

Sixth Form Y11-12 Transition Work Subject – English Literature

Due to be handed in – first lesson in September.

Learning Objectives:

1. To compare two novels on the same theme
2. To independently explore a poet's work and themes in depth
3. To develop a deeper contextual understanding of Shakespearean drama; to explore contexts of production and reception of Shakespearean plays at the time of writing.
4. To develop an understanding of tragedy as a genre

Success Criteria:

- AO1: Articulate informed, personal and creative responses to literary texts, using associated concepts and terminology
- AO2: Analyse ways in which meanings are shaped in literary texts.
- AO3: Demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written and received.
- AO4: Explore connections across literary texts.

Explanation of task.

Comparison of two novels (compulsory task)

- *Choose two novels to read from the 'Reading List' document with something in common such as a theme of conflict or a type of relationship.*
- *As you read each novel, make notes on the themes, characters, plot and key quotations. You might like to do some research into the context of the novel but you must avoid looking up any plot details!*
- *Once you have read both novels, create a six slide (minimum) PowerPoint presentation comparing the two texts. Your slides should cover the following comparison topics: plot; context; main characters; themes; craft; and important quotations. You will be delivering this presentation to your new year 12 A Level English Literature class and teachers at the start of September so make sure you have detailed knowledge of what you have read and are confident about the PowerPoint you create. We look forward to hearing your own ideas about the two novels you have read!*

Bonus tasks

POETRY

- Read the accompanying notes on John Betjeman
- Read the following poems by John Betjeman: 'The Arrest of Oscar Wilde at the Cadogan Hotel', 'Upper Lambourne', 'In Westminster Abbey', 'A Subaltern's Love Song', 'Christmas', 'The Licorice Fields at Pontefract', 'Senex', 'Diary of a Church Mouse', 'An Edwardian Sunday, Broomhill, Sheffield', 'Slough', 'On a Portrait of a Deaf Man', 'Ireland with Emily', 'The Village Inn', 'Hunter Trials', 'Lenten Thoughts of a High Anglican', 'Executive', 'Advertising Pays', 'Late - Flowering Lust' (available on the internet)
- Annotate the poems for: themes, emotions, language, structure and important quotations.
- Answer the following essay question: Explore the view that in Betjeman's poems female characters are always shown to be silly and frivolous

SHAKESPEARE

- Research then create a presentation about Shakespeare ready to present in September. You may use images or PowerPoint to support your presentation. Include details about Shakespeare's life, different genres of plays, common plot and structural features, Elizabethan theatre, The Globe theatre, costumes, Elizabethan theatre audiences, life during the Elizabethan era (consider the role of women, religion and race) and how this influenced the content of Shakespeare's plays etc. Find out as much about this topic as you can!

-Then develop your understanding of tragedy as a genre by researching then answering the following questions in as much depth as you can.

1. What is tragedy? Research at least three different definitions then formulate your own definition from this.
2. What are the key characteristics of tragedy?
3. What examples of tragic plays can you find? Research and write about the plot of at least three different tragedies. Explain what happens in each play, and which parts of the plot are to be considered 'tragic' according to your definition.
4. How are tragedies typically structured? How do the plays you have researched fit with this structure?
5. How has the tragedy genre changed over time? (Consider what tragic plays were like in Ancient Greece, Elizabethan times and Modern times.
6. Find out as much as you can about Tennessee Williams' life and work. Stretch and challenge: how is he connected to tragedy both personally and through his work? Explore in depth.

Resources to support your work

See attached documents– ‘Reading List’ and ‘Betjeman’ notes
BBC Bitesize

www.Shakespeare.org.uk

www.shakespearesglobe.com

<https://interestingliterature.com/2013/05/a-brief-history-of-tragedy/>

[Tennessee Williams | American playwright | Britannica](#)

www.britannica.com › [biography](#) › [Tennessee-Williams](#)

This work is important because it will broaden your reading of more mature Literature and develop your independence (a key skill for A level!)