



Approaching English Literature A-level - Summer 2021

In order to get you set up for the exciting year ahead, you will need to purchase a few items:

1. **One lever arch folder** (to keep all of your notes in)
2. **A pad of lined paper** (at A Level you should be supplying your own lined paper, as we do not use exercise books)
3. **A pack of file dividers** (this will enable you to keep your work in order, making it easy to revise)

We also recommend you purchase a copy of the following for the year ahead:

1. ***The Murder of Roger Ackroyd***, Agatha Christie (Harper Collins ISBN: 9780007527526)
2. ***Emma***, Jane Austen (Penguin ISBN:0141439580)

Please be sure to buy the suggested version of the text, it will make life much easier for you in lessons and when revising.

English Literature is all about your love of reading and understanding how and why writers' interpret the world around us:

- **Holiday Home Learning** – Read the two texts that we will be studying. In addition, challenge yourself to read at least **two** novels this summer from our recommended reading list from across the periods. PTO for the reading list. The more widely you read around the subject, the easier you will find the texts that we study.
- **Additional work to support your studies** – Owing to the unique circumstances you are facing as prospective A-level students, we are providing you with a wide selection of resources to explore over the extended summer break. The tasks should allow you to broaden your understanding of English literature generally and the A-level course more specifically. The tasks focus on the two key genres you will study; comedy and crime. Please feel free to get in touch should you need any tasks explaining.

We hope that you enjoy English Literature as much as we enjoy teaching it and we will see you all in September.

Mr Reilly (Literature Teacher) mreilly@birchwoodhigh.org.uk

Mrs Jacobson (Literature Teacher) jjacobson@birchwoodhigh.org.uk

Suggested Reading List – Summer 2021

Pre C20th Fiction		Early C20th Fiction		Late C20th Fiction		C21st Fiction	
Jane Austen	<i>Pride and Prejudice</i>	Joseph Conrad	<i>The Heart of Darkness</i>	C. Achebe	<i>Things Fall Apart</i>	C Ngozi Adichie	<i>Half of a Yellow Sun</i>
Charlotte Brontë	<i>Jane Eyre</i>	F. Scott Fitzgerald	<i>The Great Gatsby</i>	Margaret Attwood	<i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>	Monica Ali	<i>Brick Lane</i>
Emily Brontë	<i>Wuthering Heights</i>	E.M. Forster	<i>A Passage to India</i>	Iain Banks	<i>The Wasp Factory</i>	Nathan Filer	<i>The Shock of the Fall</i>
Wilkie Collins	<i>The Woman in White</i>	Ernest Hemingway	<i>For Whom the Bell Tolls</i>	Louis de Bernieres	<i>Captain Corelli's Mandolin</i>	Khaled Hosseini	<i>The Kite Runner</i>
Charles Dickens	<i>Great Expectations</i>	Aldous Huxley	<i>Brave New World</i>	Anthony Burgess	<i>A Clockwork Orange</i>	Andrew Levy	<i>Small Island</i>
						Marina Lewycka	<i>A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian</i>
George Elliot	<i>Middlemarch</i>	William Golding	<i>Lord of the Flies</i>	Angela Carter	<i>The Bloody Chamber</i>	Hilary Mantel	<i>Wolf Hall</i>
Elizabeth Gaskell	<i>North and South</i>	D.H. Lawrence	<i>The Rainbow</i>	Jung Chang	<i>Wild Swans</i>	Yann Martel	<i>Life of Pi</i>
Thomas Hardy	<i>Far From the Madding Crowd</i>	George Orwell	<i>1984</i>	Sebastian Faulks	<i>Birdsong</i>	Cormack McCarthy	<i>The Road</i>
Mary Shelley	<i>Frankenstein</i>	JRR Tolkien	<i>Lord of the Rings</i>	John Fowles	<i>The French Lieutenant's Woman</i>	Iain McEwan	<i>Enduring Love</i>
Bram Stoker	<i>Dracula</i>	Evelyn Waugh	<i>Brideshead Revisited</i>	William Golding	<i>The Lord of the Flies</i>	David Mitchell	<i>The Cloud Atlas</i>
William Thackeray	<i>Vanity Fair</i>	Edith Wharton	<i>The House of Mirth</i>	Joseph Heller	<i>Catch-22</i>	Alice Sebold	<i>The Lovely Bones</i>
Tolstoy	<i>Anna Karenina</i>	Virginia Woolf	<i>Mrs Dalloway</i>	Nick Hornby	<i>About a Boy</i>	Lionel Shriver	<i>We Need to talk about Kevin</i>
Oscar Wilde	<i>Lady Windermere's Fan</i>			Kazuo Ishiguro	<i>The Remains of the Day</i>	Zadie Smith	<i>White Teeth</i>
<p>This list is by no means exhaustive, although it would take you a while to get through it all! It is merely a list of suggestions that will give you somewhere to start when faced with a whole library full of possibilities. With any luck, there is something on this list that you will enjoy.</p>				Ken Kesey	<i>One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest</i>	Anne Tyler	<i>Digging to America</i>
				Harper Lee	<i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i>	<p>See if you can select books to read from different periods, genres and literary movements.</p>	
				Toni Morrison	<i>Beloved</i>		
				Jean Rhys	<i>Wide Sargasso Sea</i>		
				Salman Rushdie	<i>Midnight's Children</i>		
				J.D. Salinger	<i>Catcher in the Rye</i>		
				Alice Walker	<i>The Color Purple</i>		
				Irvine Welsh	<i>Trainspotting</i>		

