

Book List for *Essay Skills*

Preparatory Study

Please ensure your child reads *Robinson Crusoe* by Daniel Defoe and writes brief chapter narrations to refer back to during the course. We will discuss the story, characters, and themes in the September classes. If your child has not had the chance to study much poetry before, I would also recommend reading *The Roar on the Other Side* by Suzanne Rhodes in preparation for the course.

Optional: Your child might benefit from reading the *novels during the summer (or listening to them on audio), prior to studying the books together. Watching a theatre production of *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (live or filmed) can also be a helpful introduction, although it's worth checking any reviews first to make sure it's suitable!

From September 2026

Please source the recommended editions so we can all work from the same page numbers during discussions. It is helpful, but not essential, for students to be able to annotate the texts. The prices indicate expected cost of new/second-hand copies.

Animal Farm by George Orwell

Collins Classics, ISBN: 978-0008322052 (£4/£3.50)

**Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen

Oxford World's Classics, ISBN: 978-0198826736 (£6/£5)

A Midsummer Night's Dream by William Shakespeare

Dover Thrift Editions, ISBN: 978-0486270678 (£3/£2)

**Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley

Wordsworth Classics, ISBN: 9781853260230 (£5/£3.50)

An additional document of weekly readings (including poetry) is provided in a printable PDF at the start of the course.