

ENGLISH

SUPER CURRICULUM ACTIVITIES

WEBSITES:

- <https://www.bookbub.com/> - How would you like an email of free and discounted ebooks sent to you everyday? You even get to choose the genres you love.
- <https://www.amazon.com/amazonbookreview> - Amazon's book review.
- <https://www.epicreads.com/> - HarperTeen's (Teen division of HarperCollins) community and blog for young adult book lovers. They post some fun stuff like infographics and book quizzes.
- <https://www.theliterarygiftcompany.com/> - All the bookish things we need to own!
- <https://www.whatshouldireadnext.com/> - This fun website asks you to enter the title of a book you loved. The website analyses your pick and then offers the title of another book you'll probably love, too.
- https://www.barnesandnoble.com/b/booktok/_/N-2vdn - Discover the most popular TikTok books.
- <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2021/jun/25/the-rise-of-booktok-meet-the-teen-influencers-pushing-books-up-the-charts> - The rise of BookTok: meet the teen influencers pushing books up the charts.
- <https://www.librarything.com/> - Enter what you are reading or your whole library. It's an easy, library-quality catalogue.
- <https://www.goodreads.com/> - Deciding what to read next? This is the right place. If you tell this website what titles or genres you've enjoyed in the past, they'll give you surprisingly insightful recommendations.
- <https://writersinspire.org/> - This collection of freely available literary resources is aimed at students from sixth form to university, their teachers, and at lifelong learners. It contains lectures, eBooks and contextual essays for reuse by individuals and the educational community.

SPECIALIST MAGAZINES/ARTICLES/JOURNALS:

- <https://www.newsstand.co.uk/140-tv-and-film-magazines/4933-subscribe-to-empire-magazine-subscription.aspx> - Empire Magazine. Empire magazine is one of Britain's biggest selling film-based magazines. It has unrivalled film industry access which makes it the definitive film magazine for behind-the-scenes information and brings all the latest gossip, news, reviews and interviews.
- <https://www.englishandmedia.co.uk/e-magazine> - English and Media Magazine.
- https://www.magazine.co.uk/magazines/the-critic-magazine?gclid=EAlaIQobChMI1fesoY2JgAMV-0dBAh0cpgHwEAQYBCABEgLVfvD_BwE&gclsrc=aw.ds - Examine the world of politics, art, literature and more with Britain's new highbrow monthly current affairs magazine. The Critic provides open-minded readers with honest criticism through rigorous content, world-class writing and asking the hard-hitting questions that others won't.
- <https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/discover/blogs-and-features/2023/07/04/the-children-of-macbeth/> - Research article.
<https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/discover/blogs-and-features/2023/06/01/shakespeares-globe-book-award-2023-shortlist-announced/>

PODCASTS:

- <https://www.quickanddirtytips.com/grammar-girl/> - Mignon Fogarty is the founder of the Quick and Dirty Tips network and creator of Grammar Girl, which has been named one of Writer's Digest's 101 best websites for writer's multiple times. She is also an inductee in the Podcasting Hall of Fame.
- <https://www.readingandwritingpodcast.com/> - Interviews with authors about their books, their writing habits, their favourite novels, and how they got started writing.
- <https://www.historyofliterature.com/> - Amateur enthusiast Jacke Wilson journeys through the history of literature, from ancient epics to contemporary classics.
- <https://www.npr.org/podcasts/474377890/but-why-a-podcast-for-curious-kids> - But why is a show led by you, kids! You ask the questions, and they find the answers. It's a big, interesting world out there. On But why, they tackle topics large and small, about nature, words, even the end of the world.
- <https://www.cambridge.org/elt/blog/2019/11/18/cambridge-life-competencies-teens-creative-thinking/> - If you're new to the Cambridge Life Competencies for Teens podcast, this series features a range of experts in English language learning. It gives you some techniques and tips to develop vital skills that your learners need as they approach adulthood.

FILMS AND DOCUMENTARIES:

- The Great Gatsby - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4w8lohkQtBY>
- British Literature Adaptations - <https://mubi.com/lists/british-literature-adaptations>

Movies based on books:

<https://www.bookbub.com/blog/best-movies-based-on-books-all-time> Best movies based on classic literature - <https://movieweb.com/movies-based-on-classic-literature/#pride-amp-prejudice-2005>

YOUTUBE CHANNELS:

- <https://www.youtube.com/user/harperteen> - HarperTeen is home to some of the most exciting teen publishing. HarperTeen books may pull back the curtain on the fabulous lives of the beautiful people, go beneath the humdrum veneer of the girl next door, or offer a glimpse into the days and nights of troubled teens. Comprising a wide range of critically acclaimed and bestselling titles, HarperTeen books reflect teen readers' own lives, their everyday realities and their aspirations, their struggles and their triumphs.
- <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qoe7l8ynwd4> - Baz Luhrmann, who directed the 1996 movie "Romeo + Juliet," reveals his favourite scene to shoot and the responses he gets from fans 25 years later.

