

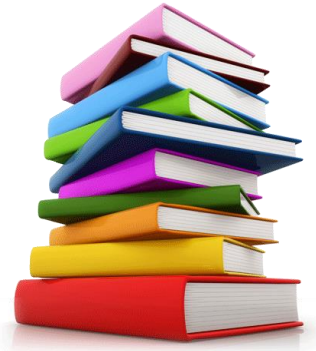


**Shenley Brook End Sixth Form
Summer transition tasks for
English Literature**

Due date Monday 11 September 2023

Transition Tasks 2023

A Level English Literature, AQA



The objective of these tasks is to prepare you for the demands of your A Level English Literature course. It is compulsory to read novels, poetry and drama and to complete essays on a regular basis. The theme for English Literature Paper 1 is 'Love through the Ages', covering English literature from Shakespeare's time to the present day. These tasks will develop your skills in reading Shakespeare, understanding a text within its context and close language analysis.

For entry to the first lesson, you are required to have completed two tasks.

Task 1: Read 'Othello' by William Shakespeare. Make notes on each Act as you read, recording your thoughts on characters, theme and plot. Bring your notes to the first lesson please.

You will be required to complete a timed assessment task in class on an extract from 'Othello' upon entry to the course in September. It is essential that you read the play and make detailed notes over the summer holiday.

Task 2: Select an extract of no more than 1000 words from one of the set texts listed below. Write an essay which analyses the language in the extract, explaining what is revealed about the characters and themes. Attach your chosen extract to your completed essay and hand in to your A Level teacher in your first lesson.

Remember:

- You are *not* being asked to retell the story of the novel or play. This is an *analytical* task.
- You should explain how the writer presents the main characters throughout the novel or play. Do they change in any way from the beginning to the end? What relationships do they experience?
- You are expected to use the skills you developed at GCSE when discussing character, i.e. Make a point → Support it with evidence / quotation → explain the effect.
- You must proof-read your work carefully for accuracy. If it is typed, it should be presented in a suitable font (e.g. Arial, Times New Roman), size 12.

SET TEXTS:

- The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald
- The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood
- A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams
- Skirrid Hill by Owen Sheers
- Pre-1900 poetry

FURTHER READING (Suggested texts):

We recommend that you start reading your set texts listed above in advance of the start of the course.

If you wish to get a head start with your reading for the NEA (during your second A Level year), please note that out of the two required texts, one must be pre-1900. The exam board has recommended the following list:

Prose

- Jane Austen *Northanger Abbey/Mansfield Park*
- Anne Brontë *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*
- Wilkie Collins *The Moonstone/The Woman in White*
- Charles Dickens *Hard Times*
- George Eliot *Middlemarch/The Mill on the Floss*
- Elizabeth Gaskell *North and South*
- Charlotte Perkins Gilman *The Yellow Wallpaper*
- Mary Shelley *Frankenstein*
- William Makepeace Thackeray *Vanity Fair*
- Oscar Wilde *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

Drama

- William Congreve *The Way of the World*
- Henrik Ibsen *A Doll's House/Hedda Gabler*
- Oliver Goldsmith *She Stoops to Conquer*
- George Bernard Shaw any play by this writer
- Richard Brinsley Sheridan *The School for Scandal*
- Oscar Wilde any play by this writer
- William Wycherley *The Country Wife*

Poetry

- Geoffrey Chaucer 'The Wife of Bath's Tale'/'The Miller's Tale'
- Samuel Taylor Coleridge 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner'
- John Keats 'Lamia'/'Isabella or The Pot of Basil'/'The Eve of St Agnes'/Le Belle Dame Sans Merci'

Finally, why might you enjoy this course?

Want freedom to research your own interests?

Students write a comparative study of two texts on a theme of their own choice – a perfect preparation for university dissertations.

Bookworm? You'll be reading a fantastic range of classic and modern texts. You'll be able to pick out patterns of similarity and difference using a variety of reading strategies and perspectives

Want to impress academically? This course encourages critical debate –the core skills of argument and debate suit most university courses.

History buff? You'll understand the context of the era these texts were produced in and be able to link them.

Enjoy discussion and debate? Lessons are student-led and encourage student opinion.