Perceptions of English literature - Audio

How English is English literature?

Commentator
In this audio documentary we are going to hear about how over the past fifty years perceptions of English literature have changed. During that half-century, we have come to a much richer and more diverse understanding of the meaning of literatures in English.

Terry Eagleton
There’s the question of how we relate English literature to Englishness, and something new has happened there. More or less until our present moment, or certainly until the twentieth century, English literature and Englishness always went together.

Commentator
Professor Terry Eagleton is highly respected as arguably the UK’s leading literary critic.

Terry Eagleton
A split has opened up between the language itself, still English, and, as it were, the culture it reflects, so that we can no longer assume that the English language has quintessentially English cultural characteristics about it.

Commentator
Professor Terry Eagleton.