

## English GCSE-ready quick tasks and challenges

Each of the tasks below will develop your understanding of English and prepare you for the GCSE tasks you will encounter in Year 10. It really can be as simple as watching a film or an online performance, listening to a podcast, playing a game or being creative with art or writing!

<p><b>Watch</b> a film based on a book. <b>Challenge:</b> Write a must-read review without giving away the ending!</p>	<p><b>Drama</b> time! Act out and film a short scene from your favourite book/film. <b>Challenge:</b> Do a #dramaticreading on TikTok</p>	<p><b>Listen</b> to a literary podcast: <a href="https://bookriot.com/literary-podcasts-for-stress-relief/">https://bookriot.com/literary-podcasts-for-stress-relief/</a></p>	<p><b>Create</b> two characters dealing with lockdown in different ways. <b>Challenge:</b> Write a script where they discuss experiences.</p>	<p><b>Play</b> English games on an app or in person: Crossword, Scrabble, Boggle, Word Therapy, Wordscapes...</p>	<p><b>Download</b> the Kindle app or Borrow Box and search the free books. <b>Challenge:</b> Create a "free book" club with a friend</p>
<p><b>Watch</b> an online performance! Use the links below to help you to find plays, performances, ballet, opera and poetry. <b>Challenge:</b> Review that performance!</p>	<p><b>Draw</b> a comic strip of your day - use your imagination to make it as comedic/entertaining as possible!</p>	<p><b>Read</b> an article on <a href="https://theday.co.uk/">https://theday.co.uk/</a> and write a 10 word summary. <b>Challenge:</b> Identify the techniques used by the writer for effect.</p>	<p><b>Find</b> the lyrics to your favourite songs and <b>analyse</b> the language and structure, e.g. What do the metaphors suggest about how the speaker feels?</p>	<p><b>Create</b> a scrap book/document of your favourite images. Label these with adventurous vocabulary/sentences.</p>	<p><b>Watch</b> Lin-Manuel Miranda's 14 minute production: <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELBGa6-uOhc&amp;feature=emb_title">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ELBGa6-uOhc&amp;feature=emb_title</a> <b>Challenge:</b> Evaluate who was to blame.</p>
<p>Take up <b>creative writing</b> - write a story, a descriptive diary or even a collection of poems about what you can see/do/ what is happening right now</p>	<p><b>Research</b> your own area of interest and identify the key facts and issues (for example: social media, prejudice, the environment). <b>Challenge:</b> explain where you stand on these issues in a persuasive way.</p>	<p>Demolish the <b>well-read teenager reading list</b>, ticking off each book you have read and writing a 10 word summary. Bring this list in for rewards!</p>	<p><b>Create</b> a visual reading wish list (e.g. draw a book case full of blank book spines to write the books you want to read on them). Each time you finish one, colour it in!</p>	<p><b>Find</b> poems at <a href="https://www.poetryfoundation.org/">https://www.poetryfoundation.org/</a> and bring them to life by drawing the images they create. <b>Challenge:</b> try out a sonnet! <a href="https://www.rsc.org.uk/shakespeares-sonnets/sonnets-in-solitude">https://www.rsc.org.uk/shakespeares-sonnets/sonnets-in-solitude</a></p>	<p><b>Create</b> a list of your favourite literary quotations <a href="https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/literature">https://www.goodreads.com/quotes/tag/literature</a> <b>Challenge:</b> A. Add them to images/ drawings. B. Create your own inspired quotations!</p>

### The theatre comes to you! Watch free professional performances online at any of the following links:

- The BBC has a range of excellent performances on the arts section of the iPlayer: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/arts>
- Shakespeare's Globe theatre is streaming some of their most famous performances for free here: <https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/watch/>, <https://www.youtube.com/user/ShakespearesGlobe>
- The National Theatre releases a different free play to watch every Thursday on Youtube: <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/nt-at-home/> / <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUDq1XzCYONIOYVJvEMQjgw>,
- The Old Vic is streaming its plays here: <https://www.oldvictheatre.com/whats-on/2020/your-old-vic>
- The Southwark play house is streaming its irreverent take on the Bronte's here: <https://southwarkplayhouse.co.uk/streaming/>
- The Royal Opera house is streaming its famous operas for free! <https://www.youtube.com/user/RoyalOperaHouse>
- British Asian theatre is streaming at Rifco: <https://www.rifcotheatre.com/watch>
- Graeae's 'Reasons to be cheerful' is free to watch until 3<sup>rd</sup> August. This play was made with the Belgrade Theatre in Coventry! <https://graeae.org/reasons-to-be-cheerful-available-to-watch-online/>
- New York's Lincoln Center is streaming free musicals: <https://www.youtube.com/user/LincolnCenterVideos>
- The Cirque du Soleil are uploading 60 minute performances for free: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPiWljwDZQo3UobMqvi4ggg>
- The Show Must Go Online: <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCFQ2EezD1GPVTH6hug3zu8w>

## The well-read teenager challenge: How many have you finished?

Look through the list, which have you already read? Are there any you've never heard of? Search the blurbs! *Are there any must-reads we've missed? Add them on the blank lines at the end.*

