

English Language and Literature A-level Transition Plan

Welcome to English Language and Literature A' level. We look forward to teaching you the course which will immerse you in a range of fiction and non-fiction; from extracts from diaries, biographies and transcripts of television interviews, to poetry, plays, novels, travel writing and autobiographies. The final text choices will be decided by your teachers and shared with you once the timetable has been confirmed and teachers assigned to teach A' level have chosen the texts they want to teach you. A copy of the specification can be found here

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/images/171202-specification-accredited-a-level-gce-english-language-and-literature-h474.pdf>

We would encourage you to read any of the texts outlined; just for pleasure!

The transition work we have chosen for you is designed to promote your reading and critical skills that are essential to success at A' level as you become more critical, independent learners.

The table below contains details of each activity and the deadline by which the work should be completed. Each exercise varies in time depending on the length of reading, watching or writing you will be completing and totals about 15 hours. A suggested completion time is given to enable you to manage your time effectively, together with deadlines.

If you have any questions, or if a lack of internet access/ technology prohibits you from completing the exercises please contact me via e-mail: swells@fromecollege.org

Kindest regards,

Mrs Wells (English Faculty)

| Activity | Expected completion time | Deadline |
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| A Graphic Novel adaptation of a text You are going to experiment with getting to the heart of a set text by thinking about how you would adapt it into a graphic novel. Begin by having a look online at some other graphic novel adaptations. If you can, choose another text you know reasonably well. There are lots of the texts set for GCSE in graphic novel format here (http://www.classicalcomics.com/book-shop/). You might also want to have a look at some original graphic novels such as the prize-winning ones listed on this website. Outline the way you would re-tell one of your GCSE set texts in the form either of a graphic novel. Without looking back at your copy, make notes on the text, under the following headings: <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Storyo Themes and ideaso The way it is toldo The things that make it distinctive and special. Create a page plan for the re-telling and choose one section to work up in detail. (If you have time and are interested you could create the whole adaptation.) How well can you get across what is most important and distinctive? What gets lost? | 2 hours | 15 th June |
| Books adaptations Watch a film or TV adaptation of a novel you know, for example Northern Lights, Noughts and Crosses, Emma, David Copperfield, Sherlock Holmes, Agatha Christie. | 3 hours | 29 th June |

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| <p>(See BBC iPlayer for freely available dramas; Netflix and Amazon Prime have a wide selection if you have a subscription. Some complete dramas are also available on YouTube)</p> <p>Read Jenny Grahame’s article for MediaMagazine about the recent adaptation of David Copperfield in the ‘emagazine Resource Pack’. (Like emagazine, MediaMagazine is a magazine for A Level students – but for those studying Media or Film.) Write your own review of the adaptation you have watched. Your own adaptation Now write a pitch for a different novel you think would make a great film or film adaptation. Explain why and how you would approach it.</p> | | |
| <p>Let a poem brew over time</p> <p>Choose a poem. National Poetry Library https://www.nationalpoetrylibrary.org.uk/online-poetry/poems</p> <p>Set a timer for 10 seconds.</p> <p>Do a ‘snapshot’ look at the poem for 10 seconds – don’t try to read it – and jot down anything you notice about it.</p> <p>Do the same again but this time for 30 seconds.</p> <p>Now put the poem to one side.</p> <p>On three different days over the next week or so, spend about 10 minutes reading the poem and writing about it in any way you want. You might write about what you like or what you are puzzled by or you might just ask questions. It’s up to you whether you read over what you wrote on the previous occasion – there are advantages to both ways. Over the course of the next few weeks you could try the activity both ways.</p> <p>On the last day, read the poem again, read over all your writing, then make a few notes or record a voice message exploring how your response to the poem changed and developed</p> | 2 hours | 6 th July |
| <p>Explore EMagazine https://www.englishandmedia.co.uk/e-magazine/emag-login/</p> <p>Username: english@fromecollege</p> <p>Password: Frome123</p> <p>Dip into the openings of several articles and choose the one that most immediately grabs your attention.</p> <p>Read the article and pick out three points to share. These could be ideas you find interesting, that you want to question (perhaps because you disagree, perhaps because you want to find out more), a point you don’t understand.</p> <p>Take one of the points and add your own ideas to it or write a new point of your own.</p> | 1 hour | 13 th July |
| <p>Watch a play</p> <p>https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/learning/schools/secondary-and-fe/on-demand-in-schools</p> <p>Password for National Theatre to be posted on FROG when it is made available to us</p> | 4 hours | 3 rd August |

