



ENGLISH LITERATURE A LEVEL SUPER-CURRICULAR



AIMING FOR THE TOP AND ASPIRING HIGH

Reading Tasks

Literary reviews

Read reviews of current literary releases - the culture/review sections in The Guardian and The Times and Observer are a good starting point.

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 sea fellows and Nogood Boyo who dreams of nothing at all. It is a unique and touching depiction of a village that has 'fallen head over heels 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 Gould Prize for English Literature competition for Year 12 students from Trinity College, Cambridge. Details [here](#).

Write an article

Write an article for EMag on one of the texts you have studied this year.

Listening Tasks

Gresham College lectures

Listen to a [Gresham College Lecture](#) for a taste of the university experience

Approaching Shakespeare podcast

Listen to one of the University of Oxford podcasts from the [Approaching Shakespeare series](#)

Watching Tasks

Hamlet

Watch one or more performances of **Hamlet**, and explore some of the resources available on [Digital Theatre +](#) to enrich your understanding of the play

Watch a Shakespearean tragedy

Watch an alternative Shakespearean tragedy such as **Othello** or **King Lear**.

Streetcar Named Desire

Explore some of the resources available on [Digital Theatre +](#) to enrich your understanding of **A Streetcar Named Desire**

Frankenstein

Explore some of the resources available on [Digital Theatre +](#) to enrich your understanding of **Frankenstein**

Plays by Henrik Ibsen

Watch an alternate play by Henrik Ibsen such as **Ghosts** or **An Enemy of the People**, and explore some of the resources available on [Digital Theatre +](#) to enrich your understanding of the playwright

A Doll's House

Watch a performance of **A Doll's House** on [Digital Theatre +](#) and explore the resources they offer to enrich your understanding of the play

Trips & Visits

Places of literary interest

Visit places of literary interest such as:

- [Milton's cottage](#) in Chalfont St Giles, Buckinghamshire

the only surviving home of the visionary poet, parliamentarian and pamphleteer John Milton,

- The [Charles Dickens museum](#) in London

*The museum is situated at 48 Doughty Street, Dickens's, London home from 1837-1839. He moved there with his wife Catherine and their eldest son Charlie. While living in Doughty Street, Dickens finished writing *The Pickwick Papers*, wrote *Nicholas Nickleby* and most famously of all, *Oliver Twist*. These early publications made Dickens an international celebrity.*

The Poetry Library

Visit [The Poetry Library](#) at the Southbank Centre

The National Poetry Library is the largest public collection of modern poetry in the world and is free to visit. We're located in the Southbank Centre's Royal Festival Hall in London, and are open to the public for poetry-related study six days a week.

University library

Apply for a visitor's day pass to a university Library so you can explore their Literary criticism section.

The British Library

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

Student Led Tasks

Writing group

Set up a collective writing group for sixth form students.

Book group

Start up or join a book group.

Futurelearn

Take a free course through [Futurelearn.com](https://www.futurelearn.com) to learn more about some of our greatest writers

Jane Austen: *Myth, Reality and Global Celebrity* or William Wordsworth: *Poetry, People and Place*, are worth investigating.