



ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE A LEVEL SUPER-CURRICULAR



AIMING FOR THE TOP AND ASPIRING HIGH

Reading Tasks

Wider reading

Read books from a wide range of writers - consider different styles, approaches and topics.

Beloved

Read **Beloved** by Toni Morrison, one of the Sandringham Reads collection

Beloved is a 1987 novel by the American writer Toni Morrison. Set after the American Civil War, it tells the story of a family of formerly enslaved people whose Cincinnati home is haunted by a malevolent spirit.

Tess of the d'Urberville's

Read **Tess of the d'Urberville's** by Thomas Hardy,

When Tess Durbeyfield is driven by family poverty to claim kinship with the wealthy D'Urbervilles and seek a portion of their family fortune, meeting her 'cousin' Alec proves to be her downfall. A very different man, Angel Clare, seems to offer her love and salvation, but Tess must choose whether to reveal her past or remain silent in the hope of a peaceful future.

Half a Yellow Sun

Read **Half of a Yellow Sun** by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie, one of the Sandringham Reads collection

A masterly, haunting new novel from a writer heralded by The Washington Post Book World as "the 21st-century daughter of Chinua Achebe," Half of a Yellow Sun re-creates a seminal moment in modern African history: Biafra's impassioned struggle to establish an independent republic in Nigeria in the 1960s, and the chilling violence that followed.

Becoming

Read **Becoming** by Michelle Obama, one of the Sandringham Reads collection

In her memoir, a work of deep reflection and mesmerizing storytelling, Michelle Obama invites readers into her world, chronicling the experiences that have shaped her -- from her childhood on the South Side of Chicago to her years as an executive balancing the demands of motherhood and work, to her time spent at the world's most famous address. With unerring honesty and lively wit, she describes her triumphs and her disappointments, both public and private, telling her full story as she has lived it -- in her own words and on her own terms.

Under Milk Wood

Read **Under Milk Wood** by Dylan Thomas

We learn of the inhabitants' dreams and desires, their loves and regrets. The play introduces us to characters such as Captain Cat who dreams of his drowned former seafellows and Nogood Boyo who dreams of nothing at all. It is a unique and touching depiction of a village that has 'fallen head over bells in love'. The First Voice narration reveals the ordinary world of daily happenings and events, while the Second Voice conveys the intimate, innermost thoughts of the fascinating folk of Llareggub.

Writing Tasks

Trinity Essay Prize

Enter the annual Linguistics Essay Prize for Year 12 students from Trinity College, Cambridge.

Details [here](#).

Write an article

Write an article for EMag on either a topic you have studied this year as part of your course or one you are interested in outside of the course.

Listening Tasks

Listen to lectures

Listen to lectures from UCL or Gresham College Lecture for a taste of the university experience: <https://www.gresham.ac.uk/>

Podcasts

Listen to language focused podcasts:

- [Lingthusiasm](#)
- [Comedy of the Week](#)
- [Great Writers Inspire](#)

Word of Mouth podcast

Listen to [Word of Mouth podcast](#) on BBC Radio 4 iPlayer / BBC Sounds

Watching Tasks

Comedy sketches

Watch a variety of comedy sketches and explore how humour is created – which maxims are broken?

Research

Language and power

Research how language is used to uphold power – visit the Royal Courts of Justice, download political speeches from the Gov.co.uk, etc.

Trips & Visits

Samuel Johnson's House

Visit [Samuel Johnson's House](#) in London

Dr Johnson's House is a charming 300-year-old townhouse, nestled amongst a maze of courts and alleys in the historic City of London. Samuel Johnson, the writer and wit, lived and worked here in the middle of the eighteenth century, compiling his great Dictionary of the English Language in the Garret.

Today, the House is open to the public with a collection relating to Johnson, a research library, restored interiors and a wealth of original features. Often described by visitors as a hidden gem, 17 Gough Square is a tranquil spot in the midst of the bustling City.

Primary school teaching

Arrange a visit to a local primary school to research how students learn to read and write.

The British Library

Attend a [free talk](#) at The British Library

Creative

Scrapbook of articles

Keep a scrapbook of interesting articles and examples of language use in different contexts.

Student Led Tasks

Comment and opinion

Explore comment and opinion articles to understand how representations are created. You could share your findings with other A Level students.

Linguists

Explore and consider key ideas and works from linguists - David Crystal, Carmen LLamas, Steven Pinker, Noam Chomsky.

Blog

Set up a blog where you write about an issue or subject important to you.

Give a talk

Deliver a talk to your peers on your area of Language investigation.