Preparing to study A Level English

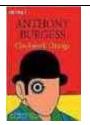
Hurtwood House English Department



Bronte, Charlotte *Jane Eyre*



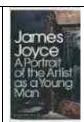
Shelley, Mary Frankenstein



Burgess, Anthony A
Clockwork Orange



Fitzgerald, F Scott *The Great Gatsby*



Joyce, James A Portrait of the Artist



Nabokov, Vladimir *Lolita*



Stedman, M. L. *The Light Between Oceans*



Linux

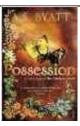
Conrad, Joseph The



Bronte, Emily
Wuthering Heights



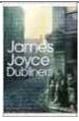
Swift, Jonathan *Gulliver's Travels*



Byatt, A. S. Possession



Forster, E.M A Room With a View



Joyce, James *Dubliners*



O'Brien, Flann At-Swim-Two-Birds



Vonnegut, Kurt
Slaughterhouse-five



Secret Agent

Hartley, L.P. The Go-Between



Dickens, Charles *Great Expectations*



Tolstoy, Leo Anna Karenina



Camus, Albert *The*Outsider



Golding, William Lord of the Flies



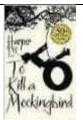
Kafka, Franz The Trial



Orwell, George *Animal* Farm



Waters, Sarah *Little* Stranger



Lee, Harper *To Kill a Mockingbird*

What have you been reading this Summer? You should always try to look at a mixture of new and old, familiar and unfamiliar. If you'd like some recommendations, email the Head of English, sam.turton@hurtwood.net, telling me the last book you read and what sort of things you like to read generally. Like something you've read? Let us know, and we'll order it for the library.

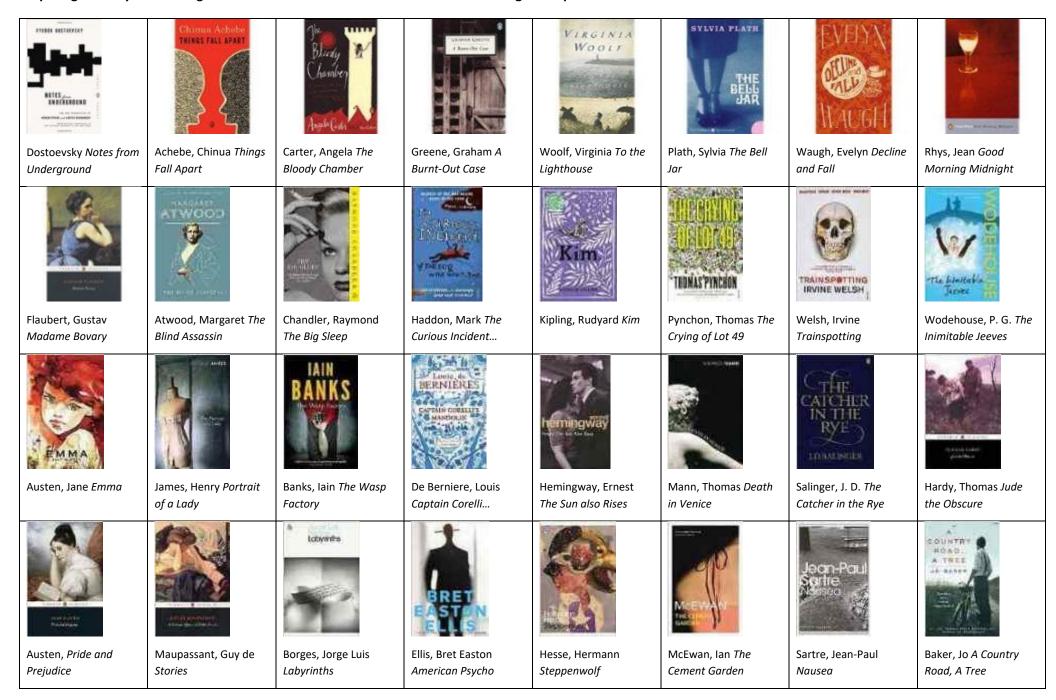
You'll find that all of the above, and more, are also available in our Book Nooks in H16, SP3 and SP4. Lovely, cosy spots to curl up and relax! Go ahead – get lost in a good book...





