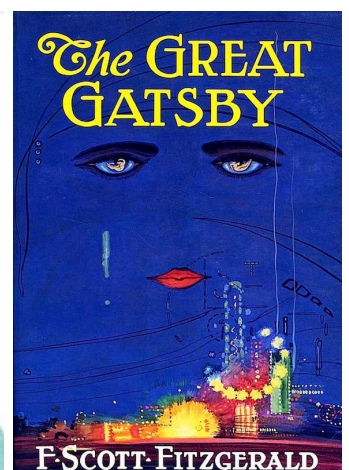
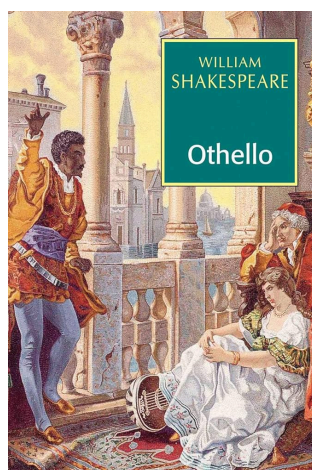
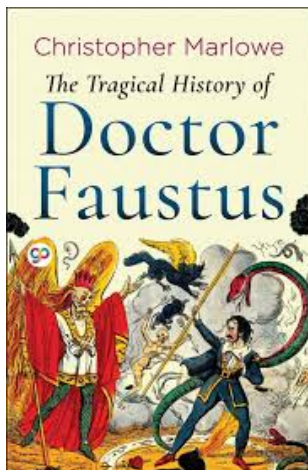


A Level English Literature

Welcome! We are so glad you have chosen us.



Exam Board: AQA

Specification: 7712 - A Level English Literature A

Set texts: "The Handmaid's Tale", "A Streetcar Named Desire", "Feminine Gospels", "Othello", "The Tragical History of the Life and Death of Doctor Faustus", AQA Anthology of Poetry (pre-1900 section), "The Great Gatsby".

Paper 1: Love through the ages

Paper 2: Texts in shared contexts - Option B - Modern times: literature from 1945 to the present day

NEA: An independent study which covers "Doctor Faustus" and compares it with a text of your choice

Summer jobs in order of importance:

1. **Read “A Streetcar Named Desire”** and fill in a reading journal for this text. Watch “A Streetcar Named Desire” if possible. It is available on film.
2. **Watch “Doctor Faustus”**. There are lots of productions on YouTube. Read it independently if you feel confident doing so. It is not expected that you will have pre-read it, but you should have watched it and know the plot.
Doctor Faustus summary video:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ollQiRqQYyc>
"Doctor Faustus" productions that you could watch:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zsZoX5uEQZE>
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V97pMacSp-0>
3. **Read for pleasure (always!)**
Create a reading journal entry.
Try to choose some novels, short stories, or collections of poems that might link to “Doctor Faustus”. Anything on the themes of ambition, sin, evil, power, the Devil, supernatural, or knowledge is perfect. Here are some suggestions:
“The Kite Runner” by Khaled Hosseini
“The Picture of Dorian Gray” by Oscar Wilde
“The White Tiger” by Aravind Adiga
“Paradise Lost” by John Milton
“The Bloody Chamber” by Angela Carter
“Frankenstein” by Mary Shelley
“Great Expectations” by Charles Dickens
“The Collector” John Fowles
4. **Read “The Handmaid’s Tale”**.
Create a reading journal entry.
Questions to think about when considering “The Handmaid's Tale”:
<https://www.penguin.com.au/book-clubs/2463-the-handmaids-tale-book-club-notes>
You can watch the TV series if you like, but do be aware that it goes beyond the bounds of the novel and you are studying the novel and not the TV show.
5. **Go to the theatre** if you can. Alternatively, look out for National Theatre Live at the cinema. For example, the Chalford Hill cinema (France Lynch Church Rooms) is showing the newest “A Streetcar Named Desire” on 29th June.

Making a Reading Journal

Get yourself a little notepad:

Who are the key characters? What did you think of them?

What are the key themes and ideas? How do they affect a reader/audience?

Where have you seen these ideas before in life, literature, etc.?

Was anything about the plot surprising?

What did you enjoy about the text?

What do you think other people would take away from their reading of the text?

(Think about particular demographics)

Why do we study literature?

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSYw502dJNY>

https://www.ted.com/playlists/346/the_power_of_fiction_1

ISBNs for Set Texts

Please get the correct version. It makes your life much harder if your copy is different from everyone else's.

Priority texts for starting the course:

"The Handmaid's Tale" - 9780099740919

"A Streetcar Named Desire" - 9780141190273

"Doctor Faustus" - 9780582254091

You will also need these, later in the course:

"The Great Gatsby" - 9780141182636

"Feminine Gospels" - 978-1035038565

The textbook that is relevant to our course is this one. You are not obligated to buy it.

We have copies in the LRC:

A/AS Level English Literature A for AQA Student Book (A Level (AS) English

Literature AQA) - 9781107467927

If anyone wants to buy you a gift, ask them for the exact copies of the set texts (use the ISBNs supplied), "Beginning Theory" by Peter Barry, or a Dictionary of Literary Terms.