

Prescribed text list

English and EAL 2026–2029

This resource provides the prescribed text list for 2026–2029 for the following English learning area syllabuses:

- *English General senior syllabus 2025*
- *English as an Additional Language General senior syllabus 2025.*

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 2026–2029.

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

- will not restore a text that has been retired from the English and EAL prescribed text list within three years. However, that text can be moved to the prescribed text list for the other English learning area subjects
- will be refreshed with a minimum of 20% and a maximum of 50% of non-external assessment texts for implementation with Units 3 and 4 summative assessment in 2026, 2027, 2028 and 2029.
- The external assessment category of the list
 - must keep each text in this category in place for a minimum of three years and a maximum of six years
 - will have 25% of texts in this category retired annually
 - will make 8–10 text options available for the external assessment
 - will include texts in this category that 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 text 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 current prescribed text list. The selection must include three of the following four categories
 - one complete play
 - one complete prose text (novel, nonfiction 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.

In addition, the following text selection guidelines apply:

- 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.

Prescribed text list: English and EAL 2026–2029

External assessment texts 2026	External assessment texts 2027
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>All the Light We Cannot See</i> — Anthony Doerr • <i>Never Let Me Go</i> — Kazuo Ishiguro* • <i>Twelfth Night</i> — William Shakespeare • <i>Othello</i> — William Shakespeare • <i>The Namesake</i> — Jhumpa Lahir • <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> — Jane Austen* • <i>The Dry</i> — Jane Harper • <i>The Yield</i> — Tara June Winch 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>All the Light We Cannot See</i> — Anthony Doerr • <i>Frankenstein</i> — Mary Shelley • <i>Twelfth Night</i> — William Shakespeare • <i>Othello</i> — William Shakespeare • <i>The Namesake</i> — Jhumpa Lahir • <i>Persuasion</i> — Jane Austen • <i>The Dry</i> — Jane Harper* • <i>The Yield</i> — Tara June Winch*
External assessment texts 2028	External assessment texts 2029
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>All the Light We Cannot See</i> — Anthony Doerr* • <i>Frankenstein</i> — Mary Shelley • <i>Twelfth Night</i> — William Shakespeare • <i>Othello</i> — William Shakespeare* • <i>The Namesake</i> — Jhumpa Lahiri • <i>Persuasion</i> — Jane Austen • <i>Station Eleven</i> — Emily St John Mandel • <i>Edenglassie</i> — Melissa Lucashenko 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Frankenstein</i> — Mary Shelley • <i>Go, Went, Gone</i> — Jenny Erpenbeck • <i>Twelfth Night</i> — William Shakespeare* • <i>Julius Caesar</i> — William Shakespeare • <i>The Namesake</i> — Jhumpa Lahiri • <i>Persuasion</i> — Jane Austen • <i>Station Eleven</i> — Emily St John Mandel • <i>Edenglassie</i> — Melissa Lucashenko
<p>Note: * indicates the last year this text will appear on the external assessment list.</p>	

Novels and prose texts

- *After Darkness* — Christine Piper
- *Begin, End, Begin: #LoveOzYA anthology* — edited by Danielle Binks
- *Burial Rites* — Hannah Kent (moves from EA 2026)
- *Fahrenheit 451* — Ray Bradbury
- *Frankenstein* — Mary Shelley (moved to EA 2027)
- *Growing Up* series (various texts and authors)
- *If Cats Disappeared from the World* — Genki Kawamura
- *Into Thin Air* — Jon Krakauer
- *Jane Eyre* — Charlotte Brontë
- *Minds Went Walking: Paul Kelly's songs reimaged* — edited by Jock Serong, Mark Smith, and Neil A White
- *Never Let Me Go* — Kazuo Ishiguro (moved from EA 2027)
- *Nineteen Eighty-Four* — George Orwell
- *Persepolis: The story of a childhood* (graphic novel) — Marjane Satrapi
- *Schindler's Ark* (also known as *Schindler's List*) — Thomas Keneally
- Short stories by Katherine Mansfield
- Short stories by Tim Winton
- *Talking to My Country* — Stan Grant
- *The Arsonist* — Chloe Hooper
- *The Boat* (collection of short stories) — Nam Le
- *The Cellist of Sarajevo* — Steven Galloway
- *The Color of Water* — James McBride
- *The Great Gatsby* — F Scott Fitzgerald
- *The Hate Race* — Maxine Beneba Clarke
- *The Hound of the Baskervilles* — Arthur Conan Doyle
- *The Martian* — Andy Weir
- *The Penelopiad: The myth of Penelope and Odysseus* — Margaret Atwood
- *The White Earth* — Andrew McGahan
- *The Yield* — Tara June Winch (moved from EA 2028)

Plays and drama texts

- *Away* — Michael Gow
- *Black Diggers* — Tom Wright
- *Cosi* — Louis Nowra
- *Counting and Cracking* — S Shakthidharan
- *Gaslight* — Patrick Hamilton
- *Macbeth* — William Shakespeare
- *RBG: Of many, one* — Suzie Miller
- *The 7 Stages of Grieving* — Wesley Enoch and Deborah Mailman
- *The Crucible* — Arthur Miller
- *The Drover's Wife* — Leah Purcell

- *The Frogs* — Aristophanes
- *The Glass Menagerie* — Tennessee Williams
- *The Importance of Being Earnest* — Oscar Wilde
- *The Trojan Women* — Euripides
- *When the Rain Stops Falling* — Andrew Bovell

Film and television/multimodal texts

Title followed by director/creator.

- *Ali's Wedding* — Jeffrey Walker
- *Amelie* — Jean-Pierre Jeunet
- *Australian Story* (documentary series) — ABC
- *Billy Elliot* — Stephen Daldry
- *Blade Runner* — Ridley Scott
- *Brooklyn* — John Crowley
- *Cleverman* (TV series) — Wayne Blair and Leah Purcell
- *Four Corners* (documentary series) — ABC
- *Glitch* (TV series) — Emma Freeman
- *Good Night, and Good Luck* — George Clooney
- *Hidden Figures* — Theodore Melfi
- *Howl's Moving Castle* — Hayao Miyazaki
- *JoJo Rabbit* — Taika Waititi
- *Little Miss Sunshine* — Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris
- *Little Women* — Greta Gerwig
- *Mystery Road* — Ivan Sen
- *Rear Window* — Alfred Hitchcock
- *Sherlock* (TV series) — Mark Gatiss and Steven Moffat
- *Stranger Things* (TV series) — the Duffer Brothers
- *The Australian Dream* — Daniel Gordon
- *The Dressmaker* — Jocelyn Moorhouse
- *The Quiet Girl* — Colm Bairéad
- *Tsotsi* — Gavin Hood
- *Uproar* — Paul Middleditch and Hamish Bennett
- *We Are Still Here* — various directors

Note: All episodes selected from television or documentary series should be rated Mature Accompanied (MA 15+) or below.

Poets

Options by poet.

- Ali Alizadeh
- Ali Cobby Eckermann
- Amanda Gorman
- Bruce Dawe
- Carol Ann Duffy
- Emily Dickinson
- John Keats
- Judith Wright
- Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner
- Kirli Saunders
- Luka Lesson
- Robert Browning
- Robert Frost
- Samuel Wagan Watson
- Sylvia Plath
- WB Yeats
- Wilfred Owen

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