Preparing to study A Level English

Hurtwood House English Department

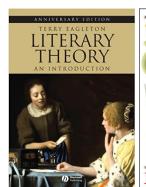


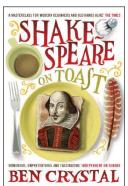
Hurtwood House English Department

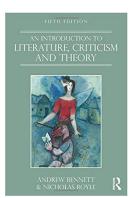
Schools and universities love to see a Lit student who has a good grasp of the big critical debates:

- Terry Eagleton's 'Literary Theory'
- Bennett and Royle 'An Introduction to Literature, Criticism and Theory'
- Ben Crystal's 'Shakespeare on Toast' (a great introduction to 'the bard'.)

Good stuff on the internet to get your mind working:







<u>Future Learn</u> - 6/8 week courses. Very good content. Normally something good on Shakespeare, or one of the classic novelists. The British Library has excellent, scholarly resources, with beautiful shots of manuscripts from their incredible archive.

<u>Lit Genius</u> is not the most obvious place to go for insight (it started at a repository for comments and analyses of rap lyrics) but it has become one of the best home-grown sources of useful annotations and commentaries on a wide range of texts. (Check out this example from the beginning of 'Othello').

All the extras you get studying English at Hurtwood:

If you're after something to give you a flavour of the extra-curricular things we do in the Department, have a look at <u>Muse</u>, our school blog, in particular, <u>the creative posts</u>. There's some great stuff up there. Our occasional podcast is also a platform for a lot of original writing (check out episode 3, for example.)

The texts we study as part of the Edexcel syllabus are:

Drama	Tennessee Williams - 'A Streetcar Named Desire'	Shakespeare - 'Othello'
Prose	Mary Shelley - 'Frankenstein'	Margaret Atwood - 'The Handmaid's Tale'
Poetry	'Poems of the Decade' (A Forward Poetry Anthology)	Chaucer - 'The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale'
Coursework	Cormac McCarthy - 'The Road'	Samuel Beckett - 'Waiting for Godot'

Plenty to keep busy with - let us know if you need more! Still interested in learning more? Keep on reading for activities, tasks and ideas to get you thinking! You can also email the department.

Email your English teacher:

<u>louise.haile@hurtwood.net</u> // <u>nicola.jones@hurtwood.net</u> // <u>sophie.murenu@hurtwood.net</u> jaqueline.thomas@hurtwood.net // sam.turton@hurtwood.net (also Head of English Lit)

Let a Poem Brew Over Time

• Choose a poem. You could choose one from your exam anthology or (and this would be both more fun and more useful for you as a student of Literature) browse the websites listed below.

Online poetry libraries

Poetry Foundation

https://www.poetryfoundation.org/

The Saturday Poem

https://www.theguardian.com/books/series

/saturdaypoem

National Poetry Library

https://www.nationalpoetrylibrary.org.uk/o

nline-poetry/poems

Poem Hunter

https://www.poemhunter.com/

Poetry by Heart anthology

https://www.poetrybyheart.org.uk/antholo

gy/

Scottish Poetry Library

https://www.scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk/

Library of Congress Archive

https://www.loc.gov/collections/archive-of-recorded-poetry-and-literature/about-this-

collection/

https://poets.org/

• Use the platform recommended and validated by your school to swap poems.

Set a timer for 10 seconds.

- Do a 'snapshot' look at the poem for 10 seconds don't try to read it and jot down anything
 you notice about it.
- Do the same again but this time for 30 seconds.
- Now put the poem to one side.
- On three different days over the next week or so, spend about 10 minutes reading the poem and
 writing about it in any way you want. You might write about what you like or what you are
 puzzled by or you might just ask questions. It's up to you whether you read over what you wrote
 on the previous occasion there are advantages to both ways. Over the course of the next few
 weeks you could try the activity both ways.
- On the last day, read the poem again, read over all your writing, then make a few notes or record a voice message exploring how your response to the poem changed and developed.

Sharing what you notice

• If possible, use the platform recommended and validated by your school to join up with your partner. Together talk both about the poems and your thoughts on how your response to the poem changed and developed over time.

Watch an Online Play

Why not watch a play online?

Here are some of the places you can watch theatre online.

