

## 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 19<sup>th</sup> September

### **Recommended resources:**

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/a-s-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) 'Antony and Cleopatra', 'Hamlet', 'The Merchant of Venice', 'Macbeth' 'Romeo and Juliet' as they all have aspects of tragedy within them. Write about one of the tragic characters 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 19th September 2019** 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  
**Far from the Madding Crowd** by Thomas Hardy  
**Wuthering Heights** by Emily Bronte  
**The Mill on the Floss** by George Eliot  
**The Turn of the Screw** by Henry James  
**Nana** by Emile Zola  
**The Picture of Dorian Grey** by Oscar Wilde

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  
**The Goldfinch** by Donna Tartt

## **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** by 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

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2015/aug/17/the-100-best-novels-written-in-english-the-full-list>