

(Hand-out, grads and undergrads; stuff to have a go)

Ayi Kwei Armah (try earlier first);  
Amos Tutuola;  
Lu Hsun;  
Sadaat Hasan Manto (everything);  
Isaac Loeb Peretz (everything);  
Nicolai Gogol (everything);  
C.L.R. James (dip into);  
Mulk Raj Anand;  
Isaac Babel (everything);  
Chinweizu [anything];  
Dambuzdo Maraschera;  
Ken Saro Wiwa;  
Albert Camus (everything);  
Jean Genet (Miracle of the Rose especially);  
Samuel Becket [begin earlier novels];  
Jean Paul Sartre [Nausea];  
Mendele Seforim;  
Fyodor Dostoevsky (everything);  
Ivo Andric;  
Robert Musil;  
Leo Tolstoy (everything);  
James Hogg [Confessions of a Justified Sinner and his short stories];  
Ivan Turgenev (everything);  
Anton Chekhov (everything);  
Knut Hamsun [early novels - pre US];  
Strindberg [prose];  
Maeterlinck [plays];  
Isaac Bashevis Singer (everything);  
Franz Kafka (everything);  
Sol Plaatje [his novel Mhudi];  
Mendele Sforim;  
Scholom Aleichem;  
Alex La Guma [short stories];  
Japanese prose late 19th, early 20th century prose  
Alexander Herzen (essaying);  
Lermontov (stories);  
Goethe (novels)

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.

I've resisted giving the names of USA writers in the above list but I recommend getting used to the strength of the short story tradition here in your own place (USA), up until 1940 or thereabouts; after that not so strong, but that's my opinion and it is only intuitive. But check out contemporary writing by Asian-American, African-American, "poor white", and other non-standard or regional work. Understand what 'voice' signifies, i.e. the unique individual

some further browsing material:

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

The Journals of Franz Kafka

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 [+ poetry, everything)

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

Lectures on Russian Literature, by Vladimir Nabokov (must! essay on Anton Chekhov)

Toward the Decolonization of African Literature, by Chinweizu

The Book of Imaginary Beings, Jorge Luis Borges

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

What is Art, by Leo Tolstoy