

**AS LEVEL**

**A2 LEVEL**

**ENGLISH LITERATURE**

**2023-24**

**SUMMER TRANSITION ACTIVITIES**

**NAME: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_**

**AS ENGLISH LITERATURE**

**EXAM BOARD**: **OCR**

**COURSE: H072**

**Introduction to English**

Studying English Literature at Southmoor Academy requires extensive independent reading.

This booklet will give you advice on a range of texts, and the additional reading that is essential if you are to excel in English Literature.

Reading is a habit

Reading is a habit. Set aside time every day to read. That may be thirty minutes or an hour before bedtime, on the bus home, in a study room, a café or in the park, but make you must foster a reading habit. It’s best if you set aside the same time every day, and ideal if you truly enjoy the books you’re reading: but you have to read every day.

Set yourself a goal: ‘I want to read twenty novels this year’, or ‘perhaps ten plays’. Create a reading log, or just make a tally on a piece of A4 up in your room. You’ll be pleased and encouraged when you achieve your goal.

Independent reading is essential

Students who do not read independently will struggle at A-level. Fact.

There is no substitute for deep knowledge of the text you are studying, and your knowledge will be gained by reading and re-reading the study texts until you know them backwards. This is non- negotiable.

Wider reading is essential

At A-level you cannot be spoon fed reading and ideas like at GCSE. Your own wider reading will define your success in the course.

You’ve just come out of the great GCSE grade-making machine, where your own capacity for individual exploration of the subject has been trammelled (or ‘focused’) along the lines of the curriculum. Your course was defined for you. Your ability to master particular types of examiners’ questions was a large part of your success or failure. Reading and regurgitating study books, notes and quotes could be enough to succeed.

Now, however, you are expected to read widely and enquire into all aspects of texts. You must explore the situation of novels, poets and plays in wider history, their place in the history of literature, and the thoughts of others on the texts that you are encountering for the first time. You are expected to read these texts as an enquiring, curious adult. If you are incapable of doing this, you are doomed to write in a simple manner and generalise about their content and meaning. This means failure at A-level.

If, however, you build on the reading the course demands, follow your own nose and take the initiative in reading widely, reading and achieving in English literature will become correspondingly easier. The added bonus is that this kind of broad and thoughtful reading will, in time, offer you a lifetime’s pleasure too. And all you need to do is get into that reading habit. Good luck!

Choose TWO of the following tasks and then complete the following Shakespeare tasks on Tragedy:

* Create a definition sheet of 30 different linguistic and structural features.
* Write a short response (300 words) to the following question: Which literary characters would be at your dream dinner party and why?
* Create a time-line of all the different movements in literature beginning with the 14th century and ending with modern literature.
* Choose a modern/contemporary book and write a short piece arguing for the book to be recognised as part of the literary canon.
* Which 3 books you would take to a desert island and why?
* Speak to at least 5 people and record what their favourite book is and why.
* Write an analysis of a poem of your choice, using appropriate literary terminology. Make

sure you submit the poem with your analysis.

**Shakespeare Transition**

1. Complete Use your knowledge from GCSE English Literature to create a diagram of the main feature of the genre of tragedy. Include all key terms. Create a profile for a tragic hero. You can use a character from your GCSE studies or a new tragic hero you have researched.
2. Use the following link and read the article.

<https://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/o/othello/critical-essays/shakespeares-tragedy>

Can you add more information to your tragic structure/profile?

Time: 30 mins

Listen to Rana Mitter’s Podcast on Tragedy, ancient and modern. You will need to sign up

(BBC iPlayer log in works) but this is free.

Make notes on this 30min episode.

https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p07k365zTime: 1hr

Further reading:

* *1984* George Orwell
* *A Clockwork Orange* Anthony Burgess
* *A Doll’s House* Henrik Ibsen
* *A Farewell to Arms* Earnest Hemmingway
* *A Room with a View* E. M. Forster
* *A Streetcar Named Desire* Tennessee Williams
* *The Glass Menagerie* Tennessee Williams
* *Atonement* Ian McEwan
* *Birdsong* Sebastian Faulkes
* *Brave New World* Aldous Huxley
* *Brighton Rock* Graham Greene
* *Dracula* Bram Stoker
* *Educating Rita* Willy Russell
* *Emma* Jane Austen
* *Pride and Prejudice* Jane Austen
* *Enduring Love* Ian McEwan
* *Fahrenheit 451* Ray Bradbury
* *Fingersmith* Sarah Walters
* *Heart of Darkness* Joseph Conrad
* *His Dark Materials* Philip Pullman
* *In Cold Blood* Truman Capote
* *Jane Eyre* Charlotte Bronte
* *Middlemarch* George Eliot
* *Misery* Stephen King
* *Money* Martin Amis
* *Oliver Twist* Charles Dickens
* *Great Expectations* Charles Dickens
* *One Flew Over the Cuckoo’s* Nest Ken Kesey
* *Oranges are not the only fruit* Jeanette Winterson
* *Rebecca* Daphne du Maurier
* *Slaughterhouse 5* Kurt Vonnegut
* *Strangers on a Train* Patricia Highsmith
* *Tess of the D’Urbervilles* Thomas Hardy
* *The Big Sleep* Raymond Chandler
* *The Catcher in the Rye* J. D. Salinger
* *The Collector* John Fowles
* *The Colour Purple* Alice Walker
* *The Great Gatsby* F. Scott Fitzgerald
* *The Handmaid’s Tale* Margaret Atwood
* *The Help* Kathryn Stockett
* *The Importance of Being Earnest* Oscar Wilde
* *The Picture of Dorian* Gray Oscar Wilde
* *The Kite Runner* Khaled Hosseini
* *The Murder of Roger Ackroyd* Agatha Christie
* *The Name of the Rose* Umberto Eco
* *The Nine Tailors* Dorothy L. Sayers
* *The Remains of the Day* Kazuo Ishiguro
* *Never Let Me Go* Kazuo Ishiguro
* *The Rime of the Ancient Mariner* Samuel Taylor Coleridge
* *The Scarlet Letter* Nathanial Hawthorne
* *The Woman in White* Wilkie Collins
* *Things Fall Apart* Chinua Achebe
* *Trainspotting* Irvine Welsh
* *When Will There be Good News?* Kate Atkinson
* *Wide Sargasso Sea* Jean Rhys
* *Wise Children* Angela Carter
* *Wuthering Heights* Emily Bronte
* *The Adventures of Sherlock Holmes* Arthur Conan Doyle