

Ayi Kwei Armah, Amos Tutuola, Lu Hsun, Sadaat Hasan Manto, Isaac Loeb Peretz, Nicolai Gogol, C.L.R. James, Alasdair Gray, Mulk Raj Anand, Isaac Babel, Chinweizu [his criticism, eg The Decolonization of African Literature], Dambuzdo Maraschera, Ken Saro Wiwa [Sosa Boy], Albert Camus, Jean Genet, Samuel Becket, Jean Paul Sartre [Nausea], Mendele Seforim, Fyodor Dostoevsky, Ivo Andric, Robert Musil, James Hogg [Confessions of a Justified Sinner and also his short stories], Leo Tolstoy, Ivan Turgenev, Anton Chekhov, Knut Hamsun [early novels], Strindberg [prose & plays], Maeterlinck [plays], Isaac Bashevis Singer, Franz Kafka, Sol Plaatje [his novel Mhudi], Scholom Aleichem, Alex La Guma [short stories]

Japanese late 19th & 20th century prose

Be aware of distinctive English-language based literatures, check out Caribbean, South East Asian, Scottish and Irish, also of course African, the Indian Subcontinent, all the colonised regions and countries of the former British Empire. What you find is how they - perhaps the best of them - are forced to highjack the colonizer's [the Brits] language.

I resisted giving names of USA writers in the above list but I just recommend just getting used to the strength of the short story tradition in this country. Check out contemporary writing by Asian-American, African-American, "poor white", and other non-standard or regional work.

some further browsing material

Dear Theo (Vincent Van Gogh's letters to his brother)

The Diaries of Franz Kafka, edited by Max Brod

Silences, by Tillie Olsen

Theatre of the Oppressed, by Augusto Boal

Practicalities, by Marguerite Duras

Soledad Brother, by George Jackson

Journals of Soren Kierkegaard

I Wanted to Write a Poem, by William Carlos Williams

Mystery and Manners, Flannery O'Connor (sections II and III)

How writing is written, and Reflections on the Atom Bomb, by Gertrude Stein (essays and occasional writings, but plus her other stuff)

Reports from the Present, by Tom Leonard [and other essays and also his poetry, eg Intimate Voices

Turgenev's Literary Reminiscences, by Ivan Turgenev (esp. Chapters I, II & III)

Lectures on Russian Literature, by Vladimir Nabokov (esp. essay on Anton Chekhov)

Toward the Decolonization of African Literature, by Chinweizu

The Book of Imaginary Beings, Jorge Luis Borges with Margarita Guerrero

Tractatus Logico-Philosophicus, by Ludwig Wittgenstein (first 20 pages)

What is Art, by Leo Tolstoy