



## UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

School of Languages, Cultures and Societies (2015)

### Suggested texts for teaching **literature** to A-Level language students

*Each of the academics representing an area of language/culture study in the videos has also offered some general notes and advice surrounding texts which could help support the teaching of relevant areas*

#### **French** (Richard Hibbitt)

In general, the most useful tools for teaching specific texts at A level, be they plays, poems, novels, or short stories, are good scholarly editions with introduction and notes, either in English or French. These give teachers an overview of the context and themes for discussion. The editions specially prepared by French publishers for study at *collège* or *lycée* are recommended, such as those published in the Folio Plus range by Gallimard:

<http://www.folio-lesite.fr/Folio/collection.action?idCollection=436>

Here, for example, is their edition of Voltaire's *Candide*:

<http://www.gallimard.fr/Catalogue/GALLIMARD/Folio/Folioplus-classiques/Candide-ou-L-Optimisme>

These books are particularly good because they contain a *dossier* with themes and useful terms and vocabulary.

These days it is rarer to find English editions of French literary texts, as opposed to English translations by Penguin or Oxford University Press, which contain excellent notes and introductions and are good for teachers, even if the translations wouldn't be recommended to the students trying to read in the original. But second-hand copies of older editions can be easily found, published by companies such as Blackwell, Duckworth, Methuen, or Athlone Press, which contain the French texts with a good English critical apparatus.

A good example would be the Methuen edition of Claire Etcherelli's *Élise ou la vraie vie*, with notes by John Roach, reprinted by Routledge:

<http://www.abebooks.co.uk/servlet/BookDetailsPL?bi=12538385706&searchurl=tn%3Delise+or+the+real+life%26an%3Detcherelli+claire>





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For introductory critical studies in English, I recommend the excellent series Grant & Cutler Critical Guides to French texts, which can be ordered online from their shop, now part of Foyle's on Charing Cross Rd. Many of the books studied at A-Level are represented in this series, including more recent works that may not be covered in the examples above. The series can be found here:

<http://www.foyles.co.uk/all?term=critical%20guides%20to%20french%20texts#sor=1>

Good examples include the guide to Annie Ernaux's *La Place* and *La Honte*, by Alison S. Fell.

The series Glasgow Introductory Guides to French Literature is equally good in this respect: some of their many titles are available here; many are out-of-print but will be available second-hand:

<http://www.europeanbookshop.com/languagebooks/series/GIGF>

If teachers wish to complement these texts with a general guide to French literature, I recommend either of these books:

*Cassell Guide to Literature in French*, edited by Valerie Worth-Stylianou (London: Cassell, 1996), since reprinted.

*A Short History of French Literature*, edited by Sarah Kay, Terence Cave and Malcolm Bowie (Oxford: OUP, 2003)

Finally, for those who want to learn more about how literature is discussed, I recommend this accessible introduction:

Jonathan Culler, *Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction*, second edition (Oxford: OUP, 2011)





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### **German** (Helen Finch)

Franz Kafka, 'Ein Hungerkünstler'/'The Hunger Artist' (short story)

Franz Kafka, 'Die Verwandlung' / 'The Metamorphosis' (novella)

Frank Wedekind, 'Frühlingserwachen' / 'Spring Awakening' (play)

Bernhard Schlink, 'Der Vorleser' / 'The Reader' (novel)

Uwe Timm, 'Am Beispiel meines Bruders' / 'In my Brother's Shadow' (memoir)

W. G. Sebald, 'Paul Bereyter', from 'Die Ausgewanderten' / 'The Emigrants' (extract from novel – complicated!)

Paul Celan, 'Todesfuge' (poem)

### **Spanish** (Duncan Wheeler)

#### ***Suggested texts for study:***

Alonso de Santos, José Luis, *Bajarse al moro/Going Down to Morocco*, ed. Duncan Wheeler (Oxford: Oxbow, 2013).

Altarriba, Antonio, *El arte de volar* (Madrid: Edicions de Ponent, 2010).

Lope de Vega, *Three Major Plays*, trans. Gwynne Edwards (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2008).

#### ***Secondary reading:***

Delgado, Maria M. and David T. Gies, *A History of Theatre in Spain* (Cambridge: Cambridge University Press, 2012).

Labanyi, Jo, *Spanish Literature: A Very Short Introduction* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010).

Perriam, Chris et. al, *A New History of Spanish Writing, 1939 to the 1990s* (Oxford: Oxford University Press, 2010).

Wheeler, Duncan, *Golden Age Drama in Contemporary Spain: The Comedia on Page, Stage and Screen* (Cardiff: University of Wales Press, 2012).

