

Reading List for Modern Fiction  
(Primarily British)

1) Essentials:

Sterne, Tristram Shandy  
Flaubert, Madame Bovary  
Dostoevski, Notes from the Underground  
James, What Maisie Knew, The Ambassadors  
Conrad, Heart of Darkness, Lord Jim  
\*Stein, "Tender Buttons," Three Lives  
Ford, The Good Soldier  
Mansfield, The Garden Party, and Other Stories  
Thomas Mann, "Death in Venice"  
Joyce, "The Dead," Portrait, Ulysses  
Proust, Swann's Way  
Woolf, Mrs Dalloway, To the Lighthouse  
Faulkner, The Sound and the Fury, As I Lay Dying  
Kafka, stories  
Borges, Labyrinths  
Robert Penn Warren, All the King's Men  
Ellison, Invisible Man  
Beckett, Murphy or Molloy  
Nabokov, Lolita or Pale Fire\*  
\*Robbe-Grillet, Jealousy  
Garcia Marquez, A Hundred Years of Solitude  
\*Pynchon, Gravity's Rainbow  
Achebe, Things Fall Apart  
\*Calvino, The Castle of Crossed Destinies or Invisible Cities or If on a Winter's  
Night a Traveler  
\*Rushdie, Midnight's Children  
\*Carter, The Infernal Desire Machines of Dr Hoffman or The Passion of New Eve  
Morrison, Beloved

2) Additional Significant Authors of British Fiction, 1914-1959

Joyce Cary  
E.M. Forster  
Henry Green  
Graham Greene  
Aldous Huxley  
D. H. Lawrence  
Wyndham Lewis  
Malcolm Lowry  
W. Somerset Maugham  
George Orwell

Anthony Powell  
Evelyn Waugh

(Plus Richardson, Compton-Burnett, Sinclair, Rhys, Bowen, Murdoch, Howard,  
Stead,  
Lessing as listed below)

3) Major women writers (primarily British, innovative):

Edith Wharton, The Age of Innocence  
Colette, Cheri  
Dorothy Richardson, Pointed Roofs  
Ivy Compton-Burnett, Pastors and Masters  
Mary Butts, Armed with Madness or The Death of Felicity Taverner  
May Sinclair, Mary Olivier  
H. D., HERmione or Asphodel  
\*Djuna Barnes, Nightwood  
Jean Rhys, Good Morning, Midnight or Wide Sargasso Sea or Voyage in the

Dark

Zora Neale Hurston, Their Eyes Were Watching God  
Isak Dinesen, Anecdotes of Destiny  
Christina Stead, The Man Who Loved Children  
Mina Loy, Insel  
Elizabeth Howard, The Long View  
Jane Bowles, Two Serious Ladies  
Nathalie Sarraute, Portrait of a Man Unknown  
Doris Lessing, The Golden Notebook  
\*Muriel Spark, Not to Disturb  
Rebecca West, The Return of the Soldier or Harriet Hume or This Real Night  
Vita Sackville-West, All Passion Spent or Seducers in Ecuador  
Marguerite Duras, The Lover  
\*Monique Wittig, Les Guerilleres  
Clarice Lispector, The Stream of Life  
Nadine Gordimer, The Conservationist  
\*Anna Kavan, Ice  
Christa Wolf, The Quest for Christa T  
Eva Figes, Ghosts  
Margaret Drabble, The Waterfall, The Ice Age  
Bessie Head, A Question of Power  
A. S. Byatt, Possession  
Margaret Atwood, The Blind Assassin  
\*Christine Brooke-Rose, Amalgamemnon  
\*Jeanette Winterson, Written on the Body or Sexing the Cherry  
Ann Tyler, Celestial Navigation  
Carole Maso, The Art Lover

\*Carol Shields, The Stone Diaries  
Rosario Castellanos, stories  
Bharati Mukherji, Jasmine  
Toni Morrison, Beloved  
\*Lyn Hejinian, My Life

(+Stein, Mansfield, Woolf, Pym, Carter [above];  
Bowen, Murdoch, O'Brien, Smith, Weldon [below])

#### 4) Irish Fiction:

\*Flann O'Brien, At Swim-Two-Birds, The Poor Mouth  
Elizabeth Bowen, The Death of the Heart, The Heat of the Day, The Last September