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| <p>Digital Theatre also offers a wide range of plays to watch on-demand (including from the Royal Shakespeare Company). Although this is a subscription site, some of their plays are available on their YouTube site. They are also currently offering a 30-day free trial. https://www.youtube.com/user/digitaltheatre https://www.digitaltheatre.com/consumer/productions</p> <p>Shakespeare's Globe also has a wide range of plays which can be rented or bought at https://globeplayer.tv/all</p> <p>Watch the play online. (Try to arrange to watch the same play with friends, and have an interval break in the middle, so that you can chat about it.)</p> <p>Write the script for a podcast/online discussion between a critic and the director. (If you having been watching the same play as some of your friends, hold an 'After Show' discussion. One of you could play the director, one a lead actor and one the interviewer/critic.)</p> <p>You can see examples of this sort of discussion on the following websites (all are freely accessible):</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. National Theatre YouTube channel http://youtube.com/playlist?list=PLJgBmjHppgs7citDojiasj-nMABL_DXku 2. National Theatre podcasts https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/nt-talks/id486761654?mt=2 3. Young Vic https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLqth0oZ0oHJJYftVHd2ZHwaKQ_shhRGhf 4. Shakespeare's Globe https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjz6LNDQOWaCkQegAHxyo2g 5. RSC https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCjz6LNDQOWaCkQegAHxyo2g | | |
| <p>Try exploratory writing</p> <p>Choose a short text you have not studied before. This could be the opening of a novel, a poem, a scene from a play – it doesn't matter what. (Some suggestions for where you can find extracts from different types of texts are suggested below.)</p> <p>Read the text, without making notes.</p> <p>Now write about it. Just write, in any way you want, almost as though you are having a conversation with yourself. Let your ideas develop and change, contradict yourself, ask questions – it's up to you. The only rule is that you should write in full sentences, not notes or bullet points.</p> | 1 hour | 10 th August |

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| <p><u>Short stories</u></p> <p>A Personal Anthology https://apersonalanthology.com/ Granta https://granta.com/discoveries-24/</p> <p>New Yorker (limited number of articles/stories per month before subscribing) https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/fiction Electric Literature https://electricliterature.com/</p> <p>Selected Shorts: Let Us Tell You Story https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/selected-shortcuts/id253191824</p> <p><u>First chapters</u></p> <p>New York Times – First Chapters Archive https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/books/first/first-fiction.html</p> | | |
| <p>The Art of a review</p> <p>Read three or four online reviews for a novel you enjoyed. Places to find reviews</p> <p>By writers, critics etc: <i>Guardian, Independent, New York Times, Slate</i> o By readers: Amazon, GoodReads, LibraryThing, Book Riot.</p> <p>Begin by thinking about your personal response to these – is there one you feel more in sympathy with, that captures what you thought and felt? Do you like the style/approach of one more than another?</p> <p>Then take a step back and look at each a bit more clinically. What do each of the reviewers focus on (the story, the characters, underlying themes, their personal response)? What approach do they take to writing the review?</p> <p>Drawing on what you have learned about the art of the review and the novel itself, either write your own or write a response to one of them. If you have time, you might like to read this article on writing a great book review. (https://www.stylist.co.uk/life/the-art-of-the-book-review/46762)</p> | 2 hours | 17 th August |

Equipment Required for September:

Pens – multiple colours

Highlighters

Copies of the set texts (published later in the year.) Please contact Mrs Wells if you would like to discuss financial assistance for this.

