

Getting Started with...

ENGLISH LITERATURE

Welcome!

In preparation for joining us at The Hinckley Sixth Form...

You'll find it useful – and hopefully enjoyable and interesting - to:

Research

William Shakespeare's 'Hamlet' and Elizabethan society. Define key terms such as:

- revenge tragedy;
- the divine right of kings;
- the great chain of being;
- malcontent;
- soliloquy;
- the Oedipus complex;
- the Renaissance man;
- iambic Pentameter



Research

Geoffrey Chaucer's 'The Canterbury Tales' and Medieval society. Consider and define key terms such as:

- fabliaux;
- senex amans;
- apostrophe (not the punctuation mark);
- encomium;
- bathos;
- descriptio –
- and any others relevant to Chaucer's work



Research

The American playwright Tennessee Williams and create a factsheet about his life and works. Some areas and key words to consider might be:

- Post-war America
- The American dream

- The divide between the northern and southern states of America
- The southern belle
- A definition of 'antebellum'
- Williams' sister Rose
- Southern Gothic literature

Search for poems by Carol Ann Duffy and Philip Larkin – there should be several available from many online sources. Pick three by each poet and have a go at annotating them. If you can find links between your chosen poems, that would be fantastic. (Please note – don't choose any that you have studied for GCSE – see if you can find something new!)

Log on to emagazine, (<https://www.englishandmedia.co.uk/e-magazine/emag-login/>) using

We really recommend the following articles (but you can search the whole database too!):

- username 'THS'
- password 'english'

- ✓ Let Me Introduce Myself – Thinking about How Poems Work (Barbara Bleiman)
- ✓ Readings and interpretations of a poem by Byron (Barbara Bleiman and Lucy Webster)
- ✓ Losing the Magic of Literature - Harry Potter (Jessica Brooks)
- ✓ Context Criticism Approaches Shakespeare (Andrew Dickson)
- ✓ Exploring Character in Drama Texts – Beyond Description to Sharp Analysis (Barbara Bleiman)
- ✓ In the Beginning - the Opening of Narrative Texts (Emagazine Editors)

You can print these out and highlight key areas, or make notes. Once you have read them, search for and read any other articles you might find interesting, perhaps related to any texts you have studied at GCSE.

And if you want to **look forward** – here's some ideas about just how valuable and versatile English skills make you: <https://online.flowpaper.com/79590737/English20/>
Most importantly – spend some time reading (and watching) literature: novels, poetry, plays.

It doesn't matter what really – just find things you like and immerse yourself in another world for a few hours!

Any questions? Feel free to contact the subject leader on
hfoers@thehinckleyschool.co.uk Mrs H. Foers, Head of English