

What does it take to read and understand the GCSE English Literature texts?

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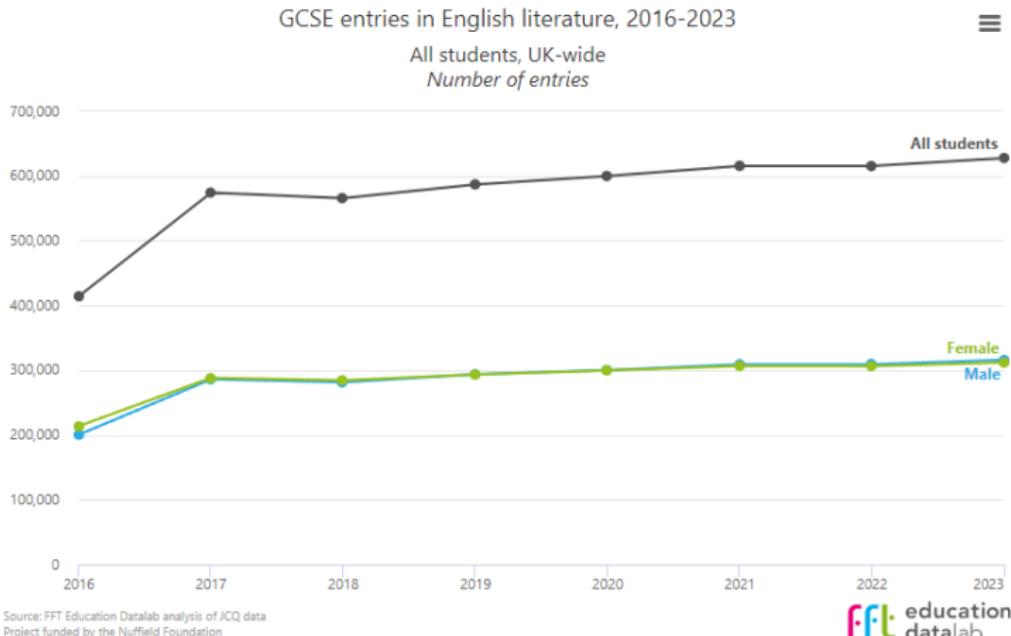
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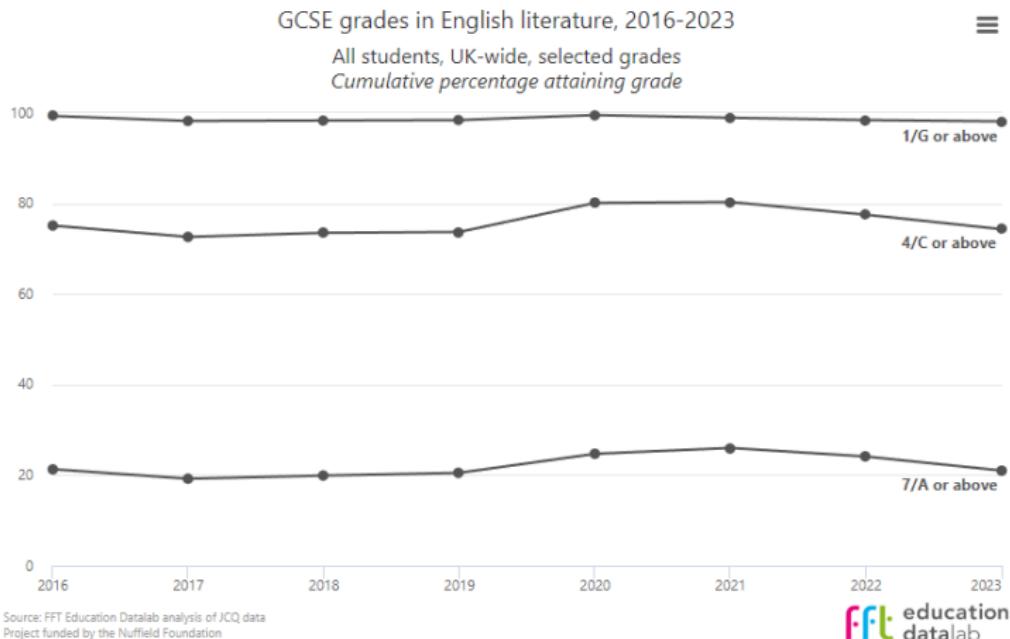
Research & Practice 2024

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25% of candidates do not achieve the grade 4



What's the vocabulary like in GCSE books?

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- 32 prose books from the AQA & EdExcel specifications



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- Compared to 200 samples of 32 books popular with teenagers

The CYP-LEX project

1,200 books that British children & young people read for pleasure

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7–9



10–12



13+



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- Original research article free to view & download:
<https://doi.org/10.1177/17470218241229694>

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- Original research article free to view & download:
<https://doi.org/10.1177/17470218241229694>
- Accessible blog post with key findings:
<https://www.rastlelab.com/post/what-words-do-children-encounter-when-they-read-for-pleasure>

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- May be harder to understand the text as a whole

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- Weaker readers may not be able to engage with these texts

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- Only possible with advanced language & reading skills

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Future reviews **must consider the wide variation in reading & language skills** that pupils bring into the classroom

How do children understand the meanings of words?

We need your help to find out!

Looking for pupils in Year 3 through to Year 11

English as main language / no special educational needs



Part 1

How much do children
read? (10min)

Recognition of books
and authors

Starting now



Part 2

Does reading experience
predict literacy? (45min)

Vocabulary, spelling,
word knowledge tasks

Starting in September



If you are interested in taking part or need further details, please get in touch!

Holly.Cooper@rhul.ac.uk or [Kathy.Rastle@rhul.ac.uk](mailto>Kathy.Rastle@rhul.ac.uk)

Thank you!