

## Summer recommendations

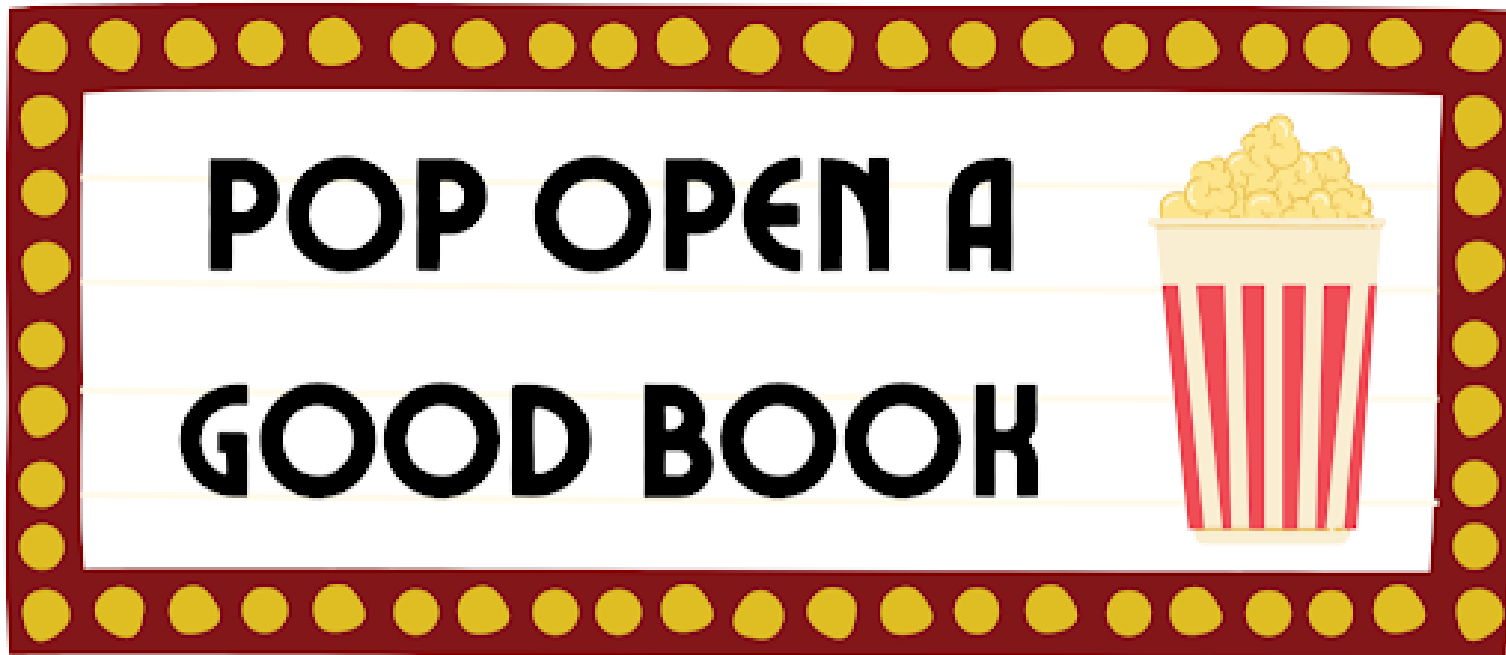
Here are a few recommendations of books you could read this summer, starting with books specifically for students and moving on to « real » books in English!



# Read the press

- As usual, you are strongly advised to follow the news and read the press in English. Read up on any topic that interests you but in quality papers: *The Times*, *The New York Times*, *The Washington Post*, *The Economist*, for instance.
- Most newspapers are fee-paying but remember that the website of the British newspaper *The Guardian* is entirely free: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk>

# Books for students





Nathaniel Hawthorne

# The Scarlet Letter



free Audiobook



## Black Cat editions

- Stories from famous/ classical authors
- You can choose the level of difficulty (B1 if you're not too confident – B2 which is the level expected at the Bac, or C1 if you feel braver!)
- There are some activities at the end of each chapter: comprehension questions, grammar and vocabulary exercises so these books are great to practice and learn.

