

## English Literature A-Level – Home Learning Preparation

Firstly, thank you for showing an interest in studying A Level English Literature! It is a fantastically broad and interesting subject that will give you an opportunity to not only read a range of literature, but engage with a variety of social, moral, cultural and ethical contexts.

In order to get you prepared for the A Level course, below are a series of tasks that you could think about doing. These are not compulsory but would give you a good footing ahead of next year.

1. The first topic that we study is 'Love Through the Ages'. Find fifteen quotes or definitions about what love is from famous authors, philosophers, celebrities or others. Sort them from the statement you agree with most to the statement that you agree with least.
2. One of the first texts you study will be 'The Great Gatsby' by F Scott Fitzgerald. Watch the Baz Luhrmann version of *Gatsby* that was recently turned into a film. It's on Netflix!
3. *Gatsby* is set during the 1920s in New York City – a time of prohibition and when gang culture was prominent. Research prohibition and gang culture within New York City during this time period. Which famous people were there? What crimes were prominent? How was this crime dealt with?
4. During the first term, we will begin our study of *Othello* which is one of Shakespeare's most famous tragedies. Tragedy is, obviously, a very important genre in literature and, specifically, is associated with Shakespeare. Create a revision poster detailing what the features of a Shakespearean tragedy are, what are the features of a Shakespearean tragic hero and why a Shakespearean tragedy is different to other forms of tragedy.
5. During the first year, you will study a series of poems (much like at GCSE) which will focus on the theme of 'Love and Relationships'. Choosing any author, style or genre that you like, find three love poems that you like and write a short summary of how you believe your poem represents the emotion of love. For an extension, you could comment on any methods or devices within the poem.
6. Obviously, the best thing that you could be doing over this break is reading. You can read anything and everything that interests you as all of this will be beneficial to you. However, below are a series of titles that could be suitable for you to read at this point to broaden your horizons of English and get you prepared for A level more generally:
  - *The Catcher in the Rye* by JD Salinger
  - *Life of Pi* by Yann Martel
  - *Beloved* by Toni Morrison
  - *To Kill A Mockingbird* by Harper Lee
  - *Atonement* by Ian McEwan
  - *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen
  - *The God of Small Things* by Arundhati Roy
  - *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time* by Mark Haddon
  - *The History Boys* by Alan Bennett
  - *A View From the Bridge* by Arthur Miller
  - *Waiting for Godot* by Samuel Beckett