Genre Websites

These websites are starting points to help you select a work of literature to explore in your extended essay. The sites are to be used in tandem with Gale Virtual Reference Library, JSTOR, Proquest Learning: Literature, and Literary Criticism Online where you should search for literary criticism. You must find criticism in order to structure an arguable question for your essay.

Poetry

Famous Poets and their Poems  http://famouspoetsandpoems.com/poets.html
Provides a comprehensive list of poets with an accompanying biography and selected poems for each. Poet categories include: Nationality, Contemporary, Women, African American, Nobel Prize, Birthdate range and an option to browse alphabetically. Use this as a starting place and then search the poets name in the Gale Virtual Reference Library, Proquest Learning: Literature, or in JSTOR for criticism.

Poet Seers  http://www.poetseers.org/
Another starting point for poets and their poetry. Pay attention to the categories listed on the homepage. Stay in the following categories: Romantic, Nobel Prize, Contemporary, American, British. Then go to Gale Virtual Reference Library, Proquest Learning: Literature, or JSTOR and read criticism there.

The Bollingen Prize for Poetry (Yale University)  http://beinecke.library.yale.edu/bollingen/
An excellent site for exploring poets who have received this prestigious literary award. Click on the link “Bollingen Winners” to read bios of past winners. Then go to Gale Virtual Reference Library, Proquest Learning: Literature, or JSTOR and read criticism there.

Fiction

National Book Foundation (multi-genre site)  http://www.nationalbook.org/
Represents the best in American Literature since the 1950s. Awards given annually for fiction, poetry, non-fiction, biography, etc. since 1950. When you search this site:

Click on Awards and then select Winners and Finalists.
Select a decade to investigate (2010s, 2000s, 1990s, 1980s, 1970s, 1960s, 1950s), then select a year within the decade. Category winners and finalists for each year are listed.
  1) Winners in more recent years may have less criticism available (Check Gale Virtual Reference Library, Proquest Learning: Literature, and JSTOR for author and book title criticism, reviews, and summaries)
  2) Finalists are often as interesting as winners.
  3) Listen to or read acceptance speeches—you may learn something about the author that sparks your interest in his/her work.

The Nobel Prize in Literature  http://nobelprize.org/nobel_prizes/literature/
An excellent source for international fiction, in particular works in translation to English. Over the years, the Nobel Prize in Literature has distinguished the works of authors from many different languages and cultural backgrounds. The Literature Prize has been awarded to unknown masters as well as authors acclaimed worldwide.
The Pulitzer Prize – Fiction, Poetry, Drama  [http://www.pulitzer.org/bycat](http://www.pulitzer.org/bycat)
A comprehensive listing of award winners. Check out the category entitled Letters, Drama and Music. The awards are annually as prizes in Letters. Except in the case of drama, where production rather than publication shall be the criterion, eligibility for these awards shall be restricted to works first published in the United States during the year and made available in hardcover or bound paperback form for purchase by the general public for:

1. distinguished fiction by an American author, preferably dealing with American life
2. distinguished play by an American author, preferably original in its source and dealing with American life
3. distinguished volume of original verse by an American author

Click on “More Details” for information about winners in a particular category and then go to Gale Virtual Reference Library, JSTOR, Proquest Learning: Literature, or Literary Criticism Online to locate criticism.

The Scotiabank Giller Prize  [http://www.scotiabankgillerprize.ca](http://www.scotiabankgillerprize.ca)
The Giller Prize is Canada's richest literary award for fiction. The launch of The Giller Prize coincided with a growing recognition of Canadian authors and literature both at home and abroad. With such acclaimed writers as Alice Munro, Margaret Atwood, Michael Ondaatje and Mordecai Richler winning honours and accolades around the world, the popularity of Canadian literature has continued to flourish.

Additional Award Lists

The lists are a starting point. You must use them in conjunction with Gale Virtual Reference Library, JSTOR, Proquest Learning: Literature, Literary Criticism Online.

Any full-length novel, written by a citizen of the Commonwealth (England), the Republic of Ireland or Zimbabwe is eligible. Authors must be living at the time of the award. No English translation of a book written originally in any other language is eligible.

Awarded every two years to a living author who has published fiction either originally in English or whose work is generally available in translation in the English language. The winner is chosen solely at the discretion of the judging panel and there are no submissions from publishers.

Rea Award for Short Stories  [http://www.reaaward.org/preface.html](http://www.reaaward.org/preface.html)
Given annually to a living American or Canadian writer whose published work has made a “significant contribution in the discipline of the short story as an art form”. The Rea Award is unique in that it is not given for a collection of stories or for a body of work, but rather for originality and influence on the genre.