6 / 4 / 2025

# Other books: authentic stories in English

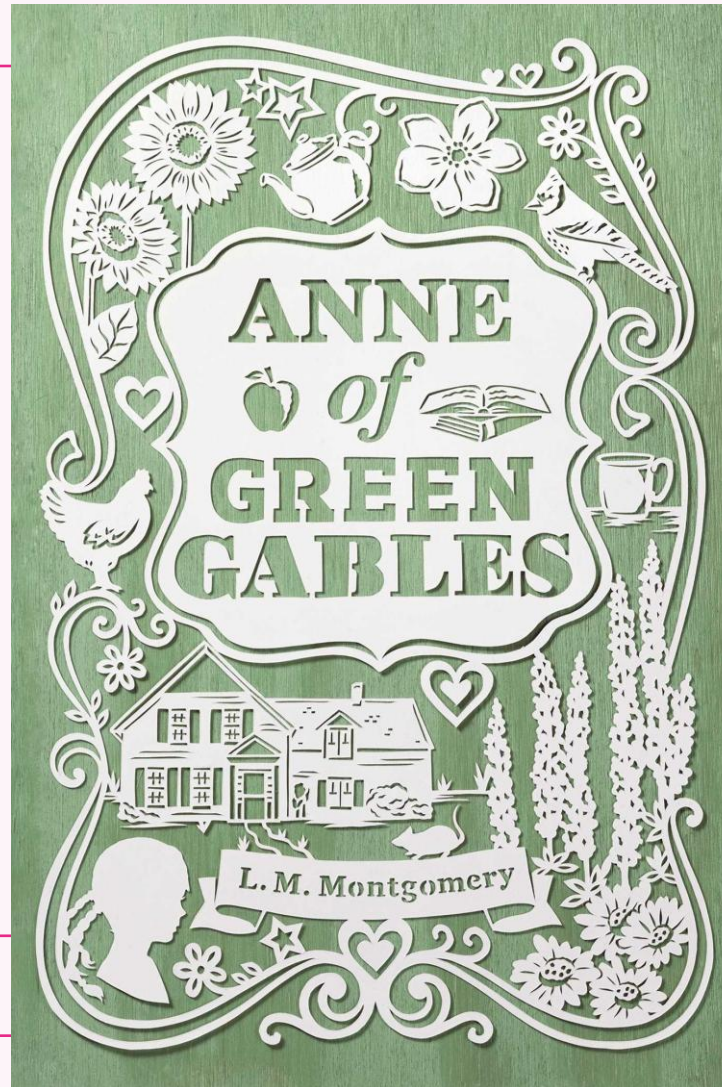
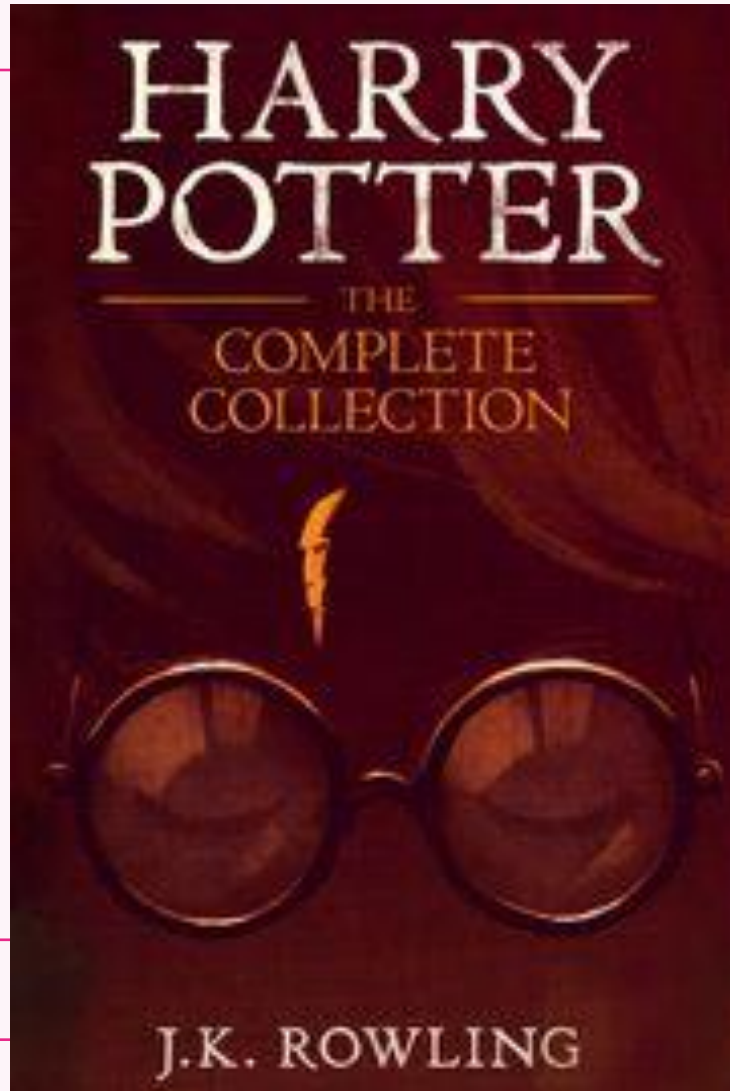
NB: Among the following propositions, a few are on the curriculum for the LLCE students in 1e. You can thus find them in versions specifically designed for French students, with vocabulary help (*Hatier* or *Belin* editions).

*Of Mice and Men*, "The Fall of the House of Usher"/ "The Tell-Tale Heart", *The Importance of Being Earnest*, *To Kill a Mockingbird* and *Animal Farm*

