

Prescribed texts nominated by schools in 2023

Literature

The QCAA developed the prescribed text lists for the English, English as an Additional Language, and Literature 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 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>Catch-22</i> — Joseph Heller	^
<i>In Cold Blood</i> — Truman Capote	58
<i>King Lear</i> — William Shakespeare	90
<i>Mrs Dalloway</i> — Virginia Woolf	5
<i>That Deadman Dance</i> — Kim Scott	^
<i>The Tempest</i> — William Shakespeare	34
<i>The Poisonwood Bible</i> — Barbara Kingsolver	17
<i>Wuthering Heights</i> — Emily Brontë	13

Novels and prose texts

Text	Number of schools
<i>Anna Karenina</i> — Leo Tolstoy	^
<i>Art Objects</i> (collection of essays) — Jeanette Winterson	^
<i>Bleak House</i> — Charles Dickens	^
<i>Carpentaria</i> — Alexis Wright	^
Collections of essays by John Gardner	^
<i>Foreign Soil</i> — Maxine Beneba Clarke	5
<i>Heart of Darkness</i> — Joseph Conrad	23
<i>Life After Life</i> — Kate Atkinson	8
<i>Like a House on Fire</i> — short stories by Cate Kennedy	10
<i>My Uncle Napoleon</i> — Iraj Pezeshkzad	^
<i>Only the Animals</i> (linked collection of short stories) — Ceridwen Dovey	21
<i>Persuasion</i> — Jane Austen	11
Short stories by Amy Witting	21
Short stories by Annie Proulx	24
Short stories by Edgar Allan Poe	35
Short stories by George Saunders	13
Short stories by Ursula K Le Guin	37
<i>Snow Falling on Cedars</i> — David Guterson	^
<i>Swallow the Air</i> — Tara June Winch	^
<i>The Complete Maus</i> (graphic novel — two volumes) — Art Spiegelman	17
<i>The Good People</i> — Hannah Kent	14
<i>The Labyrinth</i> — Amanda Lohrey	^
<i>The Man in the High Castle</i> — Philip K Dick	^
<i>The Meursault Investigation</i> — Kamel Daoud	^
<i>The Penelopiad: The Myth of Penelope and Odysseus</i> — Margaret Atwood	5
<i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i> — Oscar Wilde	30
<i>The Quiet American</i> — Graham Greene	8
<i>The Remains of the Day</i> — Kazuo Ishiguro	^
<i>The Sound of Things Falling</i> — Juan Gabriel Vásquez	^
<i>The White Tiger</i> — Aravind Adiga	12
<i>Things Fall Apart</i> — Chinua Achebe	24

Plays and drama texts

Text	Number of schools
<i>A Doll's House</i> — Henrik Ibsen	12
<i>A Man for All Seasons</i> — Robert Bolt	9
<i>A Taste of Honey</i> — Shelagh Delaney	^
<i>Black is the New White</i> — Nakkiah Lui	^
<i>Black Medea</i> — Wesley Enoch	20
<i>By the Bog of Cats</i> — Marina Carr	^
<i>Cat on a Hot Tin Roof</i> — Tennessee Williams	7
<i>City of Gold</i> — Meyne Watt	^
<i>Constellations</i> — Nick Payne	5
<i>Death and the Maiden</i> — Ariel Dorfman	5
<i>Hotel Sorrento</i> — Hannie Rayson	^
<i>Photograph 51</i> — Anna Ziegler	^
<i>Rainbow's End</i> — Jane Harrison	8
<i>Shafana and Aunt Sarrinah</i> — Alana Valentine	^
<i>Terror</i> — Ferdinand von Schirach	6
<i>The Real Thing</i> — Tom Stoppard	^
<i>The Winter's Tale</i> — William Shakespeare	^
<i>Uncle Vanya</i> — Anton Chekhov	^
<i>Wit</i> — Margaret Edson	5

Film and television/multimodal texts

Text (title followed by director/creator)	Number of schools
<i>Alias Grace</i> — Mary Harron	^
<i>Arrival</i> — Denis Villeneuve	12
<i>Beneath Clouds</i> — Ivan Sen	10
<i>Elementary</i> (TV series) — Robert Doherty	^
<i>Gattaca</i> — Andrew Niccol	22
<i>Glitch</i> (TV series) — Emma Freeman	5
<i>Hugo</i> — Martin Scorsese	^
<i>Interstellar</i> — Christopher Nolan	^
<i>Knives Out</i> — Rian Johnson	7
<i>Mad Max: Fury Road</i> — George Miller	5
<i>Pan's Labyrinth</i> — Guillermo del Toro	^
<i>Parasite</i> — Bong Joon-ho	8
<i>Picnic at Hanging Rock</i> — Peter Weir	14
<i>Radiance</i> — Rachel Perkins	12
<i>Raise the Red Lantern</i> — Zhang Yimou	8
<i>Rebecca</i> — Alfred Hitchcock	9
<i>Run Lola Run</i> — Tom Tykwer	13
<i>Sweet Country</i> — Warwick Thornton	20
<i>Ten Canoes</i> — Rolf de Heer and Peter Djigirr	^
<i>The Gods of Wheat Street</i> (TV series) — Wayne Blair, Catriona McKenzie and Adrian Russell Wills	8
<i>True Grit</i> — Ethan Coen and Joel Coen	11
<i>Wadjda</i> — Haifaa al-Mansour	6
<i>World War Z</i> — Marc Forster	^

Poetry

Poet	Number of schools
Alison Whittaker	9
Christina Rossetti	39
Elizabeth Barrett Browning	35
Ellen van Neerven	45
Gerard Manley Hopkins	9
Gwen Harwood	56
James McAuley	10
Kae Tempest	28
Les Murray	35
Lionel Fogarty	22
Maya Angelou	69
Pablo Neruda	31
Rosemary Dobson	18
Seamus Heaney	20
TS Eliot	38
WH Auden	36

More information

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



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