MOOCS:

https://www.edx.org/course/the-ancient-greek-hero-2?index=product&queryID=4206f51deee484934ab5edc0da9e0b04&position=5&results_level=second-level-results&term=english+literature&objectID=course-b4666a45-68c6-421c-8b2d-d82c607c5d97&campaign=The+Ancient+Greek+Hero&source=edX&product_category=courses&placement_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.edx.org%2Fsearch

https://www.edx.org/course/Academic-English-How-to-Write-a-Thesis?index=product&queryID=0e7d9819f63f590f22d7917f93b9e0e3&position=7&results_level=second-level-results&term=english+literature&objectID=course-1cbbfd40-68a2-4c95-9ce9-84ee6b28340b&campaign=Academic+English%3A+How+to+Write+a+Thesis&source=edX&product_category=course&placement_url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.edx.org%2Fsearch

ONLINE SEMINARS/LECTURES:

<https://www.pearson.com/uk/educators/schools/subject-area/literacy-and-english/support-for-all/support-from-pearson/free-online-gcse-english-lessons.html>
<https://ukopencollege.co.uk/product/gcse-english-language-course-aqa/>

SOCIAL MEDIA ACCOUNTS:

<https://www.litsy.com/web/home> - Litsy has been called the Instagram of the book-loving community. It is a must-have app for book lovers. You can post pictures on your feed and people can like, comment, and share posts. You can easily search for books and leave reviews. You'll get recommended books based on your interests as well. Litsy has a thriving community where people gather to talk about books.
<https://www.tiktok.com/tag/BookTok>

Twitter:

<http://www.twitter.com/epicreads>

Facebook:

<http://www.facebook.com/epicreads>

Instagram:

<http://www.instagram.com/epicreads>

Tumblr: <http://www.epicreads.tumblr.com>

@MrEverythingEnglish

@mrbruffenglish

@staceyreay

PLACES TO VISIT:

<https://www.shakespearesglobe.com/> - Shakespeare's Globe is located on the bank of the River Thames, London, in the Bankside Cultural Quarter.

<https://dickensmuseum.com/> - Visit the London home of Charles Dickens. Spread out over 5 floors and laid out as it could have looked when Charles Dickens lived here, you'll feel as though you've stepped back in time.

<https://www.bl.uk/>

- The British Library. One of the largest libraries in the world, the British Library is an exciting destination for book lovers. It is full of rare collections and quiet rooms. You must check out the King's Library, a six-storey glass tower with over 65,000 volumes collected by King George III, and the Sir John Ritblat Gallery which showcases various historical manuscripts and documents.

<https://www.shakespeare.org.uk/visit/shakespeares-birthplace/> - Visit Shakespeare's Birthplace - William Shakespeare's childhood home in the heart of Stratford-upon-Avon. Hear tales of Shakespeare's family life and get up close to objects from the Trust's world class collections as you discover how the extraordinary playwright continues to shape our lives today.

<https://www.bronte.org.uk/> - Founded in 1893, and one of the world's oldest, most respected literary societies, the Brontë Society is still preserving Brontë items today, growing the collection and teaching visitors about the lives and works of the three famous sisters.

<https://elephanthouse.biz/> - There are many places in Edinburgh that claim to be associated with J. K. Rowling and her most famous creation, but none are as popular as the Elephant House. A sign in the window of the cafe proclaims it as the "birthplace of Harry Potter," and it was here that Rowling spent hours completing her first book, Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone. (Though by the time she wrote the last book, Rowling had moved on to finer things and stayed at a suite at the Balmoral Hotel.)

<https://www.sherlock-holmes.co.uk/> - Home to the famous (fictional) consulting detective, Baker Street is covered in Sherlock Holmes art and memorabilia. Don't miss the Sherlock Holmes Museum at 221B (though it's located between 237 and 241) which recreates the rooms from the books, including Holmes' laboratory.

<https://www.westminster-abbey.org/about-the-abbey/history/poets-corner> - Westminster Abbey is one of the most famous buildings in London, and many famous people are buried here. In its South Transept, you will find Poet's Corner, which started out as the final resting place of Geoffrey Chaucer over 600 years ago. Today, it houses the tombs and memorials of dozens of poets, artists, and writers, including Charles Dickens, Alfred Tennyson, Thomas Campbell, Jane Austen, W H Auden, the Brontë Sisters and many more.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/visit/lake-district/hill-top> - Set amidst the beautiful Lake District of Cumbria, the 17th century home of Beatrix Potter is a popular tourist attraction. It was here that she wrote her enchanting stories of Peter Rabbit. The house is now a museum, and you can also explore the wonderful countryside around it.