Joyce Cary, The Horse's Mouth  
\*Iris Murdoch, The Black Prince  
Edna O'Brien, A Paegan Place  
James Stephens, The Charwoman's Daughter  
Brian Moore, The Mangan Inheritance  
William Trevor, Dining at the Ritz  
John McGahern, Among Women  
John Banville, Ghosts  
Roddy Doyle, Paddy Clarke, Ha Ha Ha  
Colm Toibin, The Heather Blazing  
Stories by Liam Sean O'Faolain, Frank O'Connor, Mary Lavin

(+ Joyce and Beckett [above])

Drama: Plays by Wilde, Yeats, Lady Gregory, Synge, Beckett, Friel; perhaps also G.  
B. Shaw, Sean O'Casey, Dennis, Johnston, Brendan Behan, Shelagh Delaney,  
Conor McGuinness

#### 5) Contemporary "British":

\*Samuel Beckett, The Lost Ones, Company, Worstwad Ho  
Wilson Harris, The Womb of Space  
\*John Fowles, French Lieutenant's Woman  
\*David Lodge, Small World  
Nicholas Mosley, Accident  
\*Martin Amis, London Fields  
\*Zadie Smith, White Teeth  
Pat Barker, Regeneration  
\*James Kelman, Busted Scotch  
Ian McEwan, The Child in Time, Atonement  
Fay Weldon, The Cloning of Joanna May

Graham Swift, Waterland  
Julian Barnes, Flaubert's Parrot or England, England  
D. M. Thomas, The White Hotel  
J. M. Coetzee, In the Heart of the Country, Foe  
\*Alisdair Gray, Lanark  
\*Michael Ondaatje, The English Patient  
Amitav Ghosh, The Shadow Lines  
Kazuo Ishiguro, The Remains of the Day or When We Were Orphans  
Alan Hollinghurst, The Swimming-Pool Library  
Lawrence Norfolk, Lempriere's Dictionary  
Rohinton Mistry, Swimming Lessons and Other Stories from Firozsha Baag  
Caryl Phillips, Crossing the River  
\*Peter Carey, The Unusual Life of Tristan Smith

6) Additional Postmodern:

[\* above indicates this text is considered postmodern]

Maurice Blanchot, Death Sentence  
John Hawkes, Second Skin, Death, Sleep, and the Traveler  
Don DeLillo, White Noise  
Guillermo Cabrera Infante, Three Trapped Tigers  
Milorad Pavic, The Dictionary of the Khazars  
Nuruddin Farah, Maps  
Guy Davenport, stories  
Robert Coover, "The Babysitter"

7) Significant rewritings (primarily postcolonial) of

The Tempest:

Samuel Beckett, Endgame  
George Lamming, Natives of My Person  
Aime Cesaire, A Tempest  
Keri Hulme, The Bone People  
John Banville, Ghosts  
Angela Carter, Wise Children

Robinson Crusoe:

J. M. Coetzee, Foe  
Michel Tournier, Friday  
Derek Walcott, Pantomime

Heart of Darkness:

Alejo Carpentier, The Lost Steps  
Wilson Harris, Palace of the Peacock  
Alejo Carpentier, The Lost Steps  
Tayeb Salih, Season of Migration to the North  
Ngugi wa Thiong'o A Grain of Wheat  
V. S. Naipaul, A Bend in the River  
Caryl Phillips, Crossing the River  
Arundhati Roy, The God of Small Things

Others:

Hamlet : Iris Murdoch, The Black Prince  
Austen, Stevenson, and Brontë by Emma Tennant (in Pemberley, Two Women  
of  
London, and The French Dancer's Bastard)

8) Additional significant experimental texts:

Hermann Broch, The Death of Virgil  
Juan Rulfo, Perdo Paramo  
Raymond Queneau, The Bark Tree  
Louis-Ferdinand Celine, Journey to the End of the Night  
G. V. Desani, All About H. Hatterr  
Adolfo Bioy-Casares, A Plan for Escape  
Michel Butor, A Change of Heart  
Claude Simon, The Palace  
Robert Pinget, Passacaglia  
Carlos Fuentes, The Death of Artemio Cruz  
Tahar ben Jelloun, With Downcast Eyes  
Assia Djebar, Sister to Scheherazade  
Albert Wendt, Black Rainbow

9) Modern Drama

Büchner, Woyzek  
Ibsen, A Doll's House  
Strindberg, "The Stronger" or Miss Julie, A Dream Play  
Jarry, Ubu Roi  
Wilde, Importance of Being Earnest, An Ideal Husband  
Chekhov, The Seagull or The Cherry Orchard  
Synge, "Riders To the Sea," The Playboy of the Western World  
Lady Gregory, "Dervorgilla"  
Oscar Kokoshka, "Murderer, The Hope of Womankind"  
T. Tzara, "The Gas Heart"  
Glaspell, "Trifles," "Supressed Desires"  
Cocteau, "The Breasts of Tieresias"

