

The Reading & Watching List

The books, ideas and lectures that shape a thoughtful, well-read young person. Chosen for lasting quality and taste, not for exams, and drawn from the great English canon and the world's finest universities.

Read *the English canon*

The novels an educated reader is expected to know. Many are free at [Project Gutenberg](#).

Pride and Prejudice Jane Austen, 1813

Persuasion Jane Austen, 1817

David Copperfield Charles Dickens, 1850

A Christmas Carol Charles Dickens, 1843

A Room with a View E. M. Forster, 1908

The Remains of the Day Kazuo Ishiguro, 1989

Emma Jane Austen, 1815

Jane Eyre Charlotte Brontë, 1847

Great Expectations Charles Dickens, 1861

Middlemarch George Eliot, 1871

The Age of Innocence Edith Wharton, 1920

Little Women Louisa May Alcott, 1868

Read *ideas & the examined life*

The books that teach a young person how to think, drawn from the Eton and Oxbridge shelves.

Sophie's World Jostein Gaarder

The whole history of philosophy, told as a story.

Confronting the Classics Mary Beard

Why the ancient world still speaks to us.

Justice: What's the Right Thing to Do? Michael Sandel

Moral philosophy made gripping.

What Money Can't Buy Michael Sandel

The moral limits of markets.

The Story of Art E. H. Gombrich

The most loved introduction to art ever written.

The Elegance of the Hedgehog Muriel Barbery

A quiet novel about beauty and the life of the mind.

In Defence of Politics Bernard Crick

A classic case for why politics matters.

Very Short Introductions Oxford University Press

A whole series: any subject, by a leading expert.

Learn *free courses from the world's finest universities*

Whole courses, taught by the professors themselves, free to watch. Each name is a link.

Harvard Online & HarvardX

Hundreds of Harvard courses, free to audit on edX.

MIT OpenCourseWare

Thousands of MIT courses, materials and lectures.

Gresham College

Free public lectures in London since 1597.

Khan Academy

Clear lessons across every school subject.

Open Yale Courses

Full Yale lecture courses, including Political Philosophy.

Coursera

Courses from top universities, free to audit.

The Prindle Institute for Ethics

Ethics essays and the Examining Ethics podcast.

Watch and listen *the channels worth your time*

A little of this is worth an hour of scrolling. Each name is a link.

The School of Life

Philosophy for a fuller, wiser life.

Big Think

Ideas from the world's leading minds.

CrashCourse

A brilliant crash course in any subject.

CGP Grey

History, politics and geography, sharply told.

The Economist

Insight and opinion on world affairs.

Academy of Ideas

History's great thinkers, made clear.

The RSA

World-changing ideas, beautifully animated.

TED-Ed

Short, beautifully made lessons.

Vox

The ideas behind the headlines.

DW Documentary

Serious documentaries from around the world.

Watch *films worth talking about*

Chosen to move and to open a conversation, not to fill an evening.

Hidden Figures

The women behind the space race.

Front of the Class

A teacher who turns a challenge into a gift.

The Truman Show

What is real, and who is watching?

Coco

Family, memory and music, from Pixar.

The Pursuit of Happyness

A father's climb out of hardship.

The Intern

Warmth, work and old-fashioned decency.

The Legend of 1900

A musician who never leaves his ship.

Up

A small, perfect story about carrying on.

A living list, chosen for quality and refreshed from time to time. Some titles are richer than others and a few touch on serious themes, so please use your own judgement on what suits each reader's age. Views expressed in these works and channels belong to their authors, not to Project Agora.