

## ENGLISH LITERATURE

### A LEVEL PREPARATION WORK

Welcome to the A Level English Literature course. Having completed your GCSEs, you are now ready to move on and we would like you to undertake some preparatory work before you join us next September. Since you have chosen this subject, we assume that you are a keen reader who reads for pleasure and enjoys the challenge of teasing out meaning, of discussing a range of views, themes and issues and of exploring the range of ways in which ideas are conveyed and readers are manipulated.

Keep up your private reading of a range of literature from easy reads to more challenging novels. One of the units you will be studying is based on dystopian literature so should look at the suggested reading list of texts overleaf, and choose some to read. You should also continue to build your experience of drama with visits to the theatre and or regular watching of TV drama and films. Look out for screenings of stage productions by the National Theatre at cinemas. Digital Theatre is also a very good website through which you can download theatre productions.

**Compulsory Summer Tasks – your research should be presented in the form of TWO information leaflets aimed at Year 12 students who are about to start their A Level English Literature course.**

1. Research the Victorian era and the life and times of Christina Rossetti. Ideas to consider include:

- Major historical events
- Changes in education
- Changes to publishing
- Changes to technology
- Changes to marital laws
- Changes to religion

Make brief notes of your findings when you complete the research tasks – no cutting and pasting off the internet. The Victorian Web is an excellent website (hyperlink on Moodle) which offers a range of background and biographical detail and access to a large number of texts.

2. Research the Elizabethan era and the genre of tragedy, including revenge tragedy in preparation or your study of *Hamlet*. Use <http://www.elizabethan-era.org.uk/> as a starting point.

You might also like to explore the emagazine website ([www.emagazine.org.uk](http://www.emagazine.org.uk)) to which the school has a subscription (username: WHSG-English, password: Shakespeare); this has a wide range of accessible and interesting articles.

**Set texts to buy – please make sure you buy the correct edition**

- *Hamlet* – William Shakespeare – Heinemann Advanced Shakespeare – isbn 9780435193104
- *A Dolls House* – Henrik Ibsen – Penguin Classics – isbn - 978-0140441468
- *1984* – George Orwell – Penguin Books – isbn 9780141393049
- *A Streetcar Named Desire* – Tennessee Williams – Heinemann – isbn 978-0141190273
- *Feminine Gospels* – Carol Ann Duffy – Pan MacMillan – isbn 9781509852918
- *Wide Sargasso Sea* – Jean Rhys – Penguin Books – isbn 9780141182858
- *The Road* – Cormac McCarthy – Pan MacMillan – isbn 9780330513005
- *The Handmaid's Tale* – Margaret Atwood – Vintage – isbn 978-0099740919

ENGLISH LITERATURE – A Level

RECOMMENDED WIDER READING - DYSTOPIA

**Reading Suggestions**

*Fahrenheit 451* – Ray Bradbury \*

*Animal Farm* – George Orwell

*Brave New World* – Aldous Huxley \*

*A Clockwork Orange* – Anthony Burgess \*

*Never Let Me Go* – Kazuo Ishiguro

*The Time Machine* – H G Wells \*

*The Chrysalids* – John Wyndham

*The Last Man* – Mary Shelley

*Do Androids Dream of Electric Sheep* – Phillip K Dick

*The Running Man* – Richard Bachman

*Cloud Atlas* – David Mitchell

*The Circle* – Dave Eggers

*Memoirs of a Survivor* – Doris Lessing \*

*The Drowned World* – J G Ballard \*

*The Children of Men* – P D James \*

*Lord of the Flies* – William Golding

*Neuromancer* – William Gibson

*Iron Heel* – Jack London

*A Sound of Thunder* – Ray Bradbury

*The Trial* – Franz Kafka

*The Machine Stops* – E M Forster

*J* – Howard Jacobson

*Station Eleven* – Emily St John Mandel

*Ella Minnow Pea* – Mark Dunn

\* These texts are recommended reading by OCR so you MUST aim to read these during the two year course.

**In addition to completing the holiday tasks above, please purchase a folder for your Reading Journal and a large ring binder with four dividers for the following sections:**

- Component 1 – Drama and Poetry pre-19<sup>th</sup> Century (Hamlet, Ibsen and Rossetti)
- Component 2 – Comparative and Contextual Study (Dystopian texts – Q5 and Q6)
- Component 3 – Literature post-1900 (Non-Exam Assessment)
- Assessments