

# Prescribed text list

## Literature 2026–2029

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This resource provides the prescribed text list for 2026–2029 for the *Literature 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 Literature 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 Literature 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 English and English as an Additional Language text list
  - must include at least one Shakespearean text
  - will not restore a text that has been retired from the Literature 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 the 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 the 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 Literature text list offers text choices across a range of texts, including prose, plays, poetry and multimedia.

For text selection, the syllabus states:

- In Units 3 and 4, students must study at least six texts from the prescribed text list. The selection must include
  - one complete novel
  - one complete play
  - a selection of poetry (at least 10 poems)
  - one complete film or episode of a television series.
- At least one of the texts selected must be Australian.
- At least three of the six texts selected across Units 3 and 4 must be studied in depth.
- Other types of texts that students could study include
  - short stories
  - essays
  - interpretations of, and responses to, literary texts
  - live performances
  - digital stories.
- In Unit 3, at least one text from an international context must be studied. This could include texts translated from other languages.
- 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 English.

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 the General syllabus of Literature 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: Literature 2026–2029

External assessment texts 2026	External assessment texts 2027
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Antony and Cleopatra — William Shakespeare</li> <li>• <i>Beloved</i> — Toni Morrison</li> <li>• <i>Catch-22</i> — Joseph Heller*</li> <li>• <i>Hamlet</i> — William Shakespeare</li> <li>• <i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i> — Oscar Wilde</li> <li>• <i>Stasiland</i> — Anna Funder</li> <li>• <i>Terra Nullius</i> — Claire G Coleman</li> <li>• <i>Wuthering Heights</i> — Emily Brontë*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Alias Grace</i> — Margaret Atwood</li> <li>• <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i> — William Shakespeare</li> <li>• <i>Beloved</i> — Toni Morrison*</li> <li>• <i>Cloudstreet</i> — Tim Winton</li> <li>• <i>Hamlet</i> — William Shakespeare</li> <li>• <i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i> — Oscar Wilde</li> <li>• <i>Stasiland</i> — Anna Funder*</li> <li>• <i>Terra Nullius</i> — Claire G Coleman</li> </ul>
External assessment texts 2028	External assessment texts 2029
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Alias Grace</i> — Margaret Atwood</li> <li>• Antony and Cleopatra — William Shakespeare</li> <li>• <i>Cloudstreet</i> — Tim Winton</li> <li>• <i>Hamlet</i> — William Shakespeare*</li> <li>• <i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i> — Oscar Wilde</li> <li>• <i>The Narrow Road to the Deep North</i> — Richard Flanagan</li> <li>• <i>The Winter Road</i> — Kate Holden</li> <li>• <i>Terra Nullius</i> — Claire G Coleman*</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <i>Alias Grace</i> — Margaret Atwood*</li> <li>• <i>Antony and Cleopatra</i> — William Shakespeare</li> <li>• <i>Cloudstreet</i> — Tim Winton</li> <li>• <i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i> — Oscar Wilde*</li> <li>• <i>Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are Dead</i> — Tom Stoppard</li> <li>• <i>Swallow the Air</i> — Tara June Winch</li> <li>• <i>The Narrow Road to the Deep North</i> — Richard Flanagan</li> <li>• <i>The Winter Road</i> — Kate Holden</li> </ul>
<p><b>Note:</b> * indicates the last year this text will appear on the external assessment list.</p>	

