

20th Century British Literary & Cultural Contexts

This list focuses on 20th-century works of British literature that register an awareness of, or creation of, cultural rupture. It includes some key cultural documents that are important references for that literary culture. We do not mean to make claims about "massive" paradigm shifts. Such shifts are always contested and always retrospective. What the list offers is a map of the literary terrain, with some indications of the critical debates and intellectual foci (in our opinion) in the culture at large. We understand culture in its broadest sense: as political, textual, generic, gendered, of class, of sex, of race, of science, of visual arts. Our list foregrounds an examination of the intersection of formal, textual, and cultural forces.

We have chosen to include cultural documents by these writers: Fraser, Casement, Fry, Harrison, Woolf's Room, Freud, Snow, Scarman, and Thiong-o.

1. James Fraser, *The Golden Bough* (1890)
2. Oscar Wilde, *The Importance of Being Earnest* (1895)
3. Joseph Conrad, *Heart of Darkness* (1899 three-part series in *Blackwood*; 1902), *Nostromo* (1904)
4. Shaw, *Major Barbara* (written 1905; published 1907); *Pygmalion* (1912)
5. John Millington Synge, *Playboy of the Western World* (1907), *In the Shadow of the Glen* (1903)
6. Roger Casement, *The Black Diaries* (1910) and *Selections from Report from the Congo*
7. E. M. Forster, *Howard's End* (1910), *A Passage to India* (1924)
8. James Joyce, *Dubliners* (1914), (1918-1920 serialized in *The Little Review*; 1922)
9. W. B. Yeats, *At Hawk's Well* (performed 1916; published 1917), *The Tower - The Norton Facsimile Edition, Please* (1928)
10. Fry, Roger, *Vision and Design*, 1920s
11. Jane Harrison, *Epilegomena to the Study of Greek Religion* (1921)
12. T. S. Eliot, *The Waste Land* (1922), *Murder in the Cathedral* (1935)
13. D. H. Lawrence, *The Fox* (1923), *Women in Love* (1920)
14. Hugh MacDiarmid, *A Drunk Man Looks at the Thistle* (1926)
15. Seán O'Casey, *The Plough and the Stars* (1926)
16. Sylvia Townsend Warner, *Lolly Willowses* (1926)
17. Elizabeth Bowen, *The Last September* (1929)
18. Sigmund Freud, *Civilization and Its Discontents* (written 1929; published in German 1930)
19. Virginia Woolf, *A Room of One's Own* (1929) and *The Waves* (1931) OR *Mrs Dalloway* (1925)
20. Lewis Grassie Gibbon, *A Scots Quair* (*Sunset Song*-1932; *Cloud Howe*-1933; *Grey Granite*-1934)
21. W. H. Auden, *Another Time* (1940)
22. Samuel Beckett, *Trilogy* (*Molloy*-1951; *Malone Dies*-1951; *The Unnamable*--1953); *Waiting for Godot* (1953)
23. Iris Murdoch, *The Bell* (1958)
24. Harold Pinter, *The Birthday Party* (1958)
25. C. P. Snow, *The Two Cultures* (a Rede Lecture) (1959)
26. Muriel Spark, *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie* (1961)

27. Doris Lessing, *The Golden Notebook* (1962)
28. Joe Orton, *Loot* (1965)
29. Jean Rhys, *Wide Sargasso Sea* (1966)
30. Basil Bunting, *Briggflatts* 1966
31. Edward Bond, *Lear* (1971), *Bingo* (1973)
32. Geoffrey Hill *Mercian Hymns* (1971)
33. Seamus Heaney, *North* (1975)
34. Angela Carter, *The Bloody Chamber* (full text of stories) (1979)
35. Caryl Churchill, *Cloud Nine* (1979), *Top Girls* (1982)
36. Lord Scarman, "The Scarman Report" (1981)
37. Alasdair Gray, *Lanark* (1981)
38. Salman Rushdie, *Midnight's Children* (1981)
39. Julian Barnes, *Flaubert's Parrot* (1984)
40. Grace Nichols, *The Fat Black Woman's Poems* (1984)
41. Carol Anne Duffy, *Standing Female Nude* (1985)
42. J. M. Coetzee, *Foe* (1986)
43. Ngugi wa Thiong'o, *Decolonizing the Mind* (1986)
44. Alan Hollinghurst, *The Swimming-Pool Library* (1988)
45. Jeanette Winterson, *Written on the Body* (1992)
46. Sarah Kane, *Blasted* (1995)
47. Eavan Boland, *In a Time of Violence* (1995)
48. Monica Ali, *Brick Lane* (2003)
49. William Trevor, *The Story of Lucy Galt* (2002)
50. Sarah Waters, *The Night Watch* (2006)