
A LEVEL ENGLISH LANGUAGE & LITERATURE

Context:

When you study English Language & Literature, you will become an observer of how language works, using these skills on a series of texts on the topic of 'Paris'. You will look at how language is used to represent Paris in different ways. You will also study several works of Literature, the message behind these works and what influenced the writers to produce them.

Reading Material:

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

- *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood
- A collection of Poetry by Carol Ann Duffy
- *Othello* by William Shakespeare
- *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald

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

The English department subscribes to a magazine for students: *Emagazine*. Their archive contains thousands of articles about English Language and English Literature, including articles specifically on the texts you will study. 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:

Read *The Handmaid's Tale*- it is an exciting dystopian novel about a future world where the few remaining fertile women are reduced to providing children for the rich powerful leaders who run the new American state called Gilead, a totalitarian religious dictatorship. It explores issues of feminism, religion, unreliable narrators, societal breakdown. It is challenging and has some difficult scenes to explore but for a mature sixth-form student it is a very rewarding read.

Watch 'The Handmaid's Tale' award-winning TV series (channel- All4) or the 1990 film version of the novel

Read Atwood's follow up novel 'The Testaments.'

Research articles on contemporary third-wave feminism and the impact of Donald Trump and the #metoo campaigns eg <https://www.britannica.com/topic/feminism/The-third-wave-of-feminism>

Research news articles on the feminist deconstruction of language
eg <https://www.buzzfeed.com/beulahdevaney/what-is-feminism>

Read some other classic texts by feminist writers: Alice Walker 'The Color Purple', Toni Morrison 'Beloved', Naomi Wolf 'The Beauty Myth', Naomi Alderman 'The Power'.

Explore the following essay links by the author:

["Haunted by *The Handmaid's Tale*": An essay by Margaret Atwood](#)

[An article on Atwood's use of actual historical events](#)

[An article on historical and political background of *The Handmaid's Tale*](#)

[Interview with Margaret Atwood: "*The Handmaid's Tale* is being read very differently now"](#)

Complete the tasks in the Duffy Poetry Anthology booklet.

Who to follow

Twitter is a huge resource for students of English Language. There are some great bloggers who are academics and post exciting content about English Language & Literature. Here's a list of some you should follow:

@RobDrummond: Reader in sociolinguistics @ManMetUni

@EngLangBlog: Keeping you up to date with English Language stories in the news

@DanSeanClayton: English teacher, writer and examiner (runs the englangblog)

@mmgiovannelli: Senior lecturer in English Language and Linguistics @AstonLSS

@Literacy_Trust

@davcr: David Crystal. English Language guru.