<https://wordsworth.org.uk/> - This little town in the Lake District was home to William Wordsworth who lived here for eight years with his wife Mary and sister Dorothy. In the nearby countryside, you can see fields of daffodils which inspired his famous poem. Many other influential figures of the Romantic movement visited Wordsworth here, such as Samuel Taylor Coleridge.

CHALLENGES AND COMPETITIONS:

- <https://wirralpoetryfestival.org.uk/christophersalmon/#:~:text=The%20competition%20is%20open%20to,and%20talent%20for%20writing%20poetry>
- <https://www.youngwriters.co.uk/competitions>
- <https://poetrysociety.org.uk/competitions/foyle-young-poets-of-the-year-award/>
- <https://hgwellscompetition.com/>
- <https://www.gold.ac.uk/schools-and-colleges/young-writer-competitions/>
- <https://cinemagic.org.uk/young-filmmaker/>
- <https://www.poetrytogether.com/>
- <https://www.rgs.org/schools/competitions/school-essay-competition/>
- <https://www.walterscottprize.co.uk/young-walter-scott-prize/>
- <https://benjaminfranklinhouse.org/education/literary-prize/>

Here's a list of super-curricular activities for English that can help you enhance your understanding and appreciation of the subject:

1. **Young Adult Book Club:** Start or join a book club specifically for young adult literature. Explore popular contemporary authors like John Green, Rainbow Rowell, and Angie Thomas to discuss relatable themes and engage with peers.
 2. **Creative Writing Workshops for Teens:** Look for creative writing workshops or summer programmes designed specifically for teenagers. These workshops provide a supportive environment to develop your storytelling skills and express your unique voice.
 3. **Teen Literary Magazines:** Submit your creative writing pieces or artwork to literary magazines that specifically cater to teenage writers. This allows you to showcase your work and connect with other aspiring young writers.
 4. **Spoken Word Poetry Events:** Attend local spoken word poetry events or open mic nights where teenagers are encouraged to share their original poetry. This platform allows you to explore self-expression and engage with a vibrant spoken word community.
 5. **Online Book Discussions:** Participate in online forums or social media groups dedicated to discussing young adult literature. Engage in conversations about your favourite books, share recommendations, and discover new titles.
 6. **Literary Podcasts and YouTube Channels:** Explore podcasts and YouTube channels that focus on literature and storytelling aimed at teenagers. These platforms offer discussions, book reviews, and interviews with authors, making learning about literature entertaining and accessible.
 7. **Literary Adaptation Movie Nights:** Organise movie nights with friends featuring film adaptations of popular young adult novels. Discuss the similarities and differences between the book and the movie, and analyse the storytelling techniques used in the adaptations.
 8. **Create Book-Inspired Art:** Combine your love for literature and art by creating visual representations of scenes or characters from your favourite books. Share your creations on social media or in local art exhibitions to showcase your talent.
 9. **Young Writers' Competitions:** Enter writing competitions specifically designed for teenage writers. These competitions often have categories for different genres and provide opportunities to receive recognition for your creative work.
 10. **Online Writing Communities:** Join online writing communities specifically created for teenagers, such as Wattpad or Figment. Share your stories, receive feedback, and engage with a supportive network of young writers.
 11. **Teen Writing Contests and Scholarships:** Look for writing contests and scholarships that are open to teenagers. Winning such competitions not only provides recognition but can also offer valuable financial support for your education.
 12. **Teen Literary Festivals:** Attend or volunteer at literary festivals that feature activities and workshops specifically tailored for teenagers. These events often include author meet-and-greets, writing workshops, and panel discussions.
 13. **Teen Blogging:** Start a blog where you can write book reviews, share your creative writing, or discuss literary topics that interest you. Connect with other teen bloggers and exchange ideas to create an online community.
 14. **Explore Diverse Voices:** Seek out literature written by diverse authors to expand your understanding of different cultures, perspectives, and experiences. Discover stories that reflect the world's rich diversity and challenge your own assumptions.
 15. **Start a Book Recommendation Club:** Create a book recommendation club with friends where each member suggests and shares their favourite books. This allows you to explore a wide range of genres and engage in lively discussions.
- Remember, these activities are designed to make your English journey enjoyable and relevant to your teenage years. Choose activities that resonate with your interests and goals, and don't be afraid to explore new literary territories.

