

English Literature A Level



Welcome to English Literature A Level! This is a course for students who love reading and who want to read widely. It is the perfect course for those who enjoy thinking, talking and writing about what they have read.

The focus of your A level study is will be on the portrayal of **love through the ages** and the portrayal of **modern identity** through literature written after 1945. Start reading widely now to get an idea of how different writers have treated these topics. Keep a reading log of what you've read and what you think about it.

Compulsory summer task: You must read *Far From the Madding Crowd* by Thomas Hardy. Keep a reading log of notes and thoughts about the novel and bring it with you when you return to school in September. Particular ideas you need to consider when you are reading it include:

- What is love? How does Hardy explore different kinds of love?
- How does Hardy explore ideas about love in relation to the individual and to society?
- How is class portrayed in the novel?
- How is gender portrayed in the novel?
- How is marriage presented in the novel?

The texts you will need for next year include:

Othello – William Shakespeare

The Handmaid's Tale – Margaret Atwood

Wuthering Heights – Emily Bronte

Further reading for the summer and beyond:

Potential coursework texts:

Novels: *Northanger Abbey, Emma, Pride and Prejudice* – Jane Austen
Hard Times, Great Expectations – Charles Dickens
Frankenstein – Mary Shelley
News from Nowhere – William Morris
The Picture of Dorian Gray – Oscar Wilde
The Yellow Wallpaper – Charlotte Perkins Gilman
Lady Chatterley's Lover – D.H. Lawrence

I Capture the Castle – Dodie Smith
1984 – George Orwell
Brave New World – Aldous Huxley
The Catcher in the Rye – J.D. Salinger
The Bell Jar – Sylvia Plath
White Teeth – Zadie Smith
On Chesil Beach – Ian McEwan

Plays: *King Lear, Much Ado About Nothing, A Midsummer Night's Dream* – Shakespeare
A Doll's House – Henrik Ibsen
The Importance of Being Earnest – Oscar Wilde
The Glass Menagerie – Tennessee Williams

Wider reading for Love through the ages (NB cannot be used for coursework):

Novels: *Persuasion* - Jane Austen
Jane Eyre Charlotte Brontë Pre-1900
Wuthering Heights - Emily Brontë
A Room with a View - E.M. Forster
The Go-Between - L.P. Hartley
Rebecca - Daphne Du Maurier
Atonement - Ian McEwan

Poetry: Anthology of love poetry (plenty of different ones around – all pretty good)
John Donne's poetry
Shakespeare's Sonnets

Wider reading for Modern Identity (NB cannot be used for coursework)

Novel: *The God of Small Things* – Arundhati Roy
Oranges are not the Only Fruit – Jeanette Winterson
One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest – Ken Kesey
The Color Purple – Alice Walker
The Help – Kathryn Stockett

Drama: *A Streetcar named Desire* or *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* – Tennessee Williams
All My Sons – Arthur Miller

Poetry - Owen Sheers – Skirrid Hill
Carol Ann Duffy – *Feminine Gospels*
Sylvia Plath – *Ariel*
Ted Hughes – *Birthday Letters*

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