

English Literature

Preparation for Year 12

ESSENTIAL TASKS

You should **read one novel or play and poem from each side of the course** and produce a presentation about them, similar to the spoken language presentations from Year 11. You will be asked to present this to the rest of the class in your first week.

Consider:

- The narrative perspective
- Overview of the plot
- Relationship between the text and its context
- Your personal response to the text

Why do you want to study English Literature at A Level? Write a response to this question, referencing any relevant experience/aspirations.

OPTIONAL TASKS

- Join the public library and research the literature section
- Read a selection of novels, poems, plays or short stories from 'Year 12 Recommended Reading List'. Many of these are available as free downloads.
- Read the review and book section of a broadsheet newspaper; e.g. *The Guardian* or the *Times*.

CULTURAL ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES

- Watch a production by *The Royal Shakespeare Company* on YouTube.
- Listen to *A Good Read* on BBC iPlayer. There are hundreds of episodes, therefore search for a well-known author or text.
- Watch *Crash Course: Literature* on YouTube (but please avoid any texts that we will study as part of the course).

- Listen to the *In Our Time* episodes *Is Shakespeare History? Shakespeare's Life* and *Shakespeare's Work* through the BBC iPlayer, YouTube or Spotify.
- Watch the History Channel documentary *The Story of America* on YouTube.
- Watch the Ken Burns' documentaries on the American Civil War and Prohibition on Netflix.

For more local book launches, talks, courses and workshops, visit www.nottinghamcityofliterature.com

Reading List

The reading list has been compiled and organised according to the programme of study that you will undertake in Years 12 and 13. These are not the texts that you will study on the course, but have been written at similar times and in similar styles to those that you will study, thereby making them a great introduction to your A Levels, as well as being interesting reads in their own right. You should **read one novel or play and poem from each side of the course**, and use them for your presentation at the start of Year 12. All of the novels and plays can be found on Amazon (including second hand copies for cheaper), and the poems can be found on websites such as www.poetryfoundation.org, www.allpoetry.com and www.poemanalysis.com

English Literature Pre-1900	American Literature 1888 to 1939
<p>Novels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Jane Eyre</i> by Charlotte Bronte • <i>Wuthering Heights</i> by Emily Bronte • <i>Heart of Darkness</i> by Joseph Conrad • <i>Dracula</i> by Bram Stoker • <i>Frankenstein</i> by Mary Shelley 	<p>Novels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>The Turn of the Screw</i> by Henry James • <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> by Harper Lee • <i>The Call of the Wild</i> by Jack London • <i>The Yellow Wallpaper</i> by Charlotte Perkins Gillman • <i>Of Mice & Men</i> by John Steinbeck
<p>Poems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Sonnet 29: When I Think of Thee</i> by Elizabeth Barratt Browning • <i>When We Two Parted</i> by Lord Byron • <i>Neutral Tones</i> by Thomas Hardy • <i>Sonnet 130</i> by William Shakespeare • <i>The Rime of the Ancient Mariner</i> by Samuel Taylor Coleridge 	<p>Poems</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>Success is Counted Sweetest</i> by Emily Dickinson • <i>Concord Hymn</i> by Ralph Waldo Emerson • <i>Ulalume</i> by Edgar Allen Poe • <i>Cut</i> by Sylvia Plath • <i>Captain! My Captain!</i> by Walt Whitman

Plays

Any Shakespeare play (avoid *Romeo & Juliet*, *Macbeth* and *Hamlet*)

Dr Faustus by Christopher Marlowe

The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde

Plays

Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller

Twelve Angry Men by Reginald Ross

A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams