

English Literature

By the end of this session, you should:

- Know what to expect from the course
- Explore some of the key skills you will use on the course
- Understand what to do between now and September

Pair and Share

What was the most recent book you have read (that wasn't on the GCSE Literature course!)

1. What did you like about it?
2. What did you not like about it?
3. Would you recommend it?

Joining Instructions

Make sure you read them in your own time.

English Department

Year 12 Joining Instructions for 2018

Welcome to the English Department. As you have chosen one or two of the subjects we offer, there are a few things you need to prepare yourselves for your courses. The book lists below are the course texts and you will be expected to have them for the start of the academic year; students who read ahead are at a distinct advantage. However, if there is some likelihood that you may not get the prerequisite grades at GCSE English and English Literature, you may wish to buy them once you know the results.

Books you need to buy or borrow:

You will need a **CLEAN** copy of each exam text, which contain no notes or critical guidance. Previous students have found it helpful to have two copies of each text; one for exams (you cannot annotate at all) and one for class, which can be annotated and has many helpful notes. The table below has a list of texts that you **HAVE** to have and others that we recommend as being helpful for class notes.

Prescribed Editions	Helpful Editions
A Level English Literature (Pearson-Edexcel)	
Dracula, Bram Stoker, Penguin Classics	Dracula, Bram Stoker, Norton (ISBN 978-

The Course

The course is made up of four main components:

Component 1: Drama.

You will answer two questions, one on *A Streetcar Named Desire* and one on *Othello*

Component 2: Prose.

You will answer a comparative question using *Dracula* and *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

Component 3: Poetry.

You will answer two questions, one a comparative one using a modern poetry anthology, and one on *The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale*

Component 4: Coursework.

You will write a comparative essay using a question and two texts of your choice

Exploring Texts

You will be presented with challenging texts, techniques and themes in English Literature. Discussion is a crucial step towards understanding. Make your voice heard, and don't be afraid to be 'wrong'.

With this in mind, let's read the first half of the extract from Toni Morrison's *The Bluest Eye*.

Here is the house. It is green and white. It has a red door. It is very pretty. Here is the family. Mother, Father, Dick, and Jane live in the green-and-white house. They are very happy. See Jane. She has a red dress She wants to play. Who will play with Jane? See the cat. It goes meow-meow. Come and play. Come play with Jane. The kitten will not play. See Mother. Mother is very nice. Mother, will you play with Jane? Mother laughs. Laugh, Mother, laugh. See Father. He is big and strong. Father, will you play with Jane? Father is smiling. Smile, Father, smile. See the dog. Bowwow goes the dog. Do you want to play with Jane? See the dog run. Run, dog, run. Look, look. Here comes a friend. The friend will play with Jane. They will play a good game. Play, Jane, play.

Exploring Texts

Some key questions:

How would you describe the writer's choice of tone and style in the first paragraph?

Which elements of the description might carry negative or sinister undertones? How?

What might some of the themes and ideas in this text be?

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Here is the house it is green and white it has a red door it is very pretty here is the family mother father dick and jane live in the green-and-white house they are very happy see jane she has a red dress she wants to play who will play with jane see the cat it goes meow-meow come and play come play with jane the kitten will not play see mother mother is very nice mother will you play with jane mother laughs laugh mother laugh see father he is big and strong father will you play with jane father is smiling smile father smile see the dog bowwow goes the dog do you want to play do you want to play with jane see the dog run run dog run look look here comes a friend the friend will play with jane they will play a good game play jane play

Hereisthehouseitisgreenandwhiteithasareddooritisveryprettyherei
sthefamilymotherfatherdickandjaneliveinthegreenandwhitehouset
heyareveryhappyseejaneshehasareddressshewantstoplaywhowillp
laywithjanesethecatitgoesmeowmeowcomeandplaycomeplaywith
janethekittenwillnotplayseemothermotherisverynicemotherwillo
uplaywithjanemotherlaughslaughmotherlaughseefatherheisbigand
strongfatherwillyouplaywithjanefatherissmilingsmilefathersmile
eethedogbowwowgoesthedogdoyouwanttoplaydoyouwanttoplayw
ithjanesetheogrundogrunlooklookherecomesafriendthefrien
dwillplaywithjanetheywillplayagoodgameplayjaneplay

How does the structure of the text change as it progresses?

What effect is created by these changes in structure?

How do the structural changes in the text help to inform its possible themes?

Exploring Texts

Now read the second half of the extract. Together, these form the opening of Morrison's novel *The Bluest Eye*.

How has the style and tone changed here?

How does the writer connect the story of the marigolds with the story of Pecola's baby?

Quiet as it's kept, there were no marigolds in the fall 1941. We thought, at the time, that it was because Pecola was having her father's baby that the marigolds did not grow. A little examination and much less melancholy would have proved to us that our seeds were not the only ones that did not sprout; nobody's did. Not even the gardens fronting the lake showed marigolds that year. But so deeply concerned were we with the health and safe delivery of Pecola's baby we could think of nothing but our own magic: if we planted the seeds, and said the right words over them, they would blossom, and everything would be all right. It was a long time before my sister and I admitted to ourselves that no green was going to spring from our seeds. Once we knew, our guilt was relieved only by fights and mutual accusations about who was to blame. For years I thought my sister was right: it was my fault. I had planted them too far down in the earth. It never occurred to either of us that the earth itself might have been unyielding. We had dropped our seeds in our own little plot of black dirt just as Pecola's father had dropped his seeds in his own plot of black dirt. Our innocence and faith were no more productive than his lust or despair. What is clear now is that of all of that hope, fear, lust, love, and grief, nothing remains but Pecola and the unyielding earth. Cholly Breedlove is dead; our innocence too. The seeds shrivelled and died; her baby too. There is really nothing more to say - except why. But since why is difficult to handle, one must take refuge in how.

How on earth does this part of the extract link to the first part?

What is *The Bluest Eye* going to be about?

What to do before September...

- Read the booklet of summer tasks and complete them for September. This is compulsory, and will form important knowledge for the start of the course.
- Access your school email and use the email that will be sent to you to join google classroom for next year. You can also access google classroom directly at: <https://classroom.google.com/>
- Once you receive your results and you have met the requirements for the course, buy or borrow the course texts you will need for English Literature.

Contact Details

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