



**Circular Letter: 0038/2025**

**To the Principals and Boards of Management of Second-Level  
Schools and Special Schools, and to the Chief Executives of  
Education and Training Boards**

**Prescribed material for Junior Cycle English (For the student  
cohorts commencing Junior Cycle in 2025, 2026, and 2027 and  
presenting for examination in 2028, 2029, and 2030)**

The Department of Education wishes to inform the management authorities of second level schools that the attached list provides the prescribed material for the second and third year of Junior Cycle in English for the student cohorts 2025-28, 2026-29, and 2027-30.

The Department requests school authorities to bring this circular to the attention of all teachers of English in Junior Cycle and to give adequate notice of these texts to students before the start of the relevant school year.

This Circular can be accessed on [www.gov.ie](http://www.gov.ie). Enquiries regarding this Circular should be e-mailed to [CAP@education.gov.ie](mailto:CAP@education.gov.ie)

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**Principal Officer,**  
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**21 May 2025.**

**Prescribed texts for second and third year**  
**(For the student cohort 2025-28, 2026-29, and 2027-30)**

The list of prescribed texts for **second and third year** refers to specific texts in the case of novels, drama\* and film from which students must study. Other texts [poetry, short stories, non-literary texts] are referred to by genre or type only and teachers have freedom to choose specific examples.

<b>Second and Third Year students MUST study texts as described opposite</b>	<p>From the list of prescribed texts students must study:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Two novels</li> <li>• Two drama* texts</li> </ul> <p><b>*Note 1:</b> An extract from a play or extracts from one or more plays may be used as one of the drama texts. The extracts may be chosen from outside the list of prescribed texts. The extract or extracts selected by schools should provide students with a broad experience of the dramatic form.</p> <p><b>*Note 2:</b> Students intending to take the Final Assessment at Higher Level must study the full text of one of the five prescribed Shakespearean dramas listed on page four of this circular during second <b>and/or</b> third year.</p>
	A film chosen from the prescribed list of films
	A variety of non-literary texts including texts in oral format
	A selection of poetry (a minimum of 16 poems over the two years)
	A number of short stories

### Novel

*Students must study two novels from this list*

ACEDEVO, Elizabeth	<i>The Poet X</i>
ACHEBE, Chinua	<i>Things Fall Apart</i>
AUSTEN, Jane	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i>
BLACKMAN, Malorie	<i>Noughts and Crosses</i>
CROSSAN, Sarah	<i>The Weight of Water</i>
DIVIN, Sue	<i>Truth Be Told</i>
DOWD, Siobhan	<i>Bog Child</i>
EDUGYAN, Esi	<i>Washington Black</i>
HEMINGWAY, Ernest	<i>The Old Man and the Sea</i>
HESSION, Ronán	<i>Leonard and Hungry Paul</i>
HINTON, S.E.	<i>The Outsiders</i>
JAIGIRDAR, Adiba	<i>The Henna Wars</i>
LARSEN, Nella	<i>Passing</i>
LEONARD, Elmore	<i>Hombre</i>
McMAHON, Philly with Niall Kelly	<i>The Choice – A Novel for Young Readers</i>
OSMAN, Alice	<i>Heartstopper Volume One</i>
SEPETYS, Ruta	<i>Between Shades of Grey</i>
SHARMA, Akhil	<i>Family Life</i>
STEINBECK, John	<i>Of Mice and Men</i>
SULLIVAN, Deirdre	<i>Savage her Reply</i>

### Film

*Students must study a film from this list*

BRANAGH, Kenneth	<i>Belfast</i>
CARNEY, John	<i>Sing Street</i>
ÇATAK, Ilker	<i>The Teachers' Lounge</i>
FEGAN, Alex	<i>Older Than Ireland</i> (documentary)
GEORGE, Terry	<i>Hotel Rwanda</i> (biopic)
GERWIG, Greta	<i>Little Women</i>
HESS, Jared	<i>Napoleon Dynamite</i>
HITCHCOCK, Alfred	<i>Strangers on a Train</i>
KELLEHER, Aoife	<i>Mrs Robinson</i> (documentary)
LYNCH, David	<i>The Elephant Man</i> (biopic)
McQUEEN, Steve	<i>Blitz</i>
NYONI, Rungano	<i>I Am Not A Witch</i>
PERSICETTI, Bob; RAMSEY, Peter;	
REINER, Rob	<i>The Princess Bride</i>
REYNOLDS, Emer	<i>The Farthest</i> (documentary)
ROTHMAN, Rodney	<i>Spiderman: Into the Spiderverse</i>
TWOMEY, Nora	<i>The Breadwinner</i>

## **Drama**

Students must study two drama texts

CARR, Alison	<i>Tuesday</i>
DEEVY, Teresa	<i>The King of Spain's Daughter</i>
DICKENS, Charles (adapted by Orson Welles and Lionel Barrymore)	<i>A Christmas Carol</i> (1939 radio play)
ELLAMS, Inua	<i>The 14<sup>th</sup> Tale</i>
HARRIS, Nancy (Original story by Hans Christian Andersen)	<i>The Red Shoes</i>
HEANEY, Seamus	<i>The Burial at Thebes</i>
JONES, Marie	<i>Stones in His Pockets</i>
KELLY, Sonya	<i>Once Upon a Bridge</i>
McPHERSON, Conor (music and lyrics by Bob Dylan)	<i>Girl from the North Country</i>
MIRANDA, Lin-Manuel	<i>Hamilton</i>
SHAKESPEARE, William	<i>As You Like It</i>
	<i>Julius Caesar</i>
	<i>The Merchant of Venice</i>
	<i>Romeo and Juliet</i>
TURNLY, Francis	<i>The Great Wave</i>
WILLIS, Ross	<i>Wonder Boy</i>

**Note:** An extract from a play or extracts from one or more plays may be used as one of the drama texts. The extracts may be chosen from outside the list of prescribed texts. The extract or extracts selected by schools should provide students with a broad experience of the dramatic form

**Note:** Students intending to take the Final Assessment at Higher Level must study the full text of one of the prescribed Shakespearean dramas listed above during second and/or third year.

## **Poetry**

Teachers have freedom to choose specific examples

## **Non-literary texts**

Teachers have freedom to choose specific examples

## **Short stories**

Teachers have freedom to choose specific examples