

The tasks we are setting you over the summer will give you an early opportunity to show us your interest in and commitment to A Level English Literature. We really hope that you enjoy completing them and are very much looking forward to seeing what you produce!

Wider Reading Task

Task 1: This task is designed to encourage you to broaden your reading base. As an A Level Literature student, it is very important that you read a wide selection of poems, plays and novels over and above your set texts. In case you are not sure where to start, we have provided a list of recommended reads.

For this task, you need to produce a 5-10 minute presentation on one of the texts you have read over the summer. This can be a poem, a novel or a play and **does not** have to be one of the texts listed in our recommended reads.

To help plan and structure your presentation, try to include information on the following:

- Some biographical details about the author
- A brief summary of what happens in the text
- A key passage that really moved / interested you. As part of this, you could do some close textual analysis of the language and / or structural features used
- A focus on a key character. Is there a character you find especially interesting? Why?
- Has the author used an interesting narrative perspective or structure?

When deciding how to present your information, the choice is yours. We are happy for you to experiment with images, film clips and audio recordings in a Power Point, Prezi or Movie Maker presentation, but we will be equally as impressed if you prepare a detailed, engaging and passionate speech about a text you have read with nothing other than a copy of the text and some notes to guide you if you lose your way.

Re-creative Writing Task

Task 2:

This task is designed to encourage you to evaluate how characters are presented by authors and unpick how they are represented.

Re-creative writing takes an existing character or situation from a text and fills in the gap or explores a perspective not in the original text. For example, what is Eric thinking when he disappears in the middle of 'An Inspector Calls'?

A soliloquy could enlighten the audience about his fears and regrets. Perhaps there's a poem in your Literature anthology where a character is mentioned but they don't get to speak or there's a past hinted at but never explained. Now is your chance to fill in that gap.

Your writing can be a speech, a poem or a short section of prose. It should be no more than 500 words. Whatever you think is most appropriate for the character(s) you have picked. It can be an extension from *any* of your GCSE texts – let's still put them to use, eh?

Try to write using similar language and tone to the original and use your knowledge of the main text to inform what your re-creative piece has to say. We're not expecting these to be perfect as they are simply a way of exploring a text from a different perspective. Literature students think beyond what is just on the page and this is your chance to be a little creative in this time we have ahead of the course starting.

Study of English in the 6th Form should be your own journey of discovery of writers and styles. You will develop your appreciation of the ways in which writers explore and communicate the complexity of human experience, through well-crafted language. The more widely you read for your own enjoyment, the better your response will be. This list of recommended reads will help you to make a start.

Ben Aaronovitch, **Rivers of London**, Recommended for anyone looking for some urban fantasy fun with a real life spin. Some have described it as Harry Potter for grown-ups.

Margaret Atwood: **Alias Grace** and **Cat's Eye**, in particular, but much of her work is worth a read.

Jane Austen, **Pride and Prejudice**, **Sense and Sensibility**, **Emma**, **Mansfield Park**, **Persuasion** and other writing.

Pat Barker, **Regeneration** and others in a trilogy. Novels set in WWI.

Emily Bronte, **Wuthering Heights** Exceeding its reputation as the most famous love story, a powerful depiction of the nature of love and existence.

Charlotte Bronte, **Jane Eyre** Famous story of a young girl whose misfortune eventually leads her to work at a large mansion where she meets the mysterious Mr. Rochester...

Anthony Burgess, **A Clockwork Orange** Controversial novel which presents amorality through a violent narrative partly veiled behind an invented language.

Truman Capote, **In Cold Blood**. Gruesome true account of some notorious murders in America; written from the narrative perspective of the killers.

Peter Carey, **Oscar and Lucinda**.

Kate Chopin, **The Awakening** and other stories.

Joseph Conrad, **Heart of Darkness**. Short novel about a man who travels to the Congo in Africa during the nineteenth-century and the way it challenges his and our understanding of civilisation.

Louis De Bernieres, **Captain Correlli's Mandolin** Set on a Greek island in WW2.

Daphne Du Maurier, **Rebecca** Influenced by the gothic mystery style, the story of a young wife who discovers that there is more to her new home, her husband's country estate *Manderley*, than meets the eye.

Charles Dickens, **Great Expectations**, **A Tale of Two Cities**, **Hard Times** and other novels.

Emma Donoghue, **Room** The story of a child who lives in a single room with his Ma and has never been outside. When he turns five, he starts to ask questions, and his mother reveals to him that there is a world beyond the walls. Told entirely in Jack's voice, *Room* is no horror story or tearjaerker, but a celebration of resilience and the love between parent and child.

George Eliot, **The Mill on the Floss**, **Silas Marner**, **Middlemarch** Powerful stories set in C19th England. Eliot makes social comments through the fortunes of her characters.

Hans Fallader, **Alone in Berlin**.

Sebastian Faulks, **Birdsong**, **Charlotte Gray** Powerful depictions of the human stories behind WWI and 2.

