



English Literature (Edexcel) A Level Bridging Work

This work is designed to prepare you for the start of the A Level course. Your teachers will check completion of each task by questioning you, or asking to see your notes. Where relevant, please ensure you keep notes, or can produce a copy of the reading which you have highlighted and annotated.

Task 1: Introduction to dystopia and academic writing and talks

1. Read '1984' by George Orwell. This is essential pre-reading for our first Prose text on the course, 'The Handmaid's Tale'. As you read, reflect on the messages Orwell has about society and government control, and the features of the genre of dystopia.
2. Read the article by Margaret Atwood on 'Why I write Dystopias'
<https://www.newstatesman.com/culture/2022/10/margaret-atwood-dystopias>
3. Listen to the lecture from Radio 4 'The Reith Lecture' on the meaning of 'Freedom of Speech'. <https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/m001fmtz>

Task 2: Developing your understanding of writer's craft

1. Watch a production of 'Cat on a Hot Tin Roof' by Tennessee Williams on Drama Online (see your teacher for the password to access it). As you watch, consider how the director has presented staging and set. Make brief notes ready to discuss with the class.
2. Read the chapter on narrative structure from David Lodge's 'The Art of Fiction'. Highlight and make notes.
3. Select one novel to read from the attached reading list of books selected to be read for pleasure. Read and enjoy!

Task 3: Immersing yourself in contemporary poetry

1. Work through pages 6-17 of the Edexcel Unseen Preparation Anthology II, reading the three poems by Robinson, Subramaniam and Antrobus, and completing the suggested tasks. You do not need to do the exam practice questions, but do complete the initial activities, thinking/talking points and choose one of the 'Extending your knowledge of contemporary poets' tasks that interests you.
2. Read the 3 poems in the sample of 'The Actual' by Inua Ellams. You will remember him from his poem 'Fuck Boys' which we studied in our lesson on Sixth Former For A Day. You may wish to purchase his book and read more of his poetry. Come to the first week ready to discuss which poem was your favourite and why.