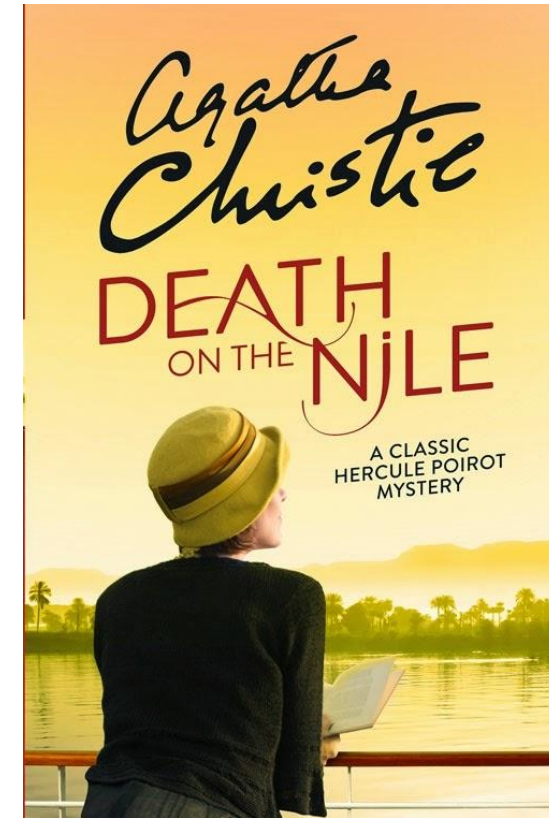
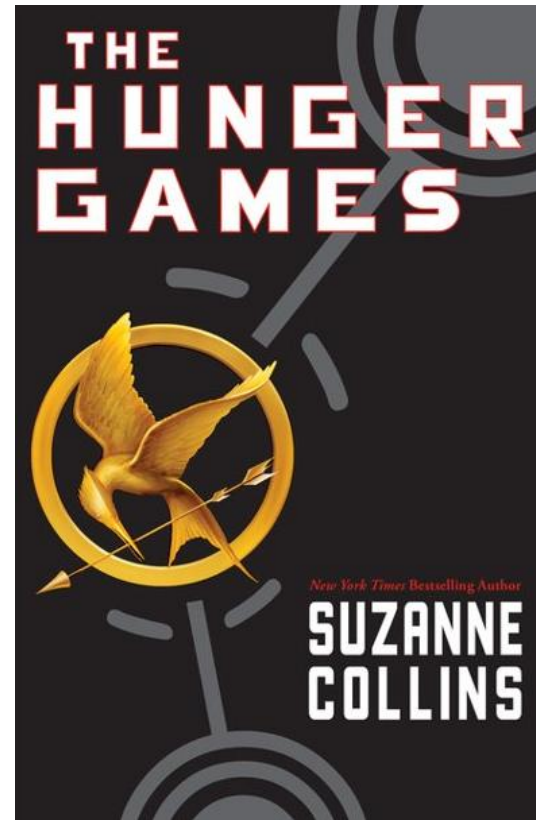
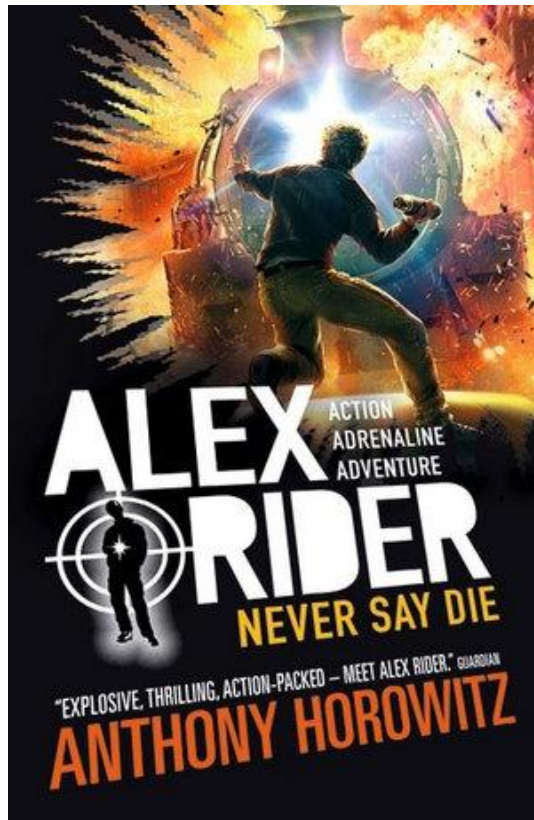


# Classics of children's literature –

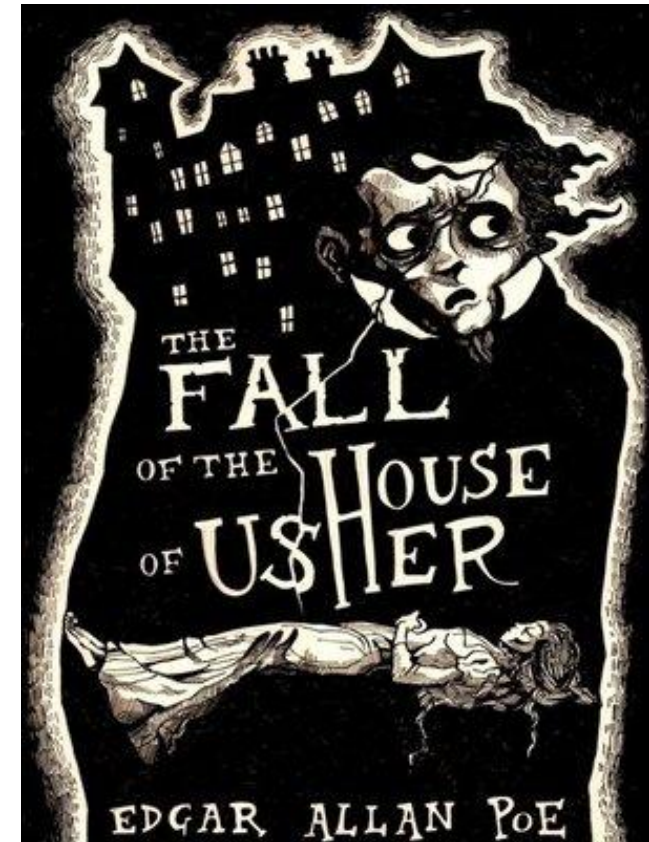
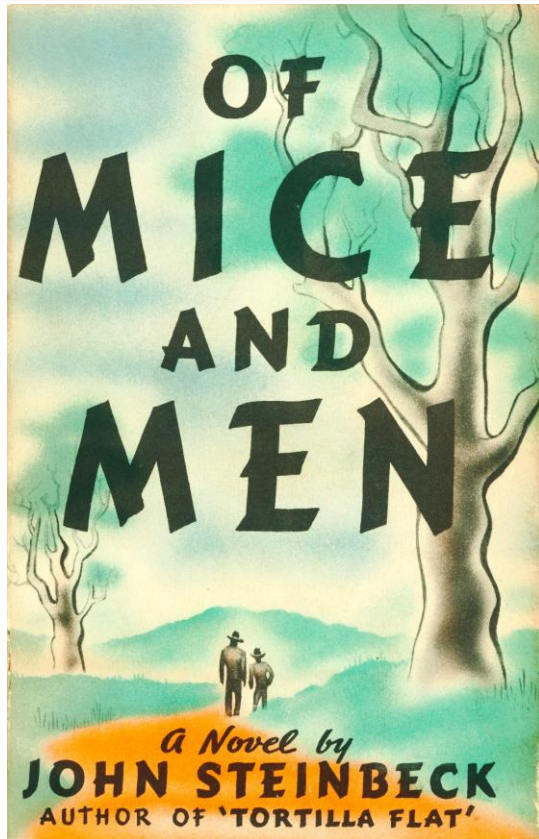
*These were all adapted into movies or TV series. It is easier to understand the English book if you already know the overall plot!*







