



Creative Writing & Storytelling Reading List

We're looking forward to welcoming you to the Creative Writing & Storytelling course, and we hope you're looking forward to joining us too!

If you'd like to start exploring the subject ahead of the start of your course, here's a list of resources that will help you engage with some of the ideas you'll be exploring in more depth across the two weeks. These are by no means in order of importance and you don't have to look at all of them – let your instinct choose what sounds more interesting to you.

In order to become a better writer yourself, one of the best things you can do is look to writers you already love. What is it about their writing that you enjoy, and what makes their characters so realistic to you? These resources will help you to consider these questions in a little more detail – where I've recommended specific texts, do feel free to swap them for a similar text you already know and prefer!

- **Activity:** Please select one book or piece of writing that you really love (it can be an article/feature piece/poem – literally any text) and start thinking about what makes that particular text so special. You'll be discussing your choices in the first tutorial, so do make a note of your thoughts!

As you explore the books below, note down your thoughts and favourite parts from each book. Reflect on what makes these stories and characters engaging.

- **Book: Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone by J.K. Rowling** – A great example of fantasy writing with immersive world-building and memorable characters.
- **Book: Anne of Green Gables by L.M. Montgomery** – Classic literature with rich character development and a strong narrative voice.
- **Book: Percy Jackson and the Olympians: The Lightning Thief by Rick Riordan** – Engaging storytelling with a blend of fantasy and mythology, showcasing strong plot development.
- **Video: The art of storytelling by Khan Academy** – What makes a story great? What makes someone a good storyteller? Storytelling is something we all do naturally, starting at a young age, but there's a difference between good

storytelling and great storytelling. In this lesson series, you'll hear from Pixar directors and story artists about how they got their start and what stories inspire them, and you'll begin to think about what kinds of stories you might want to tell.

Link: Watch [here](#)

- **Online Platform: Storybird** – Storybird is a creative platform where you can create your own illustrated stories.

Link: Browse [here](#)

Next Steps:

We're really looking forward to welcoming you to the course! If you'd like to take your learning to the next level, you're welcome to join one of our other Creative Writing programmes too – many of our students sign up to multiple programmes as they prepare for their futures. Once you turn 15, your options will include:

- At Oxford Scholastica, we run a residential Oxford Summer School every summer - you might be interested in the [Experience Creative Writing Academy](#). This is an immersive, two-week residential experience which takes place on the Oxford University campus – you'll take your understanding of creative writing to the next level and meet like-minded students from around the world

Other Resources:

Clarity about your future career direction will help you in your academic studies and in your university applications. We've created a quick Careers Test to help you to know what careers might suit you best. You'll then receive a personalised Careers Report, with recommended careers and resources to explore. We hope you'll find it useful!

It's mostly aimed at 15-18 year olds, but you're still more than welcome to try it out for yourself. We hope you'll find it useful!

Try the Test [here](#)