

Shaftesbury Sixth Form

Summer Preparation Task

Subject name: English Literature

Exam Board: AQA Specification B

Purpose of task:

We follow the AQA Literature B specification (7716, 7717)

It is important to be prepared for your A Level studies in English Literature. Therefore, some foundations need to be laid during the summer break. You need to get into the habit of independent reading and research. On your return to school in September your English teacher will expect the following tasks to be fully completed ready for an after-school discussion forum on Thursday 13th September

Recommended resources:

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/a-and-a-level/english-literature-b-7716-7717/specification-at-a-glance>

<https://www.englishandmedia.co.uk/>

<https://academic.oup.com/res>

<http://www.bl.uk/englishtimeline>

Also see attached reading list

Task 1: Complete some summer reading of tragic stories.

Attached you will find a prose reading list; read (and enjoy) as many as you can. Select ONE you particularly enjoyed and choose an aspect (character, setting, narrative voice and theme) of the novel you engaged with and explain why. Be detailed with this and use examples from the text to back up what you say.

Classic Tragedy: read one of the following Shakespeare plays (NOT one you have read before) 'Macbeth', 'Hamlet' or 'Romeo and Juliet' as they are all tragedies: Write about one of the tragic heroes and how they have been presented by the playwright as being tragic.

Modern domestic tragedy: read either 'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof' by Tennessee Williams or 'All My Sons' by Arthur Miller. Present your understanding of one the characters in the play in any medium of your choice either: PowerPoint, poster, collage, a creative writing piece or film. Be creative!

Task 2: Tragedy in poetry

Research ONE of the following poets: John Keats or Thomas Hardy. Find out about your chosen poet's life and times and make some useful notes.

Then either: Print out a copy of Keats' 'Ode to Autumn' and annotate it or, print out a copy of Hardy's 'The Going' and annotate it.

Deadline for task: Thursday 13th September 2018 Please contact Mrs Sammons at the school (rachel.sammons@shaftesburyschool.co.uk) if you have any queries or worries.

Suggested Reading for A Level English Literature

Pre 1900 Novels

A Tale of Two Cities by Charles Dickens
Wessex Tales by Thomas Hardy
The Trumpet Major by Thomas Hardy
The Mill on the Floss by George Eliot
The Turn of the Screw by Henry James
Nana by Emile Zola
La Bete Humaine by Emile Zola

Novels 1900-1960

A Room with a View by E.M.Forster
Brighton Rock by Graham Greene
For Whom the Bell Tolls by Ernest Hemingway
Cold Comfort Farm by Stella Gibbons
Rebecca by Daphne Du Maurier
The Grapes of Wrath by John Steinbeck
1984 by George Orwell

Modern Novels

The Wasp Factory by Iain Banks
Slaughterhouse 5 by Kurt Vonnegut
The Road by Cormac McCarthy
Saturday by Ian McEwan
Waterland by Graham Swift
Last Orders by Graham Swift

Modern Novels by women authors

The Shipping News by E.Annie Proulx
Regeneration Trilogy by Pat Barker
The Siege by Helen Dunmore
Oranges are Not the Only Fruit by Jeanette Winterson
The Girl with a Pearl Earring by Tracy Chevalier
Knowledge of Angels by Jill Paton-Walsh
Room by Emma Donahue

Science Fiction/Dystopia/Visions of the Future

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood
Brave New World by Aldous Huxley
War of the Worlds by H.G.Wells
Never Let Me Go by Kazuo Ishiguro
The Prestige by Christopher Priest

Historical Novels

Birdsong by Sebastian Faulks
Star of the Sea by Joseph O'Connor
The Last Testament of Oscar Wilde by Peter Ackroyd
Lady's Maid by Margaret Forster
Quarantine by Jim Crace
The History of the Kelly Gang by Peter Carey
The Book Thief- Marcus Zusack

Detectives and Thrillers

Strangers on the Train by Patricia Highsmith
The Name of the Rose by Umberto Eco
Aberystwyth Mon Amour by Malcolm Price
Talking to the Dead by Helen Dunmore
The Death of Roger Ackroyd by Agatha Christie

Humorous novels

The Wrong Boy by Willy Russell
The Van by Roddy Doyle
The Loony by Spike Milligan
Notes From A Small Island by Bill Bryson
Wilt by Tom Sharpe
The Hitch Hiker's Guide to the Galaxy by Douglas Adams