen Joy Fowler

Novels and prose texts

- *Behind the Beautiful Forevers* — Katherine Boo
- *Fahrenheit 451* — Ray Bradbury
- *Frankenstein* — Mary Shelley
- *Island: Collected Stories* — Alistair MacLeod
- *Journey to the Stone Country* — Alex Miller
- *Never Let Me Go* — Kazuo Ishiguro
- *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* — Ken Kesey
- *Persepolis* — Marjane Satrapi (graphic novel)
- *Pride and Prejudice* — Jane Austen
- *Schindler's List* — Thomas Keneally
- Short stories by Frank O'Connor
- Short stories by Katherine Mansfield
- *Swallow the Air* — Tara June Winch
- *Talking to My Country* — Stan Grant
- *The Boat* — Nam Le (collection of short stories)
- *The Cellist of Sarajevo* — Steven Galloway
- *The Great Gatsby* — F. Scott Fitzgerald
- *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* — Mary Ann Shaffer
- *The Longest Memory* — Fred D'Aguiar
- *The Turning* — Tim Winton (collection of short stories)
- *The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry* — Rachel Joyce
- *Wide Sargasso Sea* — Jean Rhys
- *Year of Wonders* — Geraldine Brooks

Plays and drama texts

- *Accidental Death of an Anarchist* — Dario Fo
- *Away* — Michael Gow
- *Black Diggers* — Tom Wright
- *Cosi* — Louis Nowra
- *Hotel Sorrento* — Hannie Rayson
- *Ladies in Black* — play by Carolyn Burns based on the novel *The Women in Black* by Madeleine St John
- *Lady Windermere's Fan* — Oscar Wilde
- *Much Ado About Nothing* — William Shakespeare
- *Seven Stages of Grieving* — Wesley Enoch and Deborah Mailman
- *Switzerland* — Joanna Murray-Smith
- *The Crucible* — Arthur Miller
- *The Drover's Wife* — Leah Purcell

Film and TV/Multimodal

Title followed by director/creator

- *2001: A Space Odyssey* — Stanley Kubrick
- *Amelie* — John-Pierre Jeunet
- *Australian Story* (documentary series) — ABC
- *Blade Runner* — Ridley Scott
- *Bright Star* — Jane Campion
- *Brooklyn* — John Crowley
- *Cleverman* (TV series) — Wayne Blair and Leah Purcell
- *Four Corners* (documentary series) — ABC
- *Hero* (2002) — Zhang Yimou
- *Hidden Figures* — Theodore Melfi
- *Lion* — Garth Davis
- *Little Miss Sunshine* — Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris
- *Mabo* (TV series) — Rachel Perkins
- *Park Avenue: Money, power and the American dream* (documentary) — Alex Gibney
- *Rebecca* — Alfred Hitchcock
- *Romulus My Father* — Richard Roxburgh
- *Sherlock* (TV series) — BBC, created by Steven Moffat and Mark Gattiss
- *Stranger Things* series 1 (TV series) — created by the Duffer Brothers, 21 Laps Entertainment
- *The Life of Pi* — Ang Lee
- *The Panama Deception* (documentary) — Barbara Trent
- *The Year My Voice Broke* — John Duigan
- *Tsotsi* — Gavin Hood
- *We Don't Need a Map* (documentary) — Warwick Thornton

Note: All episodes selected from television shows or documentaries should be rated 'MA' or below.

Poetry (options by poet)

- Ali Alizadeh
- Ali Cobby Eckermann
- Bruce Dawe
- Carol Ann Duffy
- Emily Dickinson
- John Donne
- John Keats
- Judith Wright
- Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner
- Robert Browning
- Robert Frost
- Samuel Wagan Watson
- Sylvia Plath
- Wilfred Owen
- William Butler Yeats