

English Literature

A level English Literature studies how great writing enables the exploration of many of life's fundamental themes: love, loneliness, prejudice, bravery and perseverance to name but a few. An A level English Literature course covers a variety of modern and historical Prose, Poetry and Drama texts from Shakespeare and Oscar Wilde to Andrea Levy and John Betjeman, with many more along the way.

Reading, discussing and writing are key. You will be expected not just to read, but to develop the skill of thinking critically about what you read and of analysing texts to work out how the author's use of situation and language create powerful impressions. You will need to explore your own emotional response to writing and be able to discuss it, in class and through your own writing, and to argue constructively for your point of view.

Task

- a. Research the following poets and make a poster displaying your findings. Look at the time in which they were writing. Consider their religious or political beliefs, marriage/ relationships with others – these may have influenced their literary works. Also consider how they were viewed in the public.
 - John Keats
 - William Blake
 - Robert Burns
 - Lord Byron
 - Christina Rossetti
- b. How do you think this task will help to prepare you for the course?

Task

- a. Complete the Literary Terms Audit at the end of this document. You will need to know these features for whichever poems you study as part of your Literature Course.
- b. How do you think this task will help to prepare you for the course?

Task

- a. You should start reading *Othello* straight away as it is widely available online and there are free, unabridged audio book versions on YouTube.
- b. How do you think this task will help to prepare you for the course?

Task

- a. Go to Shakespeare's Globe Theatre Website and watch a play to two that they are streaming for free. Recommendations would be Hamlet, Romeo and Juliet or The Winter's Tale.
- b. How do you think this task will help to prepare you for the course?



Task

- a. Read at least ONE of the texts from the attached reading list. Make yourself familiar with as many of the titles on there (even if this means some short time researching a text online OR watching a film version of it).
- b. How do you think this task will help to prepare you for the course?

Task

- a. Watch as many of the following films / series (buying a study guide for each would be useful):
 - Othello (any version),
 - The Kite Runner
 - A Dolls House (starring Anthony Hopkins),
 - Frankenstein (Starring Robert De Nero and Kenneth Branagh),
 - The Kite Runner
- b. How do you think this task will help to prepare you for the course?

Technical Terms Audit

Complete the following sheet by finding a suitable definition for each technical term (use your past knowledge and research any terms that are new to you).

Terminology	Meaning
Iambic pentameter	
Sonnet	
Allegory	
Anachronism	
Caesura	
Cliché	
Anaphora	
Simile	
Metaphor	
Adjective	
Adverb	
Personification	
Plosive alliteration	
Fricative alliteration	
Assonance	
Bathos	
Carpe diem	
Colloquial language	
Quotidian language	
Conceit	
Consonance	



Denotation	
Elegaic meter	
Couplet	
Enjambment	
Lexis	
Climax	
Pathos	
Feminine rhyme	
Pathetic fallacy	
Hyperbolic language	
Interjection	
Gallows humour	
Didactic	
Utopia	
Narrative exposition	
Foreshadowing	
Dramatic monologue	
Malapropism	
Lyric poem	
Microcosm	
Juxtaposition	
Refrain	
Robinsonade	
Syntax	
Volta	

Recommendations For A-Level English Wider Reading (This is a quick list but it is a good starting point for your wider reading)

Prose

The Handmaid's Tale- Margaret Atwood

The Bell Jar- Sylvia Plath

A Clockwork Orange- Anthony Burgess Animal Farm & 1984 - George Orwell To Kill A Mockingbird- Harper Lee

High Rise- J.G.Ballard

The God of Small Things- Arundhati Roy

Orlando & To The Lighthouse & Mrs Dalloway - Virginia Woolf

The Yellow Wallpaper- Charlotte Gilmore Perkins (short story- can find free PDF online)

The Buddha of Suburbia- Hanif Qureshi

A Thousand Splendid Suns & The Kite Runner & The Mountains Echoed - Khaled Hosseinni

Men In The Sun- Ghassan Kanafani Perfume – Patrick Suskind 1985 Outcast – Sadie Jones

Life Of Pi – Yann Martel

Birdsong – Sebastian Faulks

The Great Gatsby – Scott Fitzgerald

Spies – Michael Frayn

Sense And Sensibility & Northanger Abbey & Pride and Prejudice - Jane Austen 1813

The Reluctant Fundamentalist – Mohsin Hamid

White Teeth – Zadie Smith

The Bloody Chamber and other stories – Angela Carter 1979 Dracula – Bram Stoker 1897

We Need To Talk About Kevin - – Lionel Shriver

The Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde – R L Stevenson

The Color Purple- Alice Walker

Oranges Are Not The Only Fruit- Jeanette Winterson

Picture of Dorian Grey - Oscar Wilde

The Woman In Black – Susan Hill 1983

Brick Lane – Monica Ali

Small Island – Andrea Levy

Wuthering Heights – Emily Bronte 1847

Tess of the D'Urbervilles, Jude the Obscure – Thomas Hardy Jane Eyre – Charlotte Bronte, 1847

Lady Chatterley's Lover – D. H. Lawrence, 1928

Rebecca – Daphne Du Marier, 1938

Lolita – Vladimir Nabokov, 1955

Notes On A Scandal – Zoe Heller 2003

Birdsong – Sebastian Faulks, 1994

Memoirs of a Geisha – Arthur Golden, 1997

Enduring Love – Ian McEwan, 1997

Disgrace – J. M. Coetzee, 1999

The Grapes Of Wrath – John Steinbeck

Room – Emma Donoghue, 2010

Call It Sleep - Henry Roth

Beloved – Tony Morrison

Brave New World – Aldous Huxley

Drama

A Woman Of No Importance- Oscar Wilde

Top Girls- Caryl Churchill

The Glass Menagerie – Tennessee Willsoams 1944

A Doll's House & Ghosts – Henrik Ibsen East Is East – Ayub Khan Din

Waiting for Godot- Sam Beckett

All My Sons (1947), Death of a Salesman & A View From A Bridge (1955) – Arthur Miller

Anthony and Cleopatra, Romeo and Juliet (1597), Othello (1601) – William Shakespeare

Uncle Vanya – Anton Chekov, 1898

A Streetcar Named Desire – Tennessee Williams, 1957

A Taste of Honey – Shelagh Delaney, 1959

Betrayal – Harold Pinter, 1978

Top Tips For Wider Reading:

Pick up a copy of The Norton Anthology of English Literature from ebay or Amazon.

Try to read material from the 'prizes' e.g. The Man Booker prize or the Orange prize

Try to get into reading a broadsheet newspaper weekly

Try to read a range of non-fiction writing such as travel writing (Bryson, Palin), autobiography (Long Walk to Freedom by Nelson Mandela), biography etc.

Reference Books:

A Dictionary of Literary Terms by Martin Gray

AQA English Literature A (AS and A2) by Nelson Thornes

Doing English by Robert Eaglestone

How to Write Better Essays by Bryan Greetham

Oxford Concise Companion To English Literature by Margaret Drabble and Jenny Stringer

Pastoral by Terry Gifford

The Ode Less Travelled by Stephen Fry

The Poet's Craft by Sandy Brownjohn

Magazines/Journals, Podcasts and Festivals:

EMC Emagazine Philip Allan English Review www.englishandmedia.co.uk

The Times Literary Supplement – a weekly literary review Literary Events The BBC Proms festival
<http://www.bbc.co.uk/proms>

The London Literature Festival <https://www.southbankcentre.co.uk/whats-on/festivals-series/london-literature-festival?gclid=CMG0iMnb59MCFWi17QodVfcJVA>