Additional Tasks – Summer 2021

Comedy Tasks	
<p>1. During the course you will study two comedy plays, <i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> by Oscar Wilde, and <i>Twelfth Night</i> by William Shakespeare.</p> <p>To prepare for this, use the internet and the recommended links to research comedy and its history. Use your research to create a 3-4 page booklet about tragedy. You have the freedom to lay out your work in a way that is useful to you.</p>	<p>https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare/themes/comedies</p> <p>The British Library has a huge archive of articles on the history of comedy and its features. Delve into these and note down your key findings.</p> <p>https://www.rsc.org.uk/shakespeares-plays/tragedies-comedies-histories</p> <p>The Royal Shakespeare Company also have a range of information on how Shakespeare influenced the development of comedy in literature.</p>
<p>2. The author of your first novel, Jane Austen, is a profoundly important figure in literary history. Research a little of her context in order to give you a better understanding of the world in which she lived. A good website is linked to the right.</p>	<p>https://janeaustenlf.org/inspired-by-jane</p>
<p>3. In order to understand how comedy is created in literature, you need to understand the features that writers deploy. Research and make a list of literary features that can be used to create humour. E.g. Pathos</p>	<p>There are numerous online sources you could look at here. Do a quick Google search or start at Sparknotes.com</p>
<p>4. Listen to the audiobook of another Jane Austen novel, <i>Pride and Prejudice</i>. When you have finished listening, write a 250 word review of the novel. Do you find it funny? What features of comedy help to create the humour?</p>	<p>https://stories.audible.com/discovery</p>

Crime Tasks	
<p>1. Begin your work by researching then many sub-genres of crime fiction that exist. An example to start with could be something like 'Hard-boiled detective story' or 'Whodunnits'. Make a list of features that are associated with each sub-genre.</p>	<p>https://kwawriters.org/craft-articles-links/crime-fiction-sub-genres/</p>
<p>2. Recognising these features. One of the key skills that you need in your eventual exams is to identify specific features of crime fiction in unseen extracts. Read the extract linked to the right. By identifying features of the authors writing style, make a judgement about the sub-genre of crime fiction to which it belongs.</p>	<p>https://www.penguinrandomhouse.ca/books/26040/the-big-sleep-by-raymond-chandler/9780394758282/excerpt</p>
<p>3. But where did all these sub-genres come from? And why is crime fiction so popular? We can trace the routes of the novels popularity back to the 19th century. Use the resources of the British Library to find as much contextual information as you can. Turn this information into an infographic.</p>	<p>https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/themes/crime-and-crime-fiction</p>
<p>4. A nice one this... Television is overflowing with crime fiction. Over the summer try to watch as many crime dramas as you can. Start on BBC iPlayer and 4od. Silent Witness? Line of Duty? Happy Valley? The options are endless. Can you notice any features that identify them as a particular type of crime writing? What are the characters like? How are the stories narrated?</p>	