Students working at home are now able to access the <u>National Theatre's on-demand site</u> for free – please ask your teacher to sign up or send you your school logins.

https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/learning/schools/secondary-and-fe/on-demand-in-schools

<u>Digital Theatre</u> also offers a wide range of plays to watch on-demand (including from the Royal Shakespeare Company). Although this is a subscription site, some of their plays are available on their YouTube site. They are also currently offering a 30-day free trial.

https://www.youtube.com/user/digitaltheatre

https://www.digitaltheatre.com/consumer/productions

<u>Shakespeare's Globe</u> also has a wide range of plays which can be rented or bought at https://globeplayer.tv/all

A Shakespeare play

- Choose a Shakespeare play you have never studied before.
- Watch the play online. (If you can arrange to watch the same play at the same time as one of your classmates, have an interval break in the middle, so that you can chat about it.)
- Record a 2-minute review of it to send to your teacher.

(Watch a second play if you want to!)

On a different day, watch the Shakespeare play you studied for GCSE. What difference does it
make to the experience of watching it to have already studied it? What difference does watching
it make to your understanding?

You can see examples of this sort of discussion on the following websites (all are freely accessible):

- 1. <u>National Theatre YouTube channel</u> http://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJgBmjHpqgs7citDojiasj-nMABL_DXku
- 2. National Theatre podcasts https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/nt-talks/id486761654?mt=2
- Young Vic https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqth0oZ0oHJJYftVHd2ZHwaKQ_shhRGhf
- Shakespeare's Globe https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjz6LNDQOWaCkQegAHxyo2g
- RSC https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjz6LNDQOWaCkQegAHxyo2g

The World of Literary Podcasts

- Listen to a literature podcast. Any of the following would be good places to start (try two or three the styles and approaches are very different).
- Use the platform recommended and validated by your school to share what you listened to with friends. Which podcast would you most recommend and why?
- Follow up the suggestions from your classmates.
- Keep listening to any of the podcasts you enjoyed (or try out some others), follow the ones you like on Instagram or Twitter and let the presenters know what you thought.

The Guardian Books podcast

https://www.theguardian.com/books/series/books

Radio 4 Books and authors

https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/books-and-authors/id331296649?mt=2

Not Another Books podcast

https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/not-another-book-podcast/id1370122551?mt=2

The Literary Salon

https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/the-literary-salon/id495583876?mt=2

Simon Mayo's Books of the Year

https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/simon-mayos-books-of-the-year/id1402579687?mt=2

Anything But Silent (British Library)

https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/anything-but-silent/id1464701909

Immerse Yourself in a Virtual Library – The British Library's Discovering Literature Website

The British Library's Discovering Literature website is a real treasure trove for anyone interested in Literature. It includes hundreds of articles on texts from Chaucer to 21st century novels such as Andrea Levey's *Small Island*, plus images of many of the fascinating items in the British Library Collection.

The Discovering Library website is divided into the following periods:

Medieval

https://www.bl.uk/medieval-literature

Shakespeare

https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare

[Including: Macbeth, Much Ado About Nothing, Romeo and Juliet, Twelfth Night, The Tempest]

Restoration and 18th Century

https://www.bl.uk/restoration-18th-century-literature

Romantics and Victorian

https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians

[Including: Wordsworth, Blake, Coleridge, Jane Eyre, Frankenstein, Pride and Prejudice, Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde, Oliver Twist, A Christmas Carol, Hard Times, Christina Rossetti]

20th Century

https://www.bl.uk/20th-century-literature

[Including: An Inspector Calls, Animal Farm, the poetry of Wilfred Owen, Nineteen Eighty-Four]

The first thing you could do is simply spend an hour or so exploring the different sections of the website, allowing yourself to follow whatever paths interest you. (It might be worth having a Word document open so that you can copy and paste titles and web addresses of anything you might want to return to later. But on this first visit, you could just be an interested browser!)

Over the next few weeks you could complete the British Library Critical Treasure Trail

- Read an article that's caught your attention and select one key point bit of treasure from it.
- Use the links on the right-hand side of the web page to follow a critical trail through the site.
- Read two more articles, collecting bits of treasure as you go.
- Share your treasure as quotations on the platform recommended and validated by your school.
- You could also record a short audio guide to the trail you followed and the treasure you found.