

English Literature Summer Induction work



"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 Hamlet:

We are starting with Shakespeare's Hamlet and you will need a copy from the start of the course. I don't mind which edition you buy but one with study notes would be ideal. You should be able to get a used copy from ebay for under a fiver including postage. YOU DO NOT NEED TO READ IT IN ADVANCE.

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)

The Help – Kathryn Stockett (also relevant to the 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 Kite Runner – Khaled Hosseini

Look up these slightly more complex books and choose at least ONE to read: Frankenstein, Pride And Prejudice, The Sellout, 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/>

Happy reading

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



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>

And finally 4) If you get a chance to watch the Baz Luhrman film of The Great Gatsby then that would be great.



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@salisbury6c.ac.uk

Really looking forward to meeting you.

Rebecca Anderson