

Select British Writers

Available in the NHS Library, unless noted

Female British or Colonial writers

Atkinson, Kate. *A God in Ruins* - Tells the dramatic story of the twentieth century through Ursula's beloved younger brother Teddy--would-be poet, heroic pilot, husband, father, and grandfather--as he navigates the perils and progress of a rapidly changing world. After all that Teddy endures in battle, his greatest challenge is living in a future he never expected to have.

Atkinson, Kate. *Life after Life* - On a cold and snowy night in 1910, Ursula Todd is born to an English banker and his wife. She dies before she can draw her first breath. On that same cold and snowy night, Ursula Todd is born, lets out a lusty wail, and embarks upon a life that will be, to say the least, unusual. For as she grows, she also dies, repeatedly, in a variety of ways, while the young century marches on towards its second cataclysmic world war. Does Ursula's apparently infinite number of lives give her the power to save the world from its inevitable destiny? And if she can -- will she?

Austen, Jane. All titles such as *Pride and Prejudice*, *Emma*, *Sense and Sensibility*...

Badani, Sejal. *The Storyteller's Secret* - Nothing prepares Jaya, A New York journalist, for the heartbreak of her third miscarriage and the slow unraveling of her marriage in its wake. Desperate to assuage her deep anguish, she decides to go to India to uncover answers to her family's past. Intoxicated by the sights, smells, and sounds she experiences, Jaya becomes an eager student of the culture. But it is Ravi -- her grandmother's former servant and trusted confidant -- who reveals the resilience, struggles, secret love, and tragic fall of Jaya's pioneering grandmother during the British occupation. Through her courageous grandmother's arrestingly romantic and heart-wrenching story, Jaya discovers the legacy bequeathed to her and a strength that, until now, she never knew was possible.

Bronte, Charlotte. *Jane Eyre* - When a penniless governess falls in love with the brooding master of Thornfield, she is unaware of the tragic events that will follow.

Bronte, Emily. *Wuthering Heights* - Forced by a storm to spend the night at the home of Heathcliff, Mr. Lockwood uncovers a tale of terror and hatred on the Yorkshire moors.

Byatt, A. S. *Babel Tower* - A novel that looks at the changing values of society in England during the 1960s through the stories of Frederica, an abused wife who battles her husband in a divorce and custody suit, and an obscenity case which is lodged against the author of the controversial book Babbletower.

Byatt, A. S. *Possession* - While researching the lives of two long-dead Victorian poets, a pair of young academics uncover a clandestine love affair and find themselves drawn into the historical world of mystery and passion.

Christie, Agatha. All titles from the bestselling mystery writer of all time....

DuMaurier, Daphne. *Rebecca* - The tale of the second Mrs. Maxim de Winter, who enters the home of her mysterious and enigmatic new husband and learns the story of the house's first mistress, to whom the sinister housekeeper is unnaturally devoted.

DuMaurier, Daphne. *My Cousin Rachel* - After Philip receives Rachel, a distant cousin, in Cornwall following the death of her husband, he falls under the influence of her charm and seeks an unconventional way out when he believes she may have poisoned his uncle.

Honeyman, Gail. *Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine* - No one's ever told Eleanor that life should be better than fine. Meet Eleanor Oliphant: She struggles with appropriate social skills and tends to say exactly what she's thinking. Nothing is missing in her carefully timetabled life of avoiding social interactions, where weekends are punctuated by frozen pizza, vodka, and phone chats with Mummy.

Lessing, Doris. *The Golden Notebook* - As she falls in love with an American writer and finds herself facing insanity, Anna attempts to weave the diverse experiences of her life into one story.

Lessing, Doris. *The Good Terrorist* - A group of squatters occupying an abandoned house in London, with Alice Mellings presiding as mother hen, become involved with radical activism and are approached by a "professional" terrorist who wants to recruit Alice into his organization.

Mandanna, Sarita. *Tiger Hills* - In turn-of-the-twentieth-century southern India, Devi Nachimada falls in love with Machu, a daring tiger hunter, and in the process endangers her friendship with a motherless boy, Devanna, thus setting the stage for a devastating tragedy.

Mantel, Hilary. *An Experiment in Love* - A chance discovery of a news article on a former schoolmate, Julia Lipcott, triggers a flood of memories for Carmel McBain, who reflects back on her experiences at school and university, and her relationships with Julia and another contemporary, Karina.

Oyeyemi, Helen. *Boy, Snow, Bird* - A reimagining of the Snow White story set in the United States during the 1950s and 1960s.

Rhys, Jean. *Wide Sargasso Sea* - This book introduces us to Antoinette Cosway, a sensual and protected young woman who is sold into marriage to the prideful Mr. Rochester.

Roy, Arundhati. *The God of Small Things* - On a December Day in 1969 twins Rahel and Estha, born to a wealthy family living in the province of Kerala, India, find their lives changed after the death of their English cousin visiting for the holidays.

Shamsie, Kamila. *Home Fire* - Isma is free. After years of watching out for her younger siblings in the wake of their mother's death, she's accepted an invitation from a mentor in America that allows her to resume a dream long deferred. But she can't stop worrying about Aneeka, her beautiful, headstrong sister back in London, or their brother, Parvaiz, who's disappeared in pursuit of his own dream, to prove himself to the dark legacy of the jihadist father he never knew. When he resurfaces half a globe away, Isma's worst fears are confirmed. Then Eamonn enters the sisters' lives. Son of a powerful political figure, he has his own birthright to live up to--or defy. Is he to be a chance at love? The means of Parvaiz's salvation? Suddenly, two families' fates are inextricably, devastatingly entwined.

