

Prescribed texts nominated by schools in 2023

English and English as an Additional Language (EAL)

The QCAA developed the prescribed text lists for the English and English as an Additional Language senior syllabuses to ensure students and schools had access to a rich resource of texts suitable for study at senior secondary level and included texts that reflected the diversity of school contexts, cultural and religious sensitivities, and the range of student cohorts.

The criteria and guidelines for the text selection are available on the QCAA website in the English senior syllabus webpages, under Related resources in the Teaching tab.

The following tables set out the number of schools that selected each prescribed text for English and EAL in 2023. The data was extracted from the registration of choices by schools in the Prescribed Lists application in the QCAA Portal.

Note: Some schools offer multiple texts for one piece of assessment or within one unit.

Key: ^ indicates where fewer than five schools selected the text.

External assessment texts

Text	Number of schools
<i>Burial Rites</i> — Hannah Kent	34
<i>Hamlet</i> — William Shakespeare	70
<i>Jane Eyre</i> — Charlotte Brontë	10
<i>Macbeth</i> — William Shakespeare	380
<i>Never Let Me Go</i> — Kazuo Ishiguro	25
<i>The White Earth</i> — Andrew McGahan	11
<i>The Yield</i> — Tara June Winch	7
<i>We Are All Completely Beside Ourselves</i> — Karen Joy Fowler	12

Novels and prose texts

Text	Number of schools
<i>After Darkness</i> — Christine Piper	^
<i>Behind the Beautiful Forevers</i> — Katherine Boo	^
<i>Cat's Eye</i> — Margaret Atwood (from 2023)	^
<i>Do Not Say We Have Nothing</i> — Madeleine Thien	^
<i>Fahrenheit 451</i> — Ray Bradbury	70
<i>Frankenstein</i> — Mary Shelley	59
<i>Growing up Aboriginal in Australia</i> — Anita Heiss	10
<i>Growing up Asian in Australia</i> — Alice Pung	7
<i>Into Thin Air</i> — Jon Krakauer	^
<i>Island: The complete stories</i> (collection of short stories) — Alistair MacLeod	^
<i>March</i> — Geraldine Brooks	^
<i>Nineteen Eighty-Four</i> — George Orwell	56
<i>Persepolis: The story of a childhood</i> (graphic novel) — Marjane Satrapi	11
<i>Pride and Prejudice</i> — Jane Austen	18
<i>Schindler's Ark</i> (also known as <i>Schindler's List</i>) — Thomas Keneally	13
Short stories by Frank O'Connor	^
Short stories by Katherine Mansfield	12
<i>Talking to My Country</i> — Stan Grant	11
<i>The Arsonist</i> — Chloe Hooper	7
<i>The Cellist of Sarajevo</i> — Steven Galloway	42
<i>The Color of Water</i> — James McBride	^
<i>The Great Gatsby</i> — F Scott Fitzgerald	120
<i>The Hound of the Baskervilles</i> — Arthur Conan Doyle	^
<i>The Martian</i> — Andy Weir	6
<i>The Namesake</i> — Jhumpa Lahiri	^
<i>The Turning</i> (collection of short stories) — Tim Winton	56

Plays and drama texts

Text	Number of schools
<i>As You Like It</i> — William Shakespeare	^
<i>Away</i> — Michael Gow	^
<i>Black Diggers</i> — Tom Wright	15
<i>Così</i> — Louis Nowra	11
<i>Counting and Cracking</i> — S Shakthidharan	^
<i>Inheritance</i> — Hannie Rayson	^
<i>Lady Windermere's Fan</i> — Oscar Wilde	^
<i>Switzerland</i> — Joanna Murray-Smith	^
<i>The 7 Stages of Grieving</i> — Wesley Enoch and Deborah Mailman	^
<i>The Appleton Ladies' Potato Race</i> — Melanie Tait	^
<i>The Crucible</i> — Arthur Miller	54
<i>The Drover's Wife</i> — Leah Purcell	16

Film and television/multimodal texts

Text (title followed by director/creator)	Number of schools
<i>2001: A Space Odyssey</i> — Stanley Kubrick	5
<i>A Beautiful Mind</i> — Ron Howard	5
<i>Ali's Wedding</i> — Jeffrey Walker	8
<i>Amelie</i> — Jean-Pierre Jeunet	^
<i>Australian Story</i> (documentary series) — ABC	83
<i>Billy Elliot</i> — Stephen Daldry	8
<i>Blade Runner</i> — Ridley Scott	53
<i>Brooklyn</i> — John Crowley	11
<i>Cleverman</i> (TV series) — Wayne Blair and Leah Purcell	8
<i>Four Corners</i> (documentary series) — ABC	149
<i>Good Night, and Good Luck</i> — George Clooney	6
<i>Hero</i> — Zhang Yimou	^
<i>Hidden Figures</i> — Theodore Melfi	52
<i>Howl's Moving Castle</i> — Hayao Miyazaki	^
<i>JoJo Rabbit</i> — Taika Waititi	28
<i>Little Miss Sunshine</i> — Jonathan Dayton and Valerie Faris	27
<i>Little Women</i> — Greta Gerwig	6
<i>Mabo</i> (TV film) — Rachel Perkins	13
<i>Park Avenue: Money, power and the American dream</i> (documentary) — Alex Gibney	33
<i>Rear Window</i> — Alfred Hitchcock	^
<i>Reindeer in my Saami Heart</i> — Janet Merewether	^
<i>Sherlock</i> (TV series) — Mark Gatiss and Steven Moffat	7
<i>Stranger Things</i> season one (TV series) — the Duffer Brothers	38
<i>The Australian Dream</i> — Daniel Gordon	10
<i>The King's Speech</i> — Tom Hooper	^
<i>Tsotsi</i> — Gavin Hood	7

Poetry

Poet	Number of schools
Ali Alizadeh	84
Ali Cobby Eckermann	92
Bruce Dawe	107
Carol Ann Duffy	115
Emily Dickinson	99
John Donne	27
John Keats	47
Judith Wright	99
Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner	57
Kirli Saunders	35
Luka Lesson	58
Robert Browning	70
Robert Frost	116
Samuel Wagan Watson	69
Sylvia Plath	117
WB Yeats	47
Wilfred Owen	137

More information

If you would like more information, please email EnglishandLanguages@qcaa.qld.edu.au



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