

Step up to A-Level English Literature

This is a menu of tasks to help you get ready to study English Literature at Advanced Level. Try to choose a 'balanced diet' of activities each week to ensure variety in your learning. Keep your completed work organised in a folder so that you can submit your transition work during your first English Literature lesson.



Short Video Clips (less than 10 minutes)

Each of these clips offers context for the course. Write down any key details they reveal or inferences you can make from them. List questions the clips raise that you would like to understand more about (aim for 3)?

Tragedy Lessons from Aristotle
[Tragedy Lessons from Aristotle: Crash Course Theater #3 - YouTube](#)



A Streetcar Named Desire
['A STREETCAR NAMED DESIRE': HISTORICAL, LITERARY & BIOGRAPHICAL CONTEXT EXPLAINED BY BARBARA NJAU - YouTube](#)



Sally Rooney on Writing with Marxism
[Sally Rooney on Writing with Marxism | Louisiana Channel - YouTube](#)



Longer Video Clips, Films or Documentaries

These videos will get you thinking even more about English Literature issues. Select one video, record the key points of context or information that you found significant, alongside 5 subsequent questions that the video has spawned.

Normal People: Available on BBC iPlayer (please be aware that some scenes may not be suitable for a younger audience)

Shakespeare: Rise of a Genius
 3 episodes available on iPlayer

Hamlet – search on BBC iPlayer
 David Tennant and Patrick Stewart star in a of the Royal Shakespeare Company's critically lauded, award-winning modern-dress production of Shakespeare's great play



Programmes and Podcasts

There is a huge array of English Literature radio programmes and podcasts available. If you do not have a podcast app, or cannot sign in to BBC Sounds, this would be your first thing to remedy. Below are a few stretching and informative programmes for you to enjoy. Make notes on ½ page of A4 about what you have learnt about the topic of each programme and which opinions you agree with and why.

BBC Sounds: In Our Time
 Lots to choose from: Shakespeare's Life; Chaucer; Wuthering Heights

BBC Sounds: Larkin Revisited
 Talking in Bed

Desert Island Discs
 Tennessee Williams
 Philip Larkin



Questions to Consider

The questions below are designed to get you thinking more broadly about some of the underlying issues within the course we study in Year 12. Choose a question and try discussing it with somebody else. Then write 500 words exploring different possible responses and explaining your own opinions.

What is tragedy?

What makes a great poem?

What influenced Emily Bronte to write?



Debate

Task: Read the linked page and complete the activities below.

[Was Emily Brontë's Heathcliff black? \(theconversation.com\)](#)

Summarise the arguments put forward by the writer:



1629

Why might readers ask questions regarding Heathcliff?

How does this link to the historical context of the novel?

How has Heathcliff been represented on screen?





Books and Other Longer Reads

These books are excellent introductions to the themes we study in English Literature. They are available to buy and download as e-books, some of them are free!

Jane Eyre

Charlotte Bronte

Conversations with Friends

Sally Rooney

The Glass Menagerie

Tennessee Williams