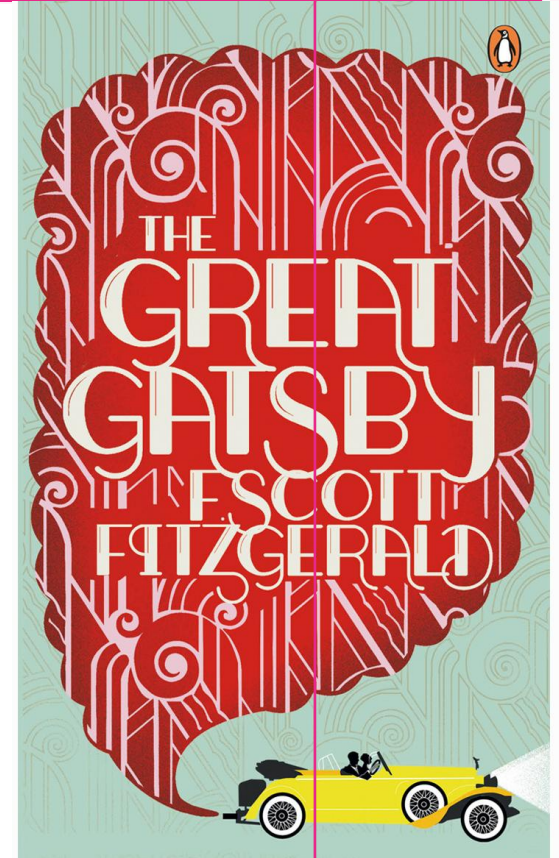
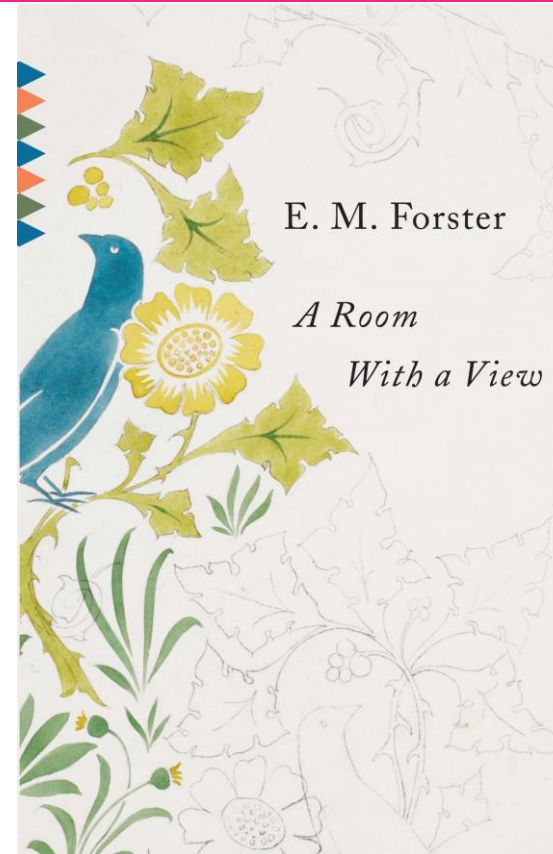
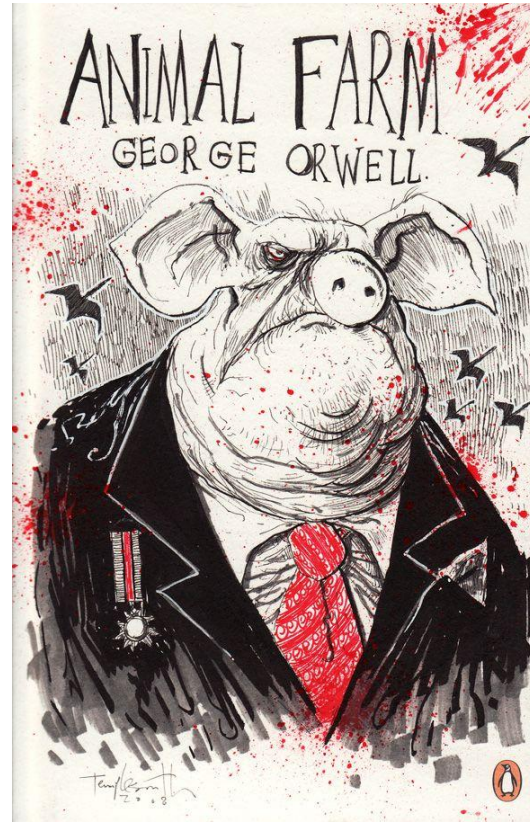
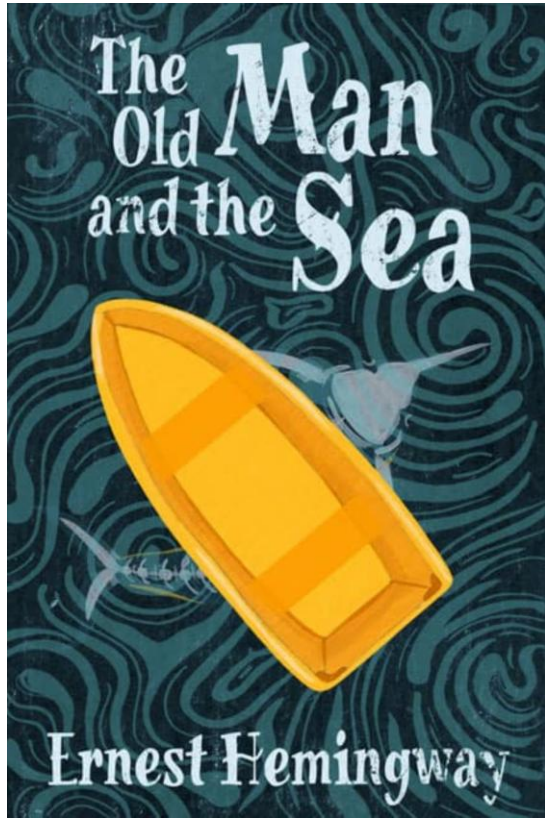
# Young adults' literature



