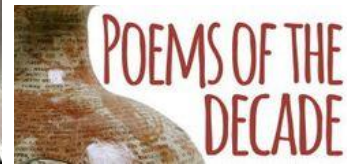


## **PRE-READING FOR A-LEVEL ENGLISH**



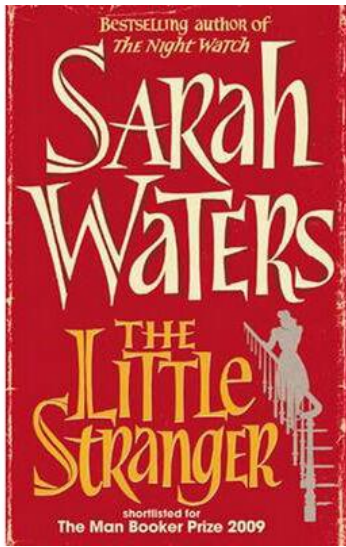
**Welcome to A-Level English! The English Department is looking forward to sharing an exciting journey of literary discovery with you!**

Here are just some of the benefits of taking your study of English beyond GCSE:

- You will read a rich range of wonderful novels, poems and plays.
- English is creative! Reading and responding to literature makes you think, feel and change.
- Your teachers are full of enthusiasm. We LOVE our subject!
- English is sociable! A Level lessons rely on talking, arguing and communicating with others.
- You will learn to think for yourself. Disagreement is as interesting as agreement.
- What you study in lessons links up with what you read for pleasure. Reading is part of what makes us who we are.

At A-level you'll be reading texts that challenge you. They might be longer or use language or introduce concepts with which you're unfamiliar. You'll also be introduced to more formal ways of analysing texts.

In order to prepare for next term, please read the following over the summer holidays.



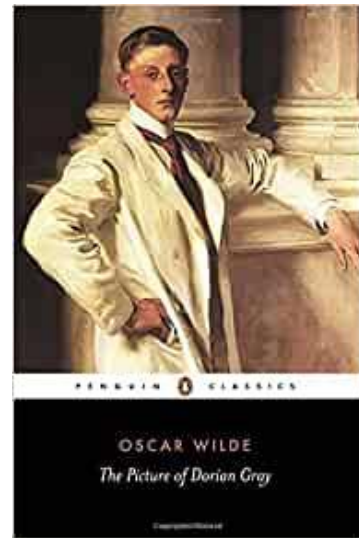
**1. *The Little Stranger* by Sarah Waters (first published 2009).**

You will need to buy your own copy: the novel is published by Virago ISBN 978-1844086062 – see picture. It is essential that you've read the whole novel (this is not hard as it's extremely enjoyable!) as we will be going straight into a detailed study of the text which will assume a familiarity with the plot.

2. **Either** *The Art of Fiction* by David Lodge **or** *How Novels Work* by John Mullan. Both of these are highly readable.

3. Recommended:

- *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde (1891) – we will be reading this at October half-term
- Any play by Oscar Wilde
- Any other novel by Sarah Waters.



To support our study of two novels with Gothic influences, you could read:

- *The Woman in White* by Wilkie Collins (1860)
- *The Yellow Wallpaper* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman (1892)
- *The Turn of the Screw* by Henry James (1898)
- *Dracula* by Bram Stoker (1897)
- *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson (1886)
- *The Essex Serpent* by Sarah Perry (2016).