

2023

**English Language and Literature
A Level**

Summer Tasks

Reading List

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 Literature (and Language) 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 a variety of texts and examine their style to enhance your written craft and achieve the higher bands in your coursework.

You will be given a list of set texts to answer for 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!

Summer Tasks

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!

1. Linguistic Glossary

Read and learn the list of linguistic terms below. Then create a glossary by providing definitions and worked examples of each term in use. Your examples can come from existing texts, or you can create your own.

Analogy, Allusion, Pathetic Fallacy, Personification, Extended Metaphor, Symbolism, Lexis, Field Specific Lexis, Lexical Set, Lexical Bundle, Semantics, Acronym, Synonym, Antonym, Homonym, Homophone, Archaism, Juxtaposition, Antithesis, Binary Opposition, Oxymoron, Collocation, Syndetic Listing, Asyndetic Listing, Onomatopoeia, Consonance, Assonance, Alliteration, Plot, Exposition, Narrator, Protagonist, Anti-hero, Antagonist, Dialogue, Monologue, Soliloquy, Dramatic Irony, Ambiguity, Anthropomorphism, Genre, Audience, Purpose, Foreshadowing, Mimesis, Pastiche, Satire, Neologism, Portmanteau, Compound words, Clipping, Rhetoric, Taboo Language, Denotation, Connotation, Sarcasm, Euphemism, Dysphemism, Cliché, Etymology, Anachronism

2. The Roaring Twenties

Conduct a detailed research project on the Roaring Twenties in America. You will want to consider: the causes of the Roaring Twenties; key features of life in 1920's America; the status of women, social classes and ethnic minorities; the 'Jazz Age'; social decadence and excess; foreshadowing economic disaster

Compulsory and Suggested Reading List

Prescribed Editions	Helpful Editions
A Level English Language and Literature (Pearson-Edexcel)	
A Streetcar Named Desire, Tennessee Williams Penguin Modern Classics, 2009 (ISBN 9780141190273)	
Othello, William Shakespeare, Wordsworth Classics Edition (ISBN 978-1853260186)	Othello, William Shakespeare, Arden Edition (978-1903436455)
The Great Gatsby, F Scott Fitzgerald, Wordsworth Classics (978-1853260414)	

Suggested English and American Literature

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

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, Arnold Wesker, Alan Bennett, John Osborne, John Arden, Alan Ayckbourne, Samuel Beckett, Arthur Miller, Tom Stoppard, Sam Shepherd, Tennessee Williams

CLASSIC PROSE

Charles Dickens – *Great Expectations*

Henry Fielding - *Tom Jones*

Mark Twain - *Huckleberry Finn*

20th CENTURY LITERATURE

Edith Wharton - *The Age of Innocence*

Jack Kerouac – *On the Road*

Ken Kesey – *One Flew Over The Cuckoo's Nest*

LITERATURE FROM ANOTHER CULTURE: *INDICATES PRE-1914 TEXTS

Doris Pilkington - *The Rabbit Proof Fence* (Australia)

Jung Chang - *Wild Swans* (China)

Gustave Flaubert - *Madame Bovary** (French)

NON-FICTION WRITERS

Hadley Freeman

David Mitchell

Germaine Greer

Tim Dowling

Marina Hyde

Stuart Heritage

Frankie Boyle

Deborah Francis-White

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Caitlin Moran