**Classic English Reading**

These are short, famous texts in English from classic sources like the Bible or Shakespeare. Some texts have word definitions and explanations to help you. Some of these texts are written in an old style of English. Try to understand them, because the English that we speak today is based on what our great, great, great, great grandparents spoke before! Of course, not all these texts were originally written in English. The Bible, for example, is a translation. But they are all well known in English today, and many of them express beautiful thoughts.

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| |  | | --- | | **Elementary** | | http://www.englishclub.com/reading/star.gif | | [I Wish I Loved...](http://www.englishclub.com/reading/cr-wish-loved-human-race.htm) | | [Monday's Child](http://www.englishclub.com/reading/cr-mondays-child.htm) | | [The Walrus & the Carpenter](http://www.englishclub.com/reading/cr-walrus-carpenter.htm) | | [The Grasshopper](http://www.englishclub.com/reading/cr-grasshopper.htm) | | [The Hare & the Tortoise](http://www.englishclub.com/reading/cr-hare-tortoise.htm) | | [The Hare & the Hound](http://www.englishclub.com/reading/cr-hare-hound.htm) | | |  | | --- | | **Intermediate** | | http://www.englishclub.com/reading/star.gifhttp://www.englishclub.com/reading/star.gifhttp://www.englishclub.com/reading/star.gif | | [Declaration of Independence](http://www.englishclub.com/reading/cr-american-declaration.htm) | | [Away In A Manger](http://www.englishclub.com/reading/cr-away-manger.htm) | | [For now we see...](http://www.englishclub.com/reading/cr-through-glass-darkly.htm) | | [Futility](http://www.englishclub.com/reading/cr-futility.htm) | | [If](http://www.englishclub.com/reading/cr-if.htm) | | [I shall not pass](http://www.englishclub.com/reading/cr-shall-not-pass.htm) | | [Ozymandias](http://www.englishclub.com/reading/cr-ozymandias.htm) | | [Rune of St Patrick](http://www.englishclub.com/reading/cr-rune-patrick.htm) | | [The Female of the Species](http://www.englishclub.com/reading/cr-female-species.htm) | | [The Lord is my shepherd](http://www.englishclub.com/reading/cr-lord-my-shepherd.htm) | | [To be, or not to be](http://www.englishclub.com/reading/cr-to-be-or-not-to-be.htm) | | [To every thing...](http://www.englishclub.com/reading/cr-time-to-be-born.htm) | | |  | | --- | | **Advanced** | | http://www.englishclub.com/reading/star.gifhttp://www.englishclub.com/reading/star.gifhttp://www.englishclub.com/reading/star.gifhttp://www.englishclub.com/reading/star.gifhttp://www.englishclub.com/reading/star.gif | | [Desiderata](http://www.englishclub.com/reading/cr-desiderata.htm) | | [Lilies of the Field](http://www.englishclub.com/reading/cr-lilies-field.htm) | | [The Sick Rose](http://www.englishclub.com/reading/cr-sick-rose.htm) | | [Song of Solomon](http://www.englishclub.com/reading/cr-song-solomon.htm) | | [The Tiger](http://www.englishclub.com/reading/cr-tiger-tiger.htm) | | **Shakespeare** | | [I had rather be a toad...](http://www.englishclub.com/reading/cr-shakespeare-rather-toad.htm) | | [What a piece of work...](http://www.englishclub.com/reading/cr-shakespeare-piece-of-work.htm) | | [When forty winters...](http://www.englishclub.com/reading/cr-shakespeare-sonnet-002.htm) | | [Shall I compare thee...](http://www.englishclub.com/reading/cr-shakespeare-sonnet-018.htm) | | [Weary with toil...](http://www.englishclub.com/reading/cr-shakespeare-sonnet-027.htm) | | [They that have power...](http://www.englishclub.com/reading/cr-shakespeare-sonnet-094.htm) | | [Let me not...](http://www.englishclub.com/reading/cr-shakespeare-sonnet-116.htm) | |