

English Literature A-Level (AQA Course A)

Bridging the Gap Year 11 – Year 12

The English Literature AQA A course, is a fantastic course, with a real range of texts and authors for you to explore. There are a lot of things you can be doing between now and the start of the course in September, to widen your understanding and hopefully you'll really enjoy it!

- **Recommended Reading List – Love Through the Ages** (See next page)

The whole of the AS Level, and half of A2, is entitled 'Love Through the Ages' so the more texts you can read that are linked to this, the better. Below is a list of recommended texts – try to read as many as you can.

- We would definitely like you to **read 'Jane Eyre' Charlotte Bronte by September**, as this is one of the key texts we study.
- Watch theatre productions and films of significant texts – lots are now available because of a 'Cultural Lockdown'.
 - The National Theatre - <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/nt-at-home>
 - Royal Shakespeare Company (RSC) - <https://www.rsc.org.uk/at-home-with-shakespeare>
- **Complete a research project on Literary Eras from Medieval to Contemporary for September.** You will need to research each of the following literary eras and be able to explain what the conventions / features of literature of that time were; some famous texts from that era; what was happening in society at the time and how that influenced literature. It's entirely up to you how you present it, but you will be asked to present some of it to the rest of the class – so think about that in your presentation choice.
 - The Middle English Period (The Medieval Period)
 - The Renaissance Period
 - Neoclassical Period
 - Romantic Period
 - Victorian Period
 - Modern Period
 - Postmodern Period
 - Contemporary Period

Some useful links / videos to get you started:

<https://sites.udel.edu/britlitwiki/the-elizabethan-sonnet-sequence/>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=2gzFYQ3jw5s>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=G_O5UCEDpYs

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=My1Yt26ubIY>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bVMNVEqfC70>

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=c_pywMFS8G0

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=f8EfyhIv72I>

Thanks everyone!

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Love through the Ages

Recommended Reading List

This will be useful for AS Literature and Paper 1 A2 English Literature

We strongly recommend that you get reading some of these texts – the more familiar you are with the portrayal of love in literature through the ages the better.

Maternal Love

Drama

Yerma, Federico Garcia Lorca
Kindertransport, Diane Samuels
The Homecoming, Harold Pinter
A Woman of No Importance, Oscar Wilde

Prose

Ruth / North and South, Elizabeth Gaskell
Poor Cow / Up the Junction, Nell Dunn
The Fifth Child, Doris Lessing
Waterland, Graham Swift
Maps for Lost Lovers, Nadeem Aslam
We Need to Talk About Kevin Lionel Shriver

Poetry

Katrin, Gillian Clarke
Demeter / Queen Herod, Carol Ann Duffy
Book of Matches, Simon Armitage

Destructive Nature of Desire

Drama

Measure for Measure / Othello / Antony and Cleopatra, Shakespeare
The Changeling, John Middleton
Blood Wedding, Federico Garcia Lorca
Miss Julie, August Strindberg
Hedda Gabler, Henrik Ibsen

Prose

Jane Eyre, Charlotte Brontë
Our Mutual Friend, Charles Dickens

Poetry

Selected Poems, Sylvia Plath
Birthday Letters, Ted Hughes
The Gift by Vicki Feaver

The Darker Side of Love

Drama

Selected Dramatic Monologues, Robert Browning
A View from the Bridge / The Crucible, Arthur Miller
Hamlet, William Shakespeare
Betrayal, Harold Pinter

Poetry

Selected Poems, Sylvia Plath
Birthday Letters, Ted Hughes
And Still I Rise, Maya Angelou

Prose

Tess of the D'Urbervilles, Thomas Hardy
Tender is the Night, Scott Fitzgerald
The God of Small Things, by Arundhati Roy
Enduring Love, Ian McEwan
The Yellow Wallpaper, Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Sibling Love

Prose

Sense and Sensibility / Pride and Prejudice, Jane Austen
Wuthering Heights, Emily Brontë
Silas Marner, George Eliot
Sons and Lovers / The Rainbow / Women in Love, D.H. Lawrence
Atonement, Ian McEwan

Drama

A Streetcar Named Desire / Cat on a Hot Tin Roof, Tennessee Williams
Tis a Pity She's a Whore, John Ford
Hitting Town, Stephen Poliakoff

Poetry

To My Brothers, John Keats

Regret/Loss of Love/ Unrequited Love

Poetry

Venus and Adonis, William Shakespeare
The Voice, The Haunter, The Going, Thomas Hardy
The Broken Heart, Love's Deity, The Bait, John Donne
Little Red Cap/Miss Havisham/Mrs Quasimodo, Carol Ann Duffy

Prose

Snow Falling on Cedars, David Guterson
Cold Comfort Farm, Stella Gibbons
Wuthering Heights, Emily Bronte

Drama

The Glass Menagerie, Tennessee Williams
A Midsummer Night's Dream, William Shakespeare
Twelfth Night, William Shakespeare

Celebration

Drama

Troilus and Cressida, William Shakespeare
The Winter's Tale, William Shakespeare



The Importance of being Earnest, Oscar Wilde

Poetry

Shakespeare's Sonnets

The Good Morrow, John Donne

Music, When Soft Voices Die, Percy Bysshe Shelley

Two in the Campagna, Robert Browning

Prose

Anna Karenina, Leo Tolstoy

The Rainbow, D H Lawrence