## Novellas and short stories:

*Slightly less challenging because shorter than a novel but still amazing and beloved stories in the English-speaking world!*



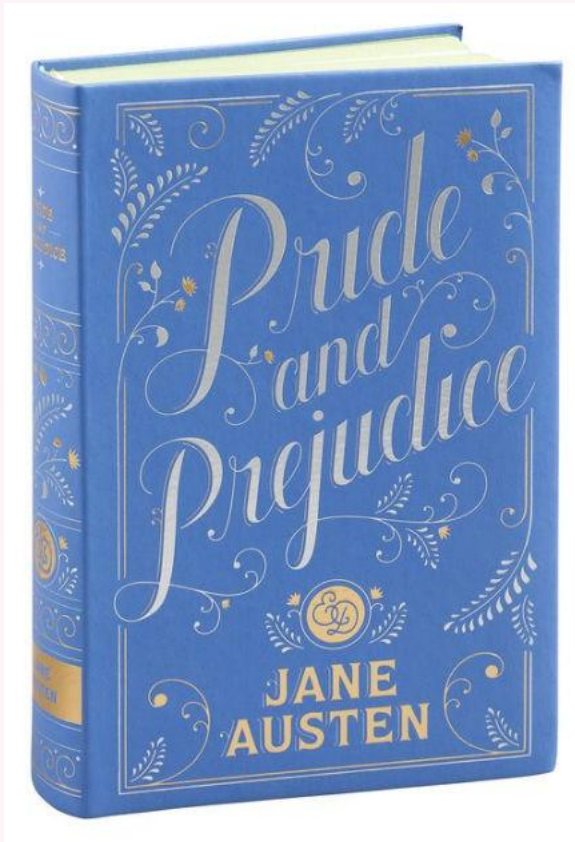


## (Short) Novels:

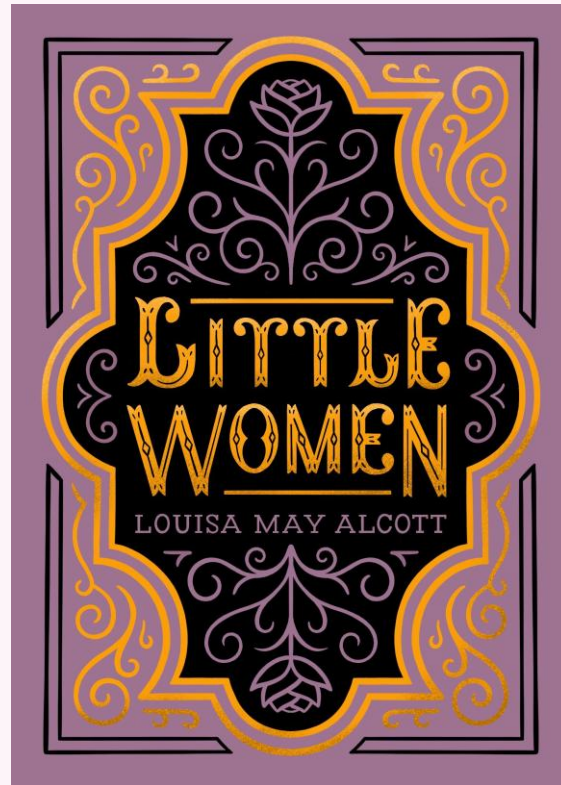
*I have ranked them from the easiest to the most difficult to read.*



