



Circular Letter: 0051/2024

**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 cohort commencing Junior Cycle in 2024 and  
presenting for examination in 2027)**

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 cohort 2024-27. It should be noted that the attached prescribed material list is identical to the list previously issued for candidates presenting for their Junior Cycle English final examination in 2024, 2025 and 2026, which is contained in [Circular 14/2022](#).

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)

**Celeste O Callaghan,  
Principal Officer,  
Curriculum and Assessment Policy Unit,  
20 May 2024.**



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>	From the list of prescribed texts students must study: <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



**Prescribed texts for second and third year  
(For the student cohort 2024-27)**

**Novel**

ACEDEVO, Elizabeth	<i>The Poet X</i>
ACHEBE, Chinua	<i>Things Fall Apart</i>
ALMOND, David	<i>The Savage</i>
AUSTEN, Jane	<i>Sense and Sensibility</i>
BLACKMAN, Malorie	<i>Noughts and Crosses</i>
CONNOLLY, John	<i>The Book of Lost Things</i>
CROSSAN, Sarah	<i>The Weight of Water</i>
DOWD, Siobhan	<i>Bog Child</i>
EDUGYAN, Esi	<i>Washington Black</i>
HEMINGWAY, Ernest	<i>The Old Man and the Sea</i>
HINTON, S.E.	<i>The Outsiders</i>
LE CARRÉ, John	<i>Call for the Dead</i>
LEONARD, Elmore	<i>Hombre</i>
MULLIGAN, Andy	<i>Trash</i>
Ó GUILÍN, Peadar	<i>The Call</i>
SCOTT CARD, Orson	<i>Ender's Game</i>
SEPETYS, Ruta	<i>Between Shades of Grey</i>
SHARMA, Akhil	<i>Family Life</i>
STEINBECK, John	<i>Of Mice and Men</i>
STEVENSON, Robert Louis	<i>The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde</i>
TAMAKI, Mariko and Jillian	<i>This One Summer</i> (Graphic Novel)



## **Drama**

**\* see notes on page 2 of this Circular**

DEEVY, Teresa	<i>The King of Spain's Daughter</i>
DICKENS, Charles	<i>A Christmas Carol (1939 radio play adapted by Orson Welles and Lionel Barrymore)</i>
ELLAMS, Inua	<i>The 14<sup>th</sup> Tale</i>
HEANEY, Seamus	<i>Burial at Thebes</i>
HILL, Susan	<i>The Woman in Black (adapted by Stephen Mallatrat)</i>
JONES, Marie	<i>Stones in His Pockets</i>
KELLY, Sonya	<i>The Wheelchair on my Face</i>
McPHERSON, Conor	<i>Girl from the North Country (musical with Bob Dylan)</i>
MIRANDA, Lin-Manuel	<i>Hamilton</i>
ROSE, Reginald	<i>Twelve Angry Men</i>
RUSSELL, Willy	<i>Blood Brothers (musical or stage play)</i>
SHAKESPEARE, William	<i>Twelfth Night</i>
Students intending to take the Final Assessment at Higher Level must study the full text of one of these prescribed Shakespearean dramas during second <b>and/or</b> third year	<i>As You Like It</i>
	<i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>
	<i>Julius Caesar</i>
	<i>Merchant of Venice</i>
WILDE, Oscar	<i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i>



## **Film**

AL-MANSOUR, Haifaa	<i>Wadjda</i>
ANDERSON, Wes	<i>Moonrise Kingdom</i>
CARNEY, John	<i>Sing Street</i>
GAVRON, Sarah	<i>Suffragette</i>
GEORGE, Terry	<i>Hotel Rwanda (biopic)</i>
GERWIG, Greta	<i>Little Women</i>
HITCHCOCK, Alfred	<i>Strangers on a Train</i>
LOACH, Ken	<i>Kes</i>
LYNCH, David	<i>The Elephant Man (biopic)</i>
MARSH, James	<i>Man on Wire (documentary, biopic)</i>
NYONI, Rungano	<i>I am not a Witch</i>
PERSICETTI, Bob; RAMSEY, Peter; ROTHMAN, Rodney	<i>Spiderman: Into the Spideverse</i>
REINER, Rob	<i>The Princess Bride</i>
REYNOLDS, Emer	<i>The Farthest (documentary)</i>
WAITITI, Taiki	<i>Hunt for the Wilderpeople</i>
WARDROP, Ken	<i>His and Hers (documentary)</i>

## **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