Witkiewicz, "The Madman and the Nun"  
Luigi Pirandello, Six Characters  
W. B. Yeats, The Cuchulain Cycle, "Purgatory"  
Sophie Treadwell, Machinal  
Roger Vitrac, The Mysteries of Love  
Garcia Lorca, Blood Wedding  
O'Neill, The Great God Brown, Long Day's Journey into Night  
Brecht, The Good Person of Sechuan  
Tennessee Williams, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof  
Ionesco, The Bald Soprano, "Improvisation"  
Lillian Hellman, Little Foxes  
Lorraine Hansbery, Raisin in the Sun  
Jean Genet, The Maids The Blacks, or The Balcony  
Tewfik al Hakim, The Sultan's Dilemma, King Oedipus  
Samuel Beckett, Godot, Endgame, Play, "Krapp," "Casando," "Not I," "Breath,"  
"Catastrophe," "Ohio Impromptu," "Rockaby"  
Harold Pinter, The Caretaker, The Lover, "Landscape," "The Basement," Old  
Times, No  
Man's Land, "Family Voices"  
Caryl Churchill, Traps, "Vinegar Tom," Cloud Nine, Top Girls, "Blue Heart"  
Wole Soyinka, "The Swamp Dwellers," "The Strong Breed," Madmen and  
Specialists, Death and the King's Horseman  
Tom Stoppard, Rosencrantz and Guildenstern, Travesties, "Artist Descending a  
Staircase," Arcadia, Indian Ink  
Imamu Amiri Baraka, "Slave Ship"  
Peter Handke, "Offending the Audience"  
Adrienne Kennedy, "Funnyhouse of a Negro"  
Slawomir Mrozek, Tango  
Badal Sircar, Procession  
Marguerite Duras, India Song  
Vaclav Havel, The Garden Party or "Unveiling"  
Helene Cixous, Portrait of Dora  
Maria Irene Fornes, "Promenade," "Mud"  
Heiner Muller, "Hamletmachine"  
Sam Shepard, Buried Child, True West  
David Mamet, American Buffalo  
Luis Valdez, "Los Vendidos"  
Brian Friel, Translations  
Hanay Geiogamah, Foghorn  
August Wilson, Ma Rainey's Black Botton, Fences  
David Henry Hwang, M. Butterfly  
George C. Woolf, The Colored Museum  
Tony Kushner, Angels in America  
Paula Vogel, Baltimore Waltz, Hot 'n Throbbing

10) Modern Drama, History and Theory:

Christopher Innes, Modern British Drama, 1890-1990  
Peter Szondi, Theory of the Modern Drama  
Marvin Carlson, Theories of the Theatre  
Manfred Pfister, The Theory and Analysis of Drama  
Keir Elam, The Semiotics of Theatre and Drama  
Sue-Ellen Case, Feminism and Theatre  
Sue-Ellen Case, ed. Performing Feminisms  
Errol Hill, ed. The Theatre of Black Americans  
Tejumola Olaniyan, Scars of Conquest/Masks of Resistance  
Marc Robinson, The Other American Drama

11) Performance: Theory and Analysis:

Henry Sayre, The Object of Performance  
Peggy Phelan, Unmarked  
Judith Butler, Gender Trouble  
Lynda Hart and Peggy Phelan, eds, Acting Out: Feminist Performances  
Marvin Carlson, Performance: A Critical Introduction

12) Modern Visual Art, Aesthetics, etc

Roger Fry, Cezanne or Vision and Design  
Virginia Woolf, Roger Fry  
Clive Bell, Art  
Harold Rosenberg, The Tradition of the New, The Anxious Object  
Carl Schorske, Fin-de-Siecle Vienna  
T.J. Clark, Farewell to an Idea  
T.E. Hulme, "Modern Art and its Philosophy," "Bergson's Theory of Art,"  
"Romanticism  
and Classicism"  
H.D., Notes on Thought and Vision  
Ezra Pound, "The New Sculpture," "The Serious Artist"  
Desmond McCarthy, "The Post-Impressionists"  
Wyndham Lewis, "The Cubist Room"  
Tristan Tzara, "Not on Art," "Note on Negro Art"  
Ilya Zdanevich & Mikhail Larionov, "Why We Paint Ourselves: A Futurist  
Manifesto"  
Andre Breton, "First Manifesto of Surrealism"