

## Welcome to English Literature A Level at Salisbury Sixth Form College



“What an astonishing thing a book is. It's a flat object made from a tree with flexible parts on which are imprinted lots of funny dark squiggles. But one glance at it and you're inside the mind of another person, maybe somebody dead for thousands of years. Across the millennia, an author is speaking clearly and silently inside your head, directly to you. Writing is perhaps the greatest of human inventions, binding together people who never knew each other, citizens of distant epochs. Books break the shackles of time. A book is proof that humans are capable of working magic.”

*Carl Sagan – astrophysicist*

**Welcome. You are about to embark on a two year course of study introducing you to hundreds of years of English Literature. Enjoy it!**

**You will respond to the works by discussion and by essay – you will produce a couple of pieces of dynamic and original coursework – and you will sit two exams at the very end of the course.**

**To get the most out of this course you will need to:**

- Be open-minded and willing to engage your imagination.
- Listen carefully to the input from the front, and to each other.
- Join in and share your ideas.
- Be confident in your own ability to work independently but make sure you ask for guidance or support as soon as you need it.
- Make notes and keep them in good order.
- Learn a list of literary terms.
- Buy and read the set texts promptly and in full.
- Commit to working on English Literature for up to four hours a week in your own time.

**Practically, you will need:**

- Writing pens (not felt tips) in at least three colours.
- A couple of highlighter pens.
- A folder and paper.
- You will need to buy the texts we are going to be studying, as we go along.

You need a copy of *The Great Gatsby* by F.Scott Fitzgerald - you don't need to have read it or seen it before you arrive, but it would be good if you could.



You should be able to get a second hand copy for under £5 including postage - try ebay, Amazon used, World of Books, or ideally Oxfam bookshop or charity shops - so your money keeps on giving!

Two Summer Tasks to keep you busy and literate in your extra long break:



- 1) **Please read a couple of novels/some poetry and jot down your favourite quotations from them.** If you haven't already read these books, then you might like to choose from this list – these are all excellent but not difficult:

*The Book Thief* – Markus Zusak

*Inkheart, Inkspell, Inkdeath* – Cornelia Funke

*Lord of the Flies* – William Golding

*Of Mice and Men* – John Steinbeck (will be helpful for our course)

*Small Island* and/or *The Long Song* - Andrea Levy (relevant to our course)

*Strange Meeting – Susan Hill (relevant to coursework)*

*Regeneration - Pat Barker (relevant to coursework)*

*Never Let Me Go - Kazuo Ishiguro*

*The Handmaid's Tale - Margaret Atwood*

*Slaughterhouse 5 - Kurt Vonnegut*

*The Life of Pi – Yann Martel*

*The Essex Serpent - Sarah Perry*

*The Underground Railroad (relevant to our course) - Colson Whitehead*

*The Kite Runner – Khaled Hosseini*

Look up these slightly more complex books and choose at least ONE to read: Frankenstein, Pride And Prejudice, Klara and the Sun, Jane Eyre, 20 000 Leagues Under the Sea, Jonathan Strange and Mr Norrell, Tess of the D'Urbervilles, 1984, Cloud Atlas or The Grapes of Wrath (also very helpful for our course).

Explore The Poetry Foundation Website <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/>

Explore Spoken Word youtube videos by Button Poetry <https://www.youtube.com/c/ButtonPoetry>

**You can log your quotations on the back of this sheet**

**Happy reading**

**2) Look up the definitions of these terms, and find an example - keep this list and bring it with you in September. THIS TASK IS ESSENTIAL.**



British Literature Memes

**TERM**

**DEFINITION**

**EXAMPLE**

*Dynamic and stative verbs*

*Active and passive voice*

*Concrete and abstract nouns*

*Imperatives*

*Conditionals*

*Foreshadowing*

*Asyndetic list*

*Polysyndeton*

*Minor, simple, incomplete, compound and complex sentences*

*Euphony*

*Cacophony*

*Onomatopoeic language*

*Contrast*

*Juxtaposition*

*Oxymoron*

*Paradox*

*Metonymy*

*Pathetic fallacy*

*Symbolism*

*Allusion*

*Connotation*

*Tone*

*Diction*

*Semantic field*

*First person narrative*

*Third person narrative*

*Omniscient narrator*

*Point of view*

*Unreliable narrator*

*Diegetic/Non diegetic narrator*

***Don't worry if you don't understand entirely - I will be teaching you - but a headstart is essential!***

**3) Take a look at this youtube video and then watch the Crash Course episodes for novels you have read: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=MSYw502dJNY>**

If you have any questions or you would like any more ideas for reading lists or film suggestions then do get in touch with me on [randerson@s6c.mlp.college](mailto:randerson@s6c.mlp.college)

**Really looking forward to meeting you. Rebecca**