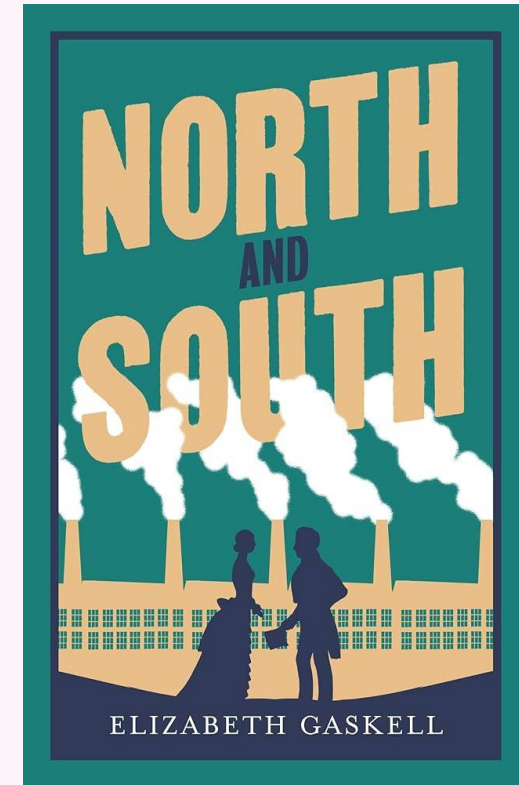
**Novels:** *These novels are among the most famous in world literature. Apart from Gaskell's they are unrelated to our chapters but I am mentioning them because some of my students of 1<sup>e</sup> have read them, which means that you can do it too! All of them have been adapted into films and / or TV series which might also help you understand the story. Follow the links to learn more about the plot.*



<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Pride-and-Prejudice>

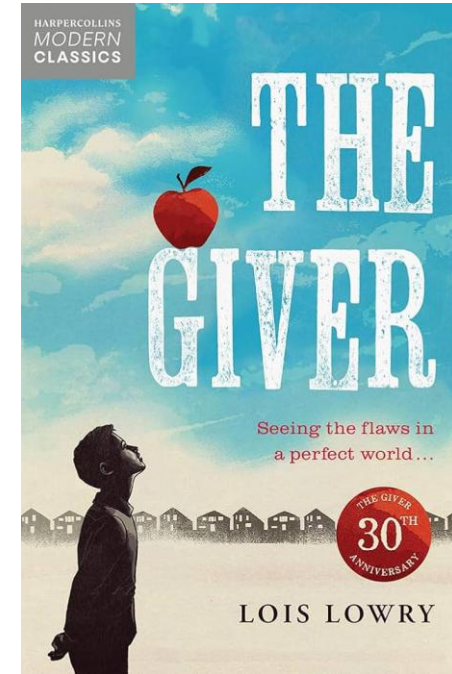
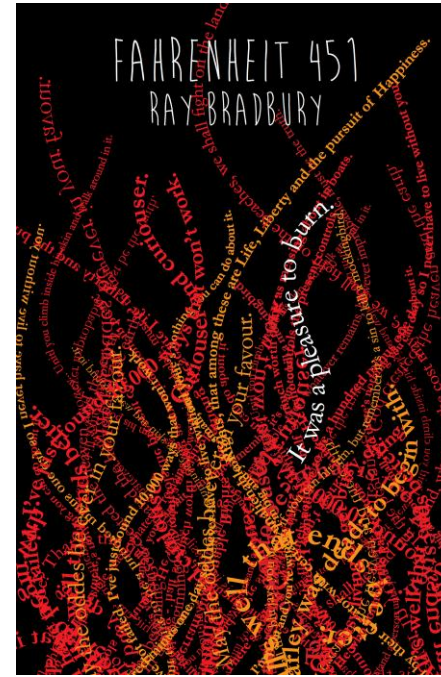
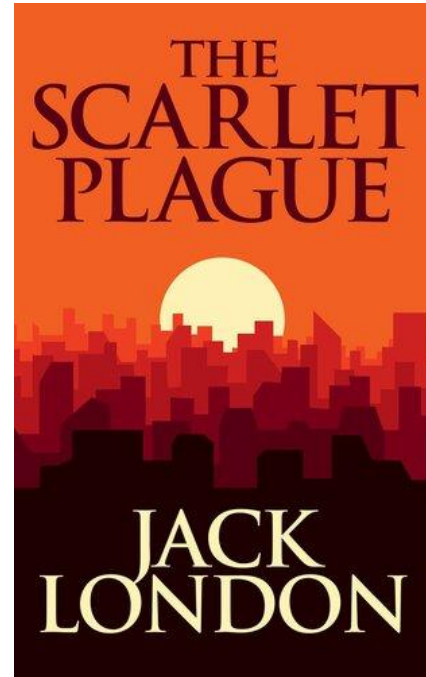
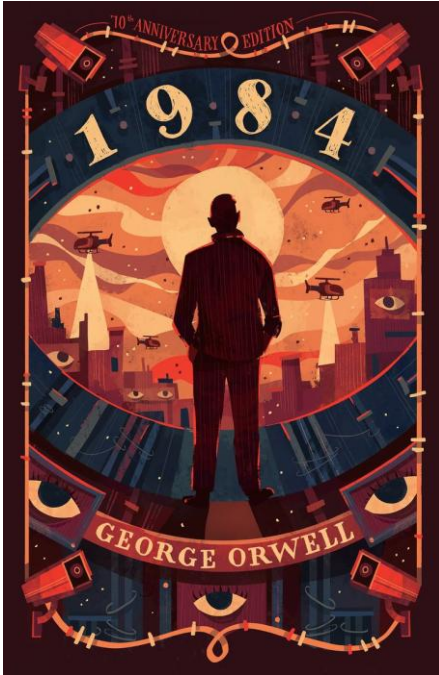


