

2023

**Bridging Project for English
Literature A Level**

Bingo Card

Summer Tasks

Reading List

**Suggestions of Contextual and Critical
Readings**

Why are you being given summer tasks?

There is a wealth of evidence which shows that students who are widely read, achieve higher grades than those who do not. Certainly, past experience here at Samuel Whitbread has proved that, in English at A Level, there is a clear correlation between the breadth of reading a student has undertaken and ultimate grades. Shockingly, every year, there are students who opt to study English at A Level who claim *not to read at all* . Without fail, these students struggle to accomplish the written tasks to the same standard as their peers who are keen readers of a variety of texts.

The benefits of reading are huge: not only does it increase your fluency in spelling, punctuation and grammar (since you unconsciously pick up correct English usage) but also you are exposed to a wide range of writing forms and styles. For example, you will find it extremely difficult to analyse the similarities and differences in different texts if you have no experience of different styles and genres. Similarly, you need to read historical articles and critical theory to enhance your argument and achieve the higher bands in your coursework.

You will be given a list of set texts to answer for your coursework question and the exam. However, the more confident you are with the different writing techniques and narrative structures, the easier you will find comparing, analysing and re-creating texts.

If you intend to go on to University, whatever your course, then you will be expected to read widely in order to increase your subject knowledge. It really is foolish to embark upon an English course with the attitude that “I’m not really a reader” – NOW is the time to change that and *become* one.

The tasks you are expected to undertake are designed so that you will encounter a range of genres and build a portfolio fiction *beyond* the range you have encountered so far; furthermore, you will be expected to research and collate contextual and critical readings of texts.

Your teachers WILL check you have undertaken the tasks and this will highlight your commitment to the course. If you do not complete the tasks, you may not be accepted onto the course. Enjoy your reading and have a happy summer break!

Task 1 – Bingo Card

14. Dive into the world of short stories, listen to interview and discussion about it <input type="checkbox"/>	12. Investigate what an essay actually is, read some great examples and write one of your own about any subject you want <input type="checkbox"/>	24. Immerse yourself in a university lecture <input type="checkbox"/>	7. Try exploratory writing <input type="checkbox"/>
18. Write a graphic novel version of one of your GCSE texts. How well can you get across what is most important and distinctive? What gets lost? <input type="checkbox"/>	19. Put together a short anthology of poems and write the introduction to the collection <input type="checkbox"/>	20. Listen to literature (audio books) <input type="checkbox"/>	2. Read an <i>emagazine</i> article and select 3 interesting points to share <input type="checkbox"/>
11. Read a prize-winning novel – just for pleasure <input type="checkbox"/>	15. Visit a virtual library – the British Library's Discovering Literature website <input type="checkbox"/>	16. Take a risk by sharing an idea you're not sure about <input type="checkbox"/>	1. Let a poem brew over time <input type="checkbox"/>
22. Collate a taster anthology of your favourite books to tempt another reader into giving them a try <input type="checkbox"/>	4. Watch a play online and write the script for a podcast/online discussion reviewing it <input type="checkbox"/>	3. Watch a film or TV adaptation of a novel you know. Then write a pitch for a novel you think would make a great film adaptation. Explain why! <input type="checkbox"/>	13. Listen to a literature podcast and share what you found interesting with a classmate/your teacher <input type="checkbox"/>
10. Play with a text, messing about and transforming it in 2 or 3 different ways. What do you learn about the original? <input type="checkbox"/>	5. Experts in the spotlight – watch a selection of emagClips <input type="checkbox"/>	21. Take part in a 'Critics' Conference' role play <input type="checkbox"/>	17. Create a 'Five Books' list and publish your list <input type="checkbox"/>
8. Read the opening pages of 2 or 3 books about literature and explain which you'd most like to go on to read <input type="checkbox"/>	23. Explore the art of the review – read 3 or 4 online reviews for a novel you enjoyed, then either write your own or write a response to one of them <input type="checkbox"/>	9. Write a poem in response to a poem <input type="checkbox"/>	6. Take a risk with your reading and read a novel outside your comfort zone and write or record a review <input type="checkbox"/>

Complete *at least one task of each colour* from the bingo card.

Yellow: Reading, watching and listening to the experts.

Red: Creating your own anthologies.

Blue: Critical challenges.

Green: Reading, watching and listening to texts.

Pink: Critical and creative ways of exploring literature.

Click on this QR code for full Bingo Card instructions and clickable links:



Click on this QR code for the Bingo Card resources:



Tasks 2 and 3

Complete the tasks below in as much detail as you can. They will help you with your understanding of the course from September, meaning you will hit the ground running! These tasks are compulsory, so please don't forget to complete them before you come back to school!

2. The Gothic Genre

Conduct an extensive research project into the Gothic genre within Literature. You will want to consider: the origins of the Gothic; Gothic conventions; the evolution of the Gothic genre, especially during the Victorian era; famous Gothic texts and their features; how the Gothic genre continues to be relevant today.

3. Modern Poetry

Source and print a collection of poetry written in the 21st century. You may want to find poems written in a variety of styles and forms, written by a variety of poets. Then create a glossary of poetic terms, with accompanying definitions and examples (your examples can be taken from your sourced poems if applicable).

Compulsory Reading List

A Level English Literature (Pearson-Edexcel) Set texts
Beloved, Toni Morrison, Vintage Classics (ISBN 978-0099511656)
The Picture of Dorian Gray, Oscar Wilde, Wordsworth Classics, (978-1853260155)
A Streetcar Named Desire, Tennessee Williams Penguin Modern Classics, 2009 (ISBN 9780141190273)
Poems of the Decade: An Anthology of the Forward Books of Poetry 2002-2011, Faber & Faber (ISBN 978-0571325405)
Othello, William Shakespeare, Wordsworth Classics Edition (ISBN 978-1853260186)
Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale, Cambridge University Press; Updated edition (ISBN-10: 131661560X)

Suggested Reading List

For an even more extensive list, check the Sixth form page on the school website.

POETRY

18th/19th centuries. Some poets worth getting to know:

Alexander Pope, P.B. Shelley, G.M.Hopkins, Christina Rossetti

20th century:

Seamus Heaney, Sylvia Plath, Thomas Hardy

DRAMA

Shakespeare's time: Shakespeare! Marlowe, Jonson, Webster

19th century: Wilde, G B Shaw (spans both centuries)

20th century: Brian Friel, Harold Pinter, Caryl Churchill, Sean O'Casey

CLASSIC PROSE

W.M. Thackeray - *Vanity Fair*

Jane Austen – *Emma, Pride and Prejudice*

Mary Shelley – *Frankenstein*

20th CENTURY LITERATURE

Virginia Woolf - *Moments of Being*

Edith Wharton - *The Age of Innocence*

Graham Greene - *Brighton Rock*

Margaret Atwood - *The Handmaid's Tale*

LITERATURE FROM ANOTHER CULTURE:

Khalid Hosseini - *A Thousand Splendid Suns* (Afghanistan)

Jung Chang - *Wild Swans* (China)

Yann Martel - *Life of Pi* (India)

PHILOSOPHY

Aristotle – *Poetics, The Nichomachean Ethics,*

Jean-Paul Sartre – *Being and Nothingness, What is Literature?*

LITERARY CRITICISM AND REFERENCE

Literary Theory: A Very Short Introduction by Culler, Jonathan

Beginning theory: An introduction to literary and cultural theory 3rd Edition (Beginnings) by Barry, Peter