Simonson, Helen. *Major Pettigrew's Last Stand* - Major Ernest Pettigrew, having retired to a quiet life in Edgecombe St. Mary, raises a few eyebrows in the small English village when he begins a relationship with widow Mrs. Jasmina Ali, a Pakistani shopkeeper.

Simonson, Helen. *The Summer Before the War* - East Sussex, 1914. It is the end of England's brief Edwardian summer, and everyone agrees that the weather has never been so beautiful. Hugh Grange, down from his medical studies, is visiting his Aunt Agatha, Agatha has ... just risked her carefully built reputation by pushing for the appointment of a woman to replace the Latin master. When Beatrice Nash arrives with one trunk and several large crates of books, it is clear she is significantly more freethinking-and attractive-than anyone believes a Latin teacher should be. ... But just as Beatrice comes alive to the beauty of the Sussex landscape and the colorful characters who populate Rye, the perfect summer is about to end. ... Soon the limits of progress, and the old ways, will be tested as this small Sussex town and its inhabitants go to war.

Smith, Dodie. *I Capture the Castle* - A reprint of the 1948 novel recounting the story of Cassandra Mortmain, a young woman living on the edge of poverty in a crumbling castle with her somewhat eccentric family, whose prospects begin to improve when new neighbors arrive from America.

Smith, Zadie. *NW* - Describes the experiences of four northwest Londoners trying to make adult lives outside of Caldwell, the council estate of their childhood.

Smith, Zadie. *White Teeth* - Archie Jones and Samad Iqbal, friends since serving together in World War II, deal with the problems of love, lust, and the other challenges of raising their families in 1970s London.

Woolf, Virginia. *Mrs. Dalloway* - A poignant portrayal of the thoughts and events that comprise one day in a woman's life.

Woolf, Virginia. *To the Lighthouse* - Follows an English family's complex lives, and then picks them up again after a ten year hiatus in order to explore the effects of time.

Non-White Male British or Colonial Writers

Achebe, Chinua. *Arrow of God* - Tells of Nigeria in the 1920s when age-old tribal customs came into conflict with the ways of westernization.

Achebe, Chinua. *A Man of the People* - A schoolteacher risks his life to oppose a corrupt politician in this novel by noted twentieth-century Nigerian author Chinua Achebe, in which he explores the political state of his home country preceding the 1966 coup.

Ishiguro, Kazuo. *Never Let Me Go* - Thirty-one-year-old Kathy, along with old friends from Hailsham, a private school in England, are forced to face the truth about their childhood when they all come together again.

Ishiguro, Kazuo. *The Remains of the Day* - The life of Stevens, an aging English butler, changes after three decades of service to the same man.

Ishiguro, Kazuo. *A Pale View of Hills* - Etsuko, a Japanese woman living alone in England, contemplates the recent suicide of her eldest daughter, mingling the tragedy with memories of the devastation of Japan during World War II, and the calamities of her own life.

Naipaul, V. S. *The Enigma of Arrival* - The author chronicles his journey from the British colony of Trinidad to the ancient countryside of England, and discusses how the experience influenced his state of mind.

Black British Writers

Evans, Diana. *Ordinary People* - Melissa and Michael are having marriage problems related to motherhood and romance, while Stephanie and Damian's marriage problems relate to their aspirations. These two couples are longtime friends, but with their bonds being tested, the lines marked by their wedding bands are not so simply defined. (not in NHS Library...)

Levy, Andrea. *Small Island* - Hortense Joseph arrives in London from Jamaica in 1948 hoping to start a new life with her husband, but the pair soon find themselves struggling to fit into an unknown culture. (not in NHS Library...)

Wheatle, Alex. *Brixton Rock* - Set in South London in the 1980s, Brenton Brown is a 16-year-old mixed race youth who has lived in a children's home all his life. He has never met his mother and is haunted by her loss. (not in NHS Library...)

British LGBTQ+ Writers

Evaristo, Bernardine. *Mr. Loverman* - Barrington Jedidiah Walker is seventy-four and leads a double life. Born and bred in Antigua, he's lived in Hackney, London, for years. A flamboyant character with a fondness for William Shakespeare, Barrington is a husband, father, grandfather--and also secretly gay. With an abundance of laugh-out-loud humor and wit, Mr. Loverman explodes cultural myths and shows the extent of what can happen when people fear the consequences of being true to themselves. His deeply religious and disappointed wife, Carmel, thinks he sleeps with other women. When their marriage goes into meltdown, Barrington wants to divorce Carmel and live with Morris, but after a lifetime of fear and deception, will he manage to break away? With an abundance of laugh-out-loud humor and wit, Mr. Loverman explodes cultural myths and shows the extent of what can happen when people fear the consequences of being true to themselves. (not in NHS Library...)

Phillips, Caryl. *The Lost Child* - Monica Johnson-cut off from her parents after falling in love with a foreigner-and her bitter struggle to raise her sons in the shadow of the wild moors of the north of England. Phillips intertwines her modern narrative with the childhood of one of literature's most enigmatic lost boys, as he deftly conjures young Heathcliff, the anti-hero of "Wuthering Heights" and his ragged existence before Mr. Earnshaw brought him home to his family. (not in NHS Library...)

Waugh, Evelyn. *A Handful of Dust* - A 1934 satirization of a segment of English society in which all the characters have money but few other qualities to recommend them.