- |                                                                                                     |                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <input type="checkbox"/> Adams, Douglas <i>A Hitchhikers Guide to the Galaxy</i>                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Hornby, Nick <i>About a Boy</i>                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Ahmed, Samira <i>Internment</i>                                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Hosseini, Khaled <i>The Kite Runner</i>                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Albertall, Becky <i>Love, Simon</i>                                        | <input type="checkbox"/> Huxley, Aldous <i>Brave New World</i>                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Alderman, Naomi <i>The Power</i>                                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Ishiguro, Kazuo <i>Never Let Me Go</i>                           |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Allcott, Louisa May <i>Little Women</i>                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> James, Henry <i>The Turn of the Screw</i>                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Anjelou, Maya <i>I Know why the Caged Bird Sings</i>                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Kelman, Stephan <i>Pigeon English</i>                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Asher, Jay <i>Thirteen Reasons Why</i>                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> King, Stephen <i>It</i>                                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Austen, Jane <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Kingsolver, Barbara <i>The Poisonwood Bible</i>                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bennet, Alan <i>The History Boys</i>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Lee, Harper <i>To Kill a Mocking Bird</i>                        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Blackman, Malorie <i>Boys Don't Cry/ Noughts and Crosses Series</i>        | <input type="checkbox"/> Martel, Yann <i>Life of Pi</i>                                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bradbury, Ray <i>Fahrenheit 451</i>                                        | <input type="checkbox"/> McEwan, Ian <i>Atonement</i>                                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brighouse, Harold <i>Hobson's Choice</i>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> McManus, Karen M <i>One of Us Is Lying</i>                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Brittain, Vera <i>Testament of Youth</i>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Niffenegger, Audrey <i>The Time Traveler's Wife</i>              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bronte, Emily <i>Wuthering Heights</i>                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Northup, Solomon <i>Twelve Years a Slave</i>                     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Bronte, Charlotte <i>Jane Eyre</i>                                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Orwell, George <i>1984</i>                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chbosky, Steven <i>The Perks of Being a Wallflower</i>                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Owen, Frank <i>The Ragged Trousered Philanthropists</i>          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Chesterton, G K <i>The Man who was Thursday</i>                            | <input type="checkbox"/> Picoult, Jodi <i>My Sister's Keeper</i>                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cervantes, Miguel de <i>Don Quixote</i>                                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Pratchett, Terry <i>The Wee Free Men</i>                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cline, Ernest <i>Ready Player One</i>                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Priestly, J.P <i>An Inspector Calls</i>                          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Coelho, Paulo <i>The Alchemist</i>                                         | <input type="checkbox"/> Pullman, Phillip <i>His Dark Materials</i>                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Collins, Susanne <i>The Hunger Games</i>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Riggs, Ransom <i>Miss Peregrine's Home for Peculiar Children</i> |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Conaghan, Bryan <i>When Mr Dog Bites</i>                                   | <input type="checkbox"/> Russell, Willy <i>Blood Brothers</i>                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Defoe, Daniel <i>Robinson Crusoe</i>                                       | <input type="checkbox"/> Saint-Exupery, Antoine <i>The Little Prince</i>                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dick, Philip K <i>Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep</i>                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Sebold, Alice <i>The Lovely Bones</i>                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Dickens, Charles <i>A Christmas Carol</i>                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Salinger, J D <i>The Catcher in the Rye</i>                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Doyle, Arthur Conan <i>Sherlock Holmes Tales</i>                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Shelley, Mary <i>Frankenstein</i>                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Elliott, George <i>The Mill on the Floss</i>                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Shusterman, Neil <i>Scythe series</i>                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Fitzgerald, Scott <i>The Great Gatsby,</i>                                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Steinbeck, John <i>Grapes of Wrath, Of Mice and Men</i>          |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Forster, E M <i>A Room with a View</i>                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Stevenson, Robert Louis <i>Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde</i>             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Frank, Ann <i>Diary of Anne Frank</i>                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Stoker, Bram <i>Dracula</i>                                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gaiman, Neil, <i>Stardust, Sandman</i>                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> Syal, Meera <i>Anita and Me</i>                                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gaskell, Elizabeth <i>North and South</i>                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Talley, Robin <i>Lies We Tell Ourselves</i>                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gavin, Jamila <i>Coram Boy</i>                                             | <input type="checkbox"/> Taylor, Mildred T <i>Roll of Thunder, Hear my Cry</i>            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Golding, William <i>Lord of the Flies</i>                                  | <input type="checkbox"/> Terry, Terri <i>Slated</i>                                       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Grant, Michael <i>The Gone Series</i>                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Thomas, Angie <i>The Hate U Give</i>                             |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gray, Keith <i>Losing It</i>                                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Tolkein, JRR <i>The Hobbit, The Lord of the Rings</i>            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Green, John <i>The Fault in Our Stars, Paper Towns, Looking for Alaska</i> | <input type="checkbox"/> Waters, Sarah <i>The Little Stranger</i>                         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Guterson, David <i>Snow Falling on Ceders</i>                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Waugh, Evelyn <i>Vile Bodies</i>                                 |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Gyasi, Yaa <i>Home Going</i>                                               | <input type="checkbox"/> Weir, Andy <i>The Martian</i>                                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Haddon, Mark <i>The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time</i>      | <input type="checkbox"/> Wilde, Oscar <i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i>                   |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hardinge, Frances <i>The Lie Tree</i>                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> Williamson, Lisa <i>The Art of Being Normal</i>                  |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heaney, Seamus <i>Beowulf</i>                                              | <input type="checkbox"/> Zusak, Marcus <i>The Book Thief</i>                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Heller, Joseph <i>Catch 22</i>                                             | <input type="checkbox"/> _____                                                            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Hill, Susan <i>The Woman in Black</i>                                      | <input type="checkbox"/> _____                                                            |
|                                                                                                     | <input type="checkbox"/> _____                                                            |