<https://www.britannica.com/topic/Little-Women-novel-by-Alcott>

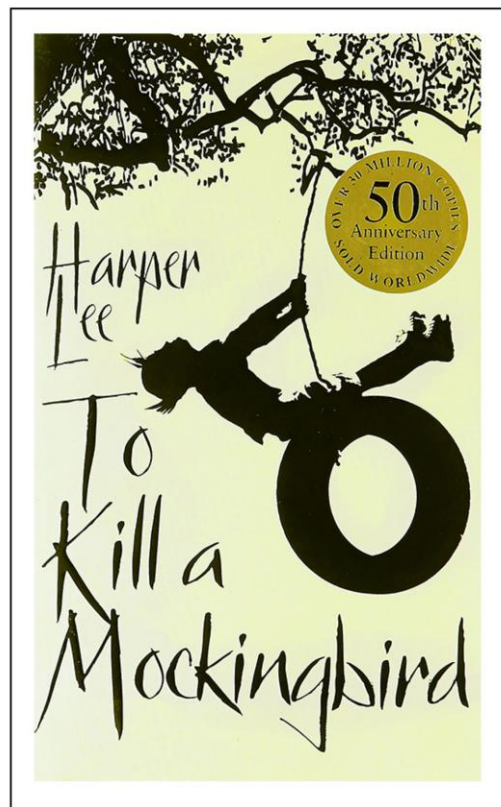


<https://www.univ.ox.ac.uk/book/north-and-south/>

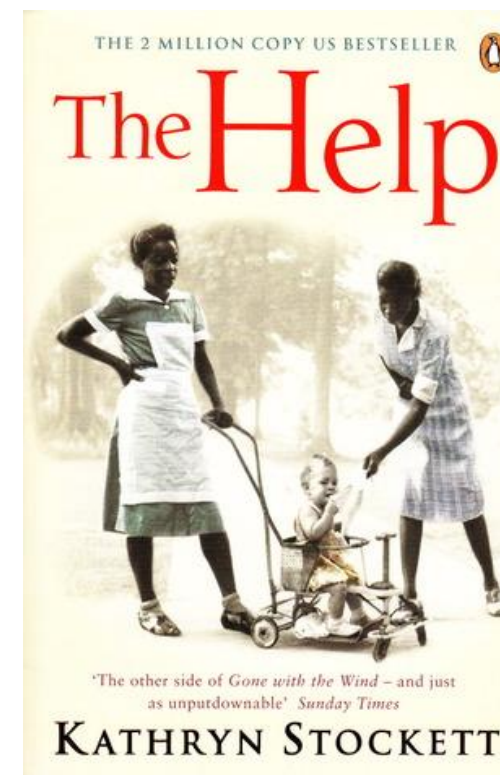




**Dystopian novels: *let's not forget the dystopian novels your classmates have read and presented. Here are a few reminders.***

