

Welcome to English Literature!

Now that you've decided to study Literature at A level, you'll need to do a bit of preparation. This pack contains a programme of information sheets, activities and resources to prepare you to start your A level in September. It is aimed to be used after you complete your GCSE throughout the rest of the summer term and over the summer holidays to ensure you are ready to start your course in September.

The resources include:

- Key pre-knowledge topics that are required for you to be successful in your course with activities associated with the topics, which test your key knowledge and understanding of the building blocks required to be successful in this subject.
- Suggested reading and associated websites where you can research the topics you will be exploring in your A level course.
- Suggested visits and activities over the summer holidays including places of interest that will generate enthusiasm and engagement.

Pre-knowledge topics

The activities in this booklet are designed to help you start the move from being a great GCSE student of Literature to being a great student at A level - and beyond.

Some of the activities ask you to step back and think about what it means to study literature, while others encourage you to try out some different ways of approaching your learning- whether that's reading, discussing, writing or learning how to reflect on your own work.

Pick an activity from each coloured column to complete.

Reading, watching and listening to the experts	Creating your own anthologies	Critical challenges	Reading, watching and listening to texts	Critical and creative ways of exploring literature
Listen to a literature podcast and be ready to share what you found interesting.	<i>Create a 'five books' list and share your list</i>	Conduct a search on Google to identify useful websites and videos which give you guidance for how to write a good A level Literature Critical essay. Create a top tips guide.	Watch a play online and write the script for a podcast/online discussion reviewing it	<i>Watch a film or TV adaptation of a novel you know. Then write a pitch for a novel you think would make a great film adaptation. Explain why!</i>
Visit the British library online and explore some of the discover and learn exhibitions. https://www.bl.uk/discover-and-learn/online-exhibitions	<i>Put together a short anthology of poems and write the introduction for the collection</i>	Take a risk by sharing an idea you're not sure about	Read a prize-winning novel – just for pleasure	Read a novel of your choice and represent it using an artistic medium.
Find a listen to a Ted Talk about one of Shakespeare's texts or a text which has inspired you.	Collate a taster anthology of your favourite books	Explore the art of the review – read 3 or 4 online reviews for a novel you enjoyed, then either write your own or a response to one of them.	Listen to literature (audio books)	Play with a text, messing about and transforming it in 2 or 3 different ways. What do you learn about the original?

Suggested Reading and Research

The set texts that you will study (and need to purchase) over the course are as follows:

- 'Othello' – William Shakespeare (Oxford University Press) 978 0198328735
- 'Tess of the D'Urbervilles' – Thomas Hardy (Wordsworth) 978 1853260056
- 'Death of a Salesman' – Arthur Miller – (Penguin Classics) 978-0141182742

- 'The Kite Runner' – Khaled Hosseini (Bloomsbury) 978-1526604743
- 'The Handmaid's Tale' – Margaret Atwood (Vintage) 978-1784873189
- 'Songs of Innocence and Experience' – William Blake – school will provide this anthology

The first three are studied in Year 12 and the second three in Year 13.

You are, of course, welcome to read these in advance of the course but many students do choose to leave that until the course starts so that we can read and enjoy the texts together. It's entirely up to you. The text that you might benefit from reading in advance is 'Tess of the D'Urbervilles' as it is a long text and many students struggle to find the time to re-read it later in the A Level course.

Watching some productions of 'Othello' online (or any of the texts listed in these text lists) might also be a good idea. The National Theatre are giving students access to their archive at the moment. Please use the login details below.

Your access details are:

<https://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/series/national-theatre-collection-iid-190464>

Username: 7Qr(6Qg-

Password: 6Uj'6Su)

Additional/alternative reading which won't 'spoil' the texts to be studied for you but will add to your understanding of our themes of 'Tragedy' and 'Social Political Protest' might be the texts that we have not selected for study but which appear elsewhere on the specification.

These are:

- 'The Great Gatsby' – F. Scott Fitzgerald
- The poetry of John Keats
- 'Richard II' – William Shakespeare
- 'Harvest' – Jim Crace
- 'Hard Times' – Charles Dickens (might be especially interesting if you've studied 'Great Expectations' at GCSE)
- The poetry of Tony Harrison
- 'A Doll's House' – Henrik Ibsen
- 'Henry IV Part 1' – William Shakespeare

Many of these are available as free audio books at the moment, so do have a look around to see what you can find. Here is a link to 'A Doll's House' to get you started.

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=DC1IP6dqlzY>

Any reading you do between now and the course will be useful and not wasted so do pick some things you enjoy (read the blurbs online to help you select some to dip into).

Please read at least one of the texts listed below over the summer holidays. Be prepared to discuss your reading at the start of your A Level course.

Atonement – Ian McEwan (NOT TO BE USED FOR NEA)

Saturday – Ian McEwan

Engleby – Sebastian Faulks

The Picture of Dorian Gray – Oscar Wilde

Wide Sargasso Sea – Jean Rhys

Heart of Darkness – Joseph Conrad

Jane Eyre – Charlotte Bronte

Wuthering Heights – Emily Bronte

Rebecca – Daphne du Maurier

Lord of the Flies – William Golding

Breakfast at Tiffany's – Truman Capote

The Great Gatsby – F. Scott Fitzgerald (NOT TO BE USED FOR NEA)

Life of Pi – Yann Martel

The Bell Jar – Sylvia Plath

Tender is the Night – F. Scott Fitzgerald

The Catcher in the Rye – J. D. Salinger

Purple Hibiscus – Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche

A Thousand Splendid Suns – Khaled Hosseini

American Psycho – Brett Easton Ellis

A Clockwork Orange – Anthony Burgess

In Cold Blood – Truman Capote

The Collector – John Fowles

The Book Thief – Markus Zusak

The Shadow of the Wind – Carlos Ruiz Zafon

Brave New World – Aldous Huxley

1984 – George Orwell

Animal Farm – George Orwell

The Road – Cormac McCarthy

Pride and Prejudice – Jane Austen

Sense and Sensibility – Jane Austen

Suggested visits and activities

As you have probably gathered from the information above, reading broadly is key to success at A level. What better activity to be set than to immerse yourself in the world of books.

If you want to go on a specific visit, here are a couple of suggestions for you:

- Visit *The British Library* in London, or at least explore the website, to see if there are any exhibitions which might be of interest.
- Visit a theatre or conference centre to watch and enjoy a play / monologue or to hear renowned authors speak about their novels. See if anywhere is showing any of Miller's work. Alternatively, you might be able to watch some of his plays online.
- If you happen to go to Dorset, do a Hardy walking tour and soak up the atmosphere of Hardy's 'Wessex'.
- Visit the Victoria and Albert Museum (London), to gain a better understanding of Victorian culture.