



Summer School

English Language and Literature



English Language and Literature A Level (OCR)

This is an exciting course which will give you the opportunity to build on the skills that you have developed at GCSE and enhance your enjoyment of reading both fiction and non-fiction as well as giving you experience of producing your own texts.

We will be studying:

- **The Language of Speech and Non-fiction** – you will study a wide range of different text types from 1666 right up to the present day. You will be using all the terminology and analysis skills you have learnt at school and learning a lot more so that you are able to analyse any text put in front of you.
- **The Language of Poetry and Drama**– We will be studying 15 poems from a collection of poetry by Carol Ann Duffy and 'A Streetcar Named Desire' by Tennessee Williams. You will need to use your skills and knowledge from studying poetry and An Inspector Calls at GCSE, but we will also be looking at wider literary context and applying some language theory to enhance your analysis of these texts.
- **Reading as a Writer; Writing as a Reader** – The focus of this unit is narrative writing / story telling. We will be studying The Great Gatsby and analysing how the writer uses narrative methods to tell his story. You will then have the opportunity to put this into practice yourself and write your own narratives
- **Non Examined Unit (Coursework)** - This is an opportunity for you to pursue your own interests and choose your own texts and the critical approach you wish to take. This unit will be invaluable in preparing you for undergraduate study

What makes a good English Literature Student?

- Most obviously, you need to enjoy reading both fiction and non fiction. Students who are prepared to read widely, sometimes pushing themselves out of their own comfort zones, are the ones who tend to do really well and, more importantly, enjoy their time with us most!
- In lessons, we tend to spend a lot of time discussing ideas, so getting involved in these conversations will both improve your grades and will hopefully mean that you learn more about yourself and your own beliefs and values.
- You also need to be prepared to work hard at your essay writing skills and your written expression.

Give yourself a head start for September by completing the following tasks over the summer holidays. There are 6 tasks here, one for each week of the holidays.

Task 1

To prepare for unit 1, you can get a head start by reading through the anthology of texts we will be studying. Use this link: <https://www.ocr.org.uk/Images/480988-anthology-of-non-fiction-and-spoken-texts.pdf>

Task 2

As part of your coursework, you will need to produce an original piece of non fiction. Try one of the following tasks (if you like what you've written you could use it as a starting point for your coursework)

- Write a review of a film you have watched or a book you have read
- Write a travel piece about somewhere you visit over the holidays
- Interview a member of your family or a friend about their memories of childhood and write a chapter of their biography
- Write a blog about your summer holidays

Task 3

The first text we will be studying is 'A Streetcar Named Desire' by Tennessee Williams. Watch this film about his life and make a few notes – this will give you some useful context when we come to study his play.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZB4WQ_zXAvC

Task 4

We will also be studying 'Rapture' which is a collection of love poems by Carol Ann Duffy. Having an understanding about the literary genre of love poetry will really improve your analysis of this collection. Read some of Shakespeare's sonnets, look up some analysis on sparknotes and make some notes on a few of the poems.

<https://www.stagemilk.com/best-shakespeare-sonnets/>

<https://www.sparknotes.com/shakespeare/sonnets/>

Task 5

The third literary text we will be studying is The Great Gatsby by F Scott Fitzgerald. This classic is often referred to as one of the Great American Novels. Read this article about the key characteristics of a 'Great American Novel'

<https://www.nytimes.com/2015/01/18/books/review/why-are-we-obsessed-with-the-great-american-novel.html>

Task 6

This course will also give you the opportunity to develop your own skills as a writer and we will encourage you to experiment with genre, form, narrative, voice, structure and style in your fiction. Have a go at reworking one or more of these famous fairy stories:

- The Three Billy Goats Gruff from the point of view of the Troll
- Hanzel and Gretel from the point of view of the father who abandons them in the forest
- An updated, feminist version of Cinderella