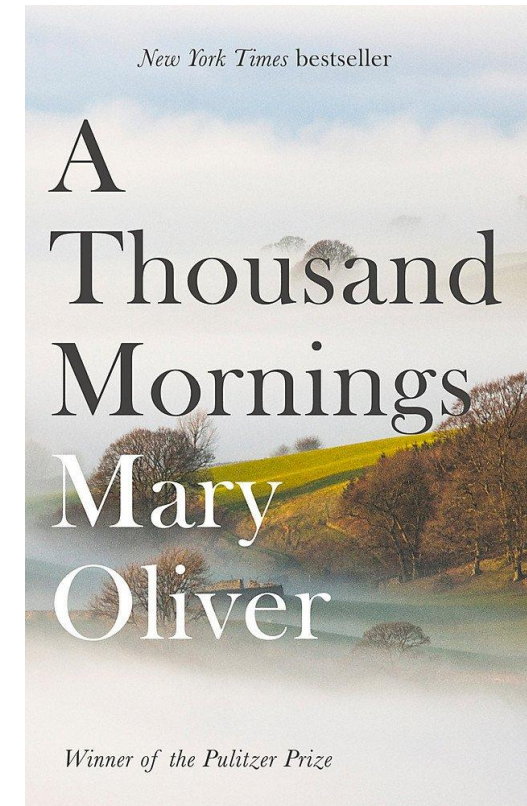
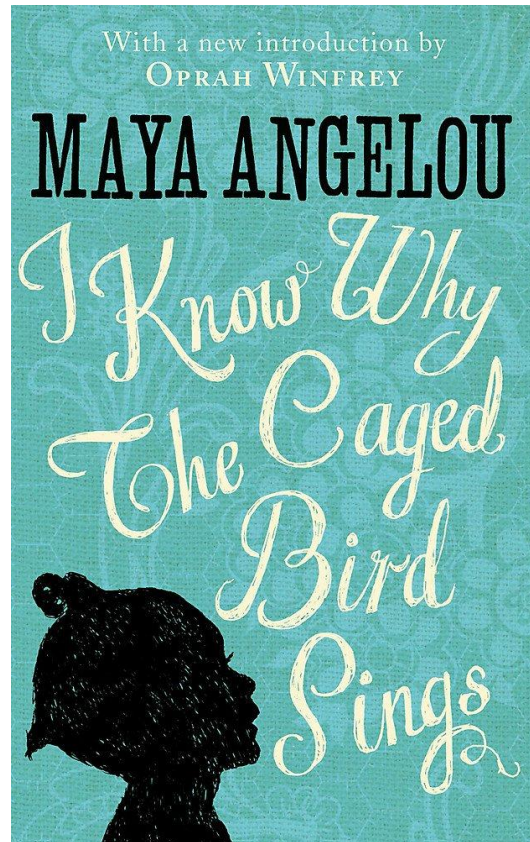
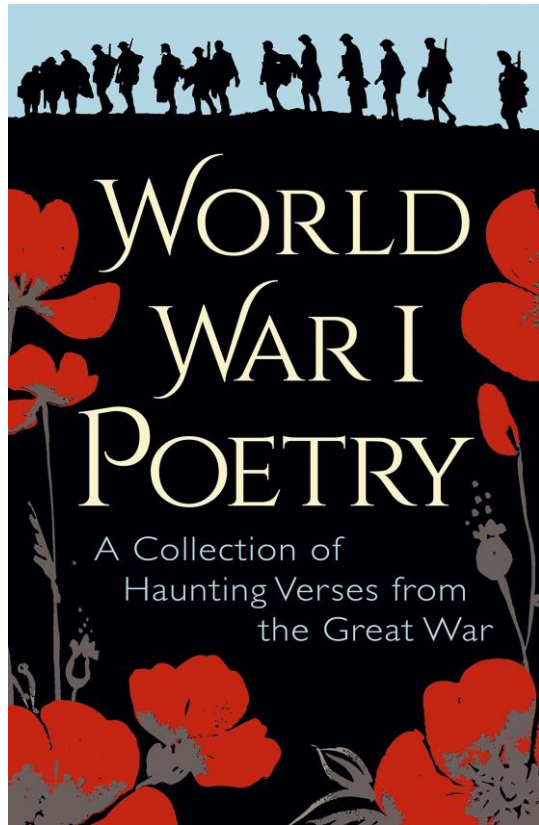


Gregory Peck and Brock Peters in the 1962 adaptation of *To Kill a Mockingbird* by Robert Mulligan



**Stories on next year's curriculum:**  
(Segregation in the US and the Civil Rights Movement).  
Both of these novels have also been adapted into films.





**Poetry (should not be scary!):**

**WW1 British poetry** is very powerful. Check out **Wilfred Owen** or **Sigfried Sassoon**.

**Maya Angelou** is a famous African-American 20<sup>th</sup> century poetess and Civil Rights activist. She is also an excellent read to prepare for next year's curriculum.

**Mary Oliver** is a contemporary poetess who wrote simple (very easy to read and understand) yet moving poetry. Check out "I Worried" or "Wild Geese" for example.

# Some examples of poems in English

I opened a book and in I strode  
Now nobody can find me.  
I've left my chair, my house, my road,  
My town and my world behind me.

I'm wearing the cloak, I've slipped on the ring,  
I've swallowed the magic potion.  
I've fought with a dragon, dined with a king  
And dived in a bottomless ocean.

I opened a book and made some friends.  
I shared their tears and laughter  
And followed their road with its bumps and bends  
To the happily ever after.

I finished my book and out I came.  
The cloak can no longer hide me.  
My chair and my house are just the same,  
But I have a book inside me.

Julia Donaldson



# ‘Sometimes’, Sheenagh Pugh

Sometimes things don’t go, after all,  
from bad to worse. Some years, muscadel  
faces down frost; green thrives; the crops don’t fail.  
Sometimes a man aims high, and all goes well.

A people sometimes will step back from war,  
elect an honest man, decide they care  
enough, that they can’t leave some stranger poor.  
Some men become what they were born for.

Sometimes our best intentions do not go  
amiss; sometimes we do as we meant to.  
The sun will sometimes melt a field of sorrow  
that seemed hard frozen; may it happen for you.

# 'The Summer Day', Mary Oliver

Who made the world?

Who made the swan, and the black bear?

Who made the grasshopper?

This grasshopper, I mean—

the one who has flung herself out of the grass,

the one who is eating sugar out of my hand,

who is moving her jaws back and forth instead of up and down—

who is gazing around with her enormous and complicated eyes.

Now she lifts her pale forearms and thoroughly washes her face.

Now she snaps her wings open, and floats away.

I don't know exactly what a prayer is.

I do know how to pay attention, how to fall down  
into the grass, how to kneel down in the grass,  
how to be idle and blessed, how to stroll through the fields,  
which is what I have been doing all day.

Tell me, what else should I have done?

Doesn't everything die at last, and too soon?

Tell me, what is it you plan to do  
with your one wild and precious life?