## Novels and prose texts

- *Always will be* (collection of short stories) — Mykaela Saunders
- *Anna Karenina* — Leo Tolstoy
- *Beloved* — Toni Morrison (from 2028)
- *Brave New World* — Aldous Huxley
- *Chai Time at Cinnamon Gardens* — Shankari Chandran
- *Catch 22* — Joseph Heller (from 2027)
- *Do Not Say We Have Nothing* — Madeline Thien
- *Foreign Soil* — Maxine Beneba Clarke
- *Heart of Darkness* — Joseph Conrad
- *In Cold Blood* — Truman Capote
- *Life After Life* — Kate Atkinson
- *Mrs Dalloway* — Virginia Woolf
- *Only the Animals* (linked collection of short stories) — Ceridwen Dovey
- *Pride and Prejudice* — Jane Austen (from English/EAL in 2027)
- Short stories by Amy Witting
- Short stories by Annie Proulx
- Short stories by Anton Chekhov
- Short stories by Cate Kennedy
- Short stories by Edgar Allan Poe
- Short stories by George Saunders
- Short stories by Ray Bradbury
- Short stories by Ursula K Le Guin
- *Stasiland* — Anna Funder (from 2028)
- *Snow Falling on Cedars* — David Guterson
- *Swallow the Air* — Tara June Winch
- *Terra Nullius* — Claire G Coleman (from 2028)
- *That Deadman Dance* — Kim Scott
- *The Complete Maus* (graphic novel — two volumes) — Art Spiegelman
- *The Good People* — Hannah Kent
- *The Labyrinth* — Amanda Lohrey
- *The Man in the High Castle* — Philip K Dick
- *The Poisonwood Bible* — Barbara Kingsolver
- *The Quiet American* — Graham Greene
- *The Remains of the Day* — Kazuo Ishiguro
- *The White Tiger* — Aravind Adiga
- *Things Fall Apart* — Chinua Achebe
- *Wuthering Heights* — Emily Brontë (from 2027)

## Plays and drama texts

- *A Doll's House* — Henrik Ibsen
- *A Man for All Seasons* — Robert Bolt
- *Berlin* — Joanna Murray-Smith
- *Black is the New White* — Nakkiah Lui
- *Black Medea* — Wesley Enoch
- *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* — Tennessee Williams
- *City of Gold* — Meyne Watt
- *Constellations* — Nick Payne
- *Death and the Maiden* — Ariel Dorfman
- *Death of a Salesman* — Arthur Miller
- *Hamlet* — William Shakespeare (from 2029)
- *I'm with Her* — Victoria Midwinter Pitt
- *King Lear* — William Shakespeare (from 2026)
- *Oedipus Rex* — Sophocles
- *Photograph 51* — Anna Ziegler
- *Rainbow's End* — Jane Harrison
- *Shafana and Aunt Sarrinah* — Alana Valentine
- *Terror* — Ferdinand von Schirach
- *Wit* — Margaret Edson

## Film and television/multimodal texts

Title followed by director/creator.

- *Anatomy of a Fall* — Justine Triet
- *Arrival* — Denis Villeneuve
- *Beneath Clouds* — Ivan Sen
- *Everything Everywhere All at Once* — Daniel Kwan and Daniel Scheinert
- *Gattaca* — Andrew Niccol
- *Interstellar* — Christopher Nolan
- *Knives Out* — Rian Johnson
- *Looking for Richard* — Al Pacino
- *The Last of Us* (TV series) — created by Craig Mazin and Neil Druckmann
- *Mad Max: Fury Road* — George Miller
- *Pan's Labyrinth* — Guillermo del Toro
- *Parasite* — Bong Joon-ho
- *Picnic at Hanging Rock* — Peter Weir
- *Psycho* — Alfred Hitchcock
- *Radiance* — Rachel Perkins
- *Raise the Red Lantern* — Zhang Yimou
- *Ripley* (TV series) — Steven Zaillian
- *Run Lola Run* — Tom Tykwer
- *Shutter Island* — Martin Scorsese
- *Sweet Country* — Warwick Thornton
- *The Gods of Wheat Street* (TV series) — Wayne Blair, Catriona McKenzie and Adrian Russell Wills
- *True Grit* — Ethan Coen and Joel Coen
- *Wadjda* — Haifaa al-Mansour

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

## Poets

Options by poet.

- Alison Whittaker
- Christina Rossetti
- Elizabeth Barrett Browning
- Ellen van Neerven
- Gerard Manley Hopkins
- Gwen Harwood
- Kae Tempest
- Les Murray
- Lionel Fogarty
- Maya Angelou
- Pablo Neruda
- Rosemary Dobson
- Sarah Holland-Batt
- Seamus Heaney
- TS Eliot
- WH Auden



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