
A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE

Context:

When you study English Literature, you will consider closely the motivations and influences which authors have over them when they produce their works of fiction. This will include you considering the social and historical factors which influence their writing and what they aim to achieve by using specific literary devices in their poetry or prose. You will study a mixture of classic and contemporary poetry and prose as part of this course.

Reading Material:

Over the course of your studies you will read and analyse the following texts:

Othello by William Shakespeare

Death of a Salesman by Arthur Miller

A collection of Poetry by John Keats

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood

Songs of Innocence and Experience by William Blake

You might like to read or research some or all of these texts to get a feel of what the course will be like.

The English department subscribes to a magazine for students: Emagazine. Their archive contains thousands of articles about English Literature, including many specific articles on the A Level texts. Log in, look for things you are interested in and start to read! Keep some notes on what you have read; you never know when this might be useful.

<https://www.englishandmedia.co.uk/e-magazine/emag-login/>

Username: kingsenglish

Password: nounphrase

Tasks:

Select one or two of the texts from the reading list above. Read them and research the context of the text (i.e. key information about the author, important historical and social events which took place around the time the text was written, other texts by the same author and what they are about etc.) Make some notes on these things so that you get a sense of the background of the texts you will be reading. Can you spot any literary features from your GCSE studies in the texts which you read? Do any of these texts have similar contexts to any texts you have already studied?

Who to follow:

The Margaret Atwood Society has a very active page on Facebook. On it you will find a range of useful academic articles about Atwood's work and the issues she is concerned with in her writing.

Amnesty International is a charitable organisation which is active around the world and supports communities with some of the issues dealt with by Hosseini in his work.