

SUMMER READS 2024 : 1ère BFI

SUMMER ASSIGNMENT IN LITERATURE

Read as many as you like. You will note that there are fewer books in English than in French, (we will soon be reading so many books in English-only that I thought you could use a little break!), you may read the « World Lit » in English if you prefer.

The aim here is to **expand your horizons**, and hopefully **discover new worlds and ideas**. Now that you have survived this first year, you are ready for anything !

Try to use your instinct but also your literary 'inner-toolkit' when reading **tough books (see *)**.

Your summer reads will not only be useful for your BFI, **but also for the French Lit exams next school year**, and simply for you to grow !

Use libraries, family and friends, online/audio-books... You don't need to spend money on literature if you're smart.

World Literature (works you may read in any language you can!)

- *La métamorphose*, F Kafka (dystopic- fantasy – short-story : amazing & very short) *
- *Le palais des rêves*, I Kadaré (dystopic – dictatorship – set in Albania)
- *Le baron perché*, I Calvino (poetic – focus on childhood and identity - nature)
- *Kafka on the Shore*, H Murakami (poetic- stream of consciousness – Japan) *
- (3 tomes des) *Falsificateurs*, A Bello (conspiracy-dystopic-thriller)
- *Le rêve*, E Zola (XIXth French novel – one of the only merry and light novel by Zola)
- *L'amour au temps du choléra*, GG Marquez (Long-lasting love-story & long book)
- *Huis clos*, JP Sartre (Existentialist PLAY)
- *Ultramarins*, M Navarro (contemporary – poetical and existential short novel) *
- *Les mots*, JP Sartre (autobiography)
- *Rhinocéros*, Ionesco (PLAY : Theatre of the Absurd)
- Un des tomes de la série *Malaussène*, D Pennac (plutôt le 1er si possible!)
- *Oedipus King*, Sophocles (PLAY – universal and timeless classic)
- *L'écume des jours*, B Vian (fantasy – romance – drama – masterpiece -classic) *
- *Ravages*, Barjavel (dystopic – Apocalypse) *
- *Balzac et la petite tailleuse Chinoise*, D Sijie (China – education – dictatorship)
- *L'idiot*, F Dostoievski Disturbing – Russian and universal classic (Choose a RECENT translation, unless you can read Russian!) *
- *Les couilles sur la table*, C Tuaillion, version papier du fameux podcast féministe contemporain sur Binge Radio
- *Filles*, C Laurens (roman français contemporain – égalité homme/femme - famille)

Literature in English

- *Hamnet*, M O'Farrell (astounding fiction around Shakespeare's family, esp his wife) *
- *Hard Times*, C Dickens (social classes - UK – XIXth – industrial revolution)
- *The Namesake*, J Lahiri (conflicting cultures and religions – social classes- Indian culture)
- *Girl, Woman, Other*, B Evaristo (stunning contemporary British novel – focus on the diversity of XXIst women – inclusive writing) *

American Literature & Non-Fiction

- *We Should All Be Feminists*, C Adichie (very short) (contemporary non fiction // also watch her TEDConference)
- *Dawn*, Octavia E Butler (Afro-feminist dystopia)
- *The Scarlet Letter*, N Hawthorne (identity – prejudice – romance – sin – classic) *
- *The Vanishing-Half*, B Bennett (ethnicity – sisterhood/family bonds- identity- incredible novel)
- *The Water Dancer*, Ta-Nehisi Coates (amazing fantasy-historical-like tale of slavery) **
- *Heart of Darkness*, J Conrad (initiation – colonialism – typically-likely-to-be-on-the-BFI-syllabus-kind of- XIXth novel, won't be on ours though !) *
- *Fences*, A Wilson (PLAY)

Poetry

- Apollinaire, *Calligrammes*
- Eluard, *Capitale de la douleur*
- Saint-John Perse, *Vents*
- Verlaine, *Fêtes galantes*
- Verhaeren, *Les villes tentaculaires*
- Breton, *Clair de terre*
- Neruda, *La centaine d'amour*
- Yeats, *Lyric Poems*
- Vian, *Je voudrais pas crever*
- Whitman, *Leaves of Grass*
- Baudelaire, *Les fleurs du mal*
- Kaur, *The sun and Her Flowers*
- Cummings, *Selected poems*
- C A Duffy, *Rapture*
- Atwood, *Dearly*