William Faulkner **The Sound and the Fury**

Nathan Filer, **The Shock of the Fall**, a haunting take on death, grief and mental illness.

F.Scott Fitzgerald **The Great Gatsby** and **Tender is the Night** Characters and stories observing the glamour and recklessness of America in the 1920s Jazz age.

E.M Forster, **A Passage to India**, **A Room with a View**, **Howards End**, **Where Angels Fear to Tread** Much of Forster's writing questions the readers' understanding of society, by depicting how characters struggle to find their place.

John Fowles, **The Collector** A fascinating and, at times, disturbing depiction of what can happen when an obsession gets out of hand.

Charles Frazier, **Cold Mountain** During the American civil war, Inman makes the treacherous journey back to find Ada, the woman he loves.

Elizabeth Gaskell, **Ruth** The story of the struggle of the main character, Ruth, who is rejected by Victorian society after she becomes pregnant. Also try **North and South**

William Golding, **Lord of the Flies**: Chilling tale of the chain of consequences after a group of schoolboys are stranded on a desert island. Also try **The Spire**.

Graham Greene, **Brighton Rock**, Story of the dangerous Pinkie, a young gangster in 1930s Brighton. Also try: **The Quiet American**, **The Power and the Glory**, **The End of the Affair** and other novels David Guterson, **Snow Falling on Cedars**.

Mark Haddon, **The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time** We hear everything from the perspective of Christopher, the narrator who has Asperger's syndrome.

Thomas Hardy **Tess of the D'Urbervilles**, **Far From the Madding Crowd** and **Jude the Obscure**.

Joseph Heller, **Catch 22**: Funny novel whose narrative is organised character by character, instead of chronologically, creating a web of events...

Ernest Hemingway, **A Farewell to Arms**.

Khaled Hosseini, **The Kite Runner**.

Aldous Huxley, **Brave New World**.

Kazuo Ishiguro, **The Remains of the Day** Stevens describes the life he experienced as a butler of a large country house in WW2. Gradually the reader begins to understand things that Stevens can't explain. Also try: **When We Were Orphans** and **Never Let Me Go**

James Joyce, **Dubliners**, **Ulysses**

Thomas Keneally, **Schindler's Ark** True story of how a Nazi, Oskar Schindler, employed Jews in his factory in WW2 in order to spare them from the concentration camps.

Jack Kerouac **On the Road** A young man's journey of discovery on a road trip across America

D.H.Lawrence, **Sons and Lovers**, **Women in Love**, **The Rainbow**, **The Virgin and the Gypsy** and **Lady Chatterley's Lover** Lawrence's writing is known for his ability to capture the inner, psychological life of characters, their relationships and their understanding of themselves.

Ian McEwan **Atonement**, **Enduring Love**, **On Chesil Beach**, **Nutshell**

Toni Morrison, **The Bluest Eye** and **Beloved** Extremely original narrative style; novels deal with the oppressive life of black Americans in the C19th and earlier C20th.

Audrey Niffenegger, **The Time Traveller's Wife**

Michael Ondaatje **The English Patient** At the end of WW2, four people seek refuge in a ruined Tuscan monastery and discover how their pasts are woven together.

George Orwell, **Nineteen-Eighty Four**: Written when 1984 was in the future, a frightening examination of what the future could be like. Also try: **Animal Farm**, **Down and Out in Paris and London**

Samuel Pepys, **Diary** The most famous diarist ever; Samuel Pepys lived in London in the C17th century and documented every-day life at the time.

Charlotte Perkins Gillman, **The Yellow Wallpaper**: A woman supposedly convalescing is shut up in a room and gradually loses her sense of reality.

Sylvia Plath, **The Bell Jar** : Story of a young woman's descent into insanity over the course of a summer. Also try Sylvia Plath's **Journals**.

Jean Rhys, **Wide Sargasso Sea**, a prequel to Bronte's Jane Eyre.

Arundhati Roy, **The God of Small Things**.

J D Salinger **The Catcher in the Rye** The main character Holden, wanders the streets of '50s New York. His reflections on what he sees make a powerful criticism of American society.

Muriel Spark, **The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie**

Zadie Smith, **White Teeth**, **On Beauty**.

Johnathan Swift, **Gulliver's Travels** Well-known in adapted forms for children, Swift wrote this as a sophisticated social satire.

Leo Tolstoy, **Anna Karenina** : Both Flaubert's **Madame Bovary** and this novel deal with female characters who choose not to conform to society and suffer tragic consequences.

Alice Walker, **The Color Purple** : In the form of diary entries by Celie, a poor black girl in 1930s America, a portrayal of the oppression and difficulties of life in the deep south.

Evelyn Waugh, **Brideshead Revisited**, **Decline and Fall**, **Vile Bodies**.

Edith Wharton, **Ethan Frome** and **The Age of Innocence**: Set in 1890s New York. A love story which is actually a satirical look at the superficiality of the upper-classes.

Virginia Woolf, **To the Lighthouse**, **A Room of One's Own**