Suggested Reading and Films for IP Students

Coming to the London Study Centre

This is a list of books and films that we think you might enjoy, which will introduce you to the society, culture, geography, architecture and people of London. It cannot hope to be exhaustive, but there should be something for everyone here. If, at the end of your time in London, you have suggestions of items to add, we’d love to hear about them!

The LSC Admin Staff

Books

Commentary, history and travel writing
Salaam Brick Lane: A Year in the New East End (2006) by Tarquin Hall
Watching the English (2005), by Kate Fox
London: The Biography (2001) by Peter Ackroyd
Notes from a Small Island (1996) by Bill Bryson

Travel Guides

City Walks - London: 50 Adventures on Foot (2005) by Craig Taylor
London: Eyewitness Travel Guides by Michael Leapman
London (Lonely Planet City Guides (2006) by Sarah Johnstone and Tom Masters
The Student’s Guide to London by Larry Lain and Jeff Griffin
“Time Out” London (2006) by Lesley McCave
Andrew Duncan’s Favourite London Walks (2006)
London’s Theatres (2002) by Mike Kilburn (foreword by Zoe Wannamaker)

Fiction
Classics
The Jeeves & Wooster series (1917 – 74) by P.G. Wodehouse
Mrs Dalloway (1925) by Virginia Woolf
A Child of the Jago (1894) by Arthur Morrison
Bleak House (1855) by Charles Dickens
Vanity Fair (1848) by William Makepeace Thackeray
Oliver Twist (1838) by Charles Dickens

Historical Novels
The Constant Princess (2006), The Other Boleyn Girl (2002) and others by Philippa Gregory
London Dust (2003) by Lee Jackson
The Crimson Petal and the White (2002) by Michel Faber

20th Century and Contemporary
The Understudy (2006) by David Nicholls
Saturday (2005) by Ian McEwan
The Line of Beauty (2004) by Alan Hollinghurst
Baggage (2004) by Janet Street Porter
Small Island (2004) by Andrea Levy
Brick Lane (2003) by Monica Ali

London Bridges (2000) by Jane Stevenson
White Teeth (2000) by Zadie Smith
E (2000) by Matt Beaumont
Man and Boy (1999) by Tony Parsons
253 (1998) by Geoff Ryman
Bridget Jones’ Diary (1996) by Helen Fielding
High Fidelity (1995) by Nick Hornby
Fever Pitch (1992) by Nick Hornby
London Fields (1989) by Martin Amis
Mother London (1988) by Michael Moorcock
Hangover Square (1941) by Patrick Hamilton

Television Programs
Your local library or Blockbuster may have these!
EastEnders (1985 – Present)
Spooks (2002 – Present)
The Thick of It (2005 – Present)
Black Books (2000 – 04)
House of Cards (1990 – 95)
Jeeves & Wooster (1990 – 93)
Yes, Minister (1980 – 84) and Yes, Prime Minister (1986 – 88)
Films

Feel-good Movies

... to get you in the mood for London

Run, Fat Boy, Run (2007)
Flushed Away (2006)
The Queen (2006)
Bend it Like Beckham (2002)
About a Boy (2002)
Bridget Jones’ Diary (2001)
Martha, Meet Frank, Daniel and Lawrence (1998)
Notting Hill (1999)
Wonderland (1999)
Sliding Doors (1998)
Wimbledon (2004)
Billy Elliot (2000)
Tube Tales (1999)
Jack and Sarah (1995)
My Beautiful Laundrette (1985)
Alfie (1965)

Historical London

... to give you a feel for yesteryear

Mrs. Henderson Presents (2005)
Bright Young Things (2003)

Elizabeth (1998)
Shakespeare in Love (1998)
Wilde (1997)
Restoration (1995)
Sense and Sensibility (1995)
84 Charing Cross Road (1987)
Withnail and I (1986)
The Italian Job (The Original only, please – 1969)
Oliver! (1968)
To Sir, With Love (1967)
THE DARKER SIDE OF LONDON

Many of these films contain violence – check them out on www.imdb.com for descriptions before renting

The Bank Job (2008)
The Bourne Ultimatum (2007)
V For Vendetta (2006)
Children of Men (2006)
Closer (2004)
Snatch (2000)
Lock, Stock, and Two Smoking Barrels (1998)
Sid and Nancy (1986)
Mona Lisa (1985)
The Long Good Friday (1981)

Thrills and Chills

Look these up on www.imdb.com for descriptions before you rent them – you have been warned!

Shaun of the Dead (2004)
Creep (2004)
From Hell (2001) (Note: London is recreated in Prague in this latest re-telling of the Jack the Ripper murders)
Bram Stoker’s Dracula (1993)

Oldies but Goodies

Kind Hearts and Coronets (1949)
Passport to Pimlico (1949)
The Ladykillers (1995)
The Lavender Hill Mob (1951)
Waterloo Road (1945)
London Belongs to Me (1948)