

# ENGLISH LITERATURE

Our English Literature course encourages you to develop an interest in and enjoyment of English literature through reading widely, critically and independently, across centuries, genre and gender, and through experience of an extensive range of views about texts and how to read them. A love of reading and the readiness to read beyond the texts studied in class are obviously hugely important in this subject. The focus for Year 12 is Love Through The Ages: you will be studying a wide range of literature which shares a central theme of love, and considering the ways in which writers have represented love in different literary periods.

## Tasks:

1. In preparation for beginning your English Literature course, you will need to purchase, read, and annotate *The Great Gatsby* by F. Scott Fitzgerald ready for when you begin lessons in September. You might also find it useful to read a study guide on *The Great Gatsby* (such as York Notes Advanced or similar). Complete the reading log below – be prepared to hand this in and share your ideas in September.
2. You should approach A Level English as a proactive reader, and read as much as you can independently. This will inform your understanding of our chosen theme and help to make you a confident and perceptive student. During the summer break, read at least one other: fiction text, non-fiction text, poet and play from the recommended reading list below (reading at least 4 in total). These books can be borrowed from the local library. Enjoy immersing yourself in your chosen texts but also try to read them as closely and critically as possible.
3. Write brief reviews of these texts and authors once you have read them.

If you have any questions about this work, please contact Mrs Hunt:  
[jane.hunt@fakenhamacademy.org](mailto:jane.hunt@fakenhamacademy.org)

We look forward to meeting you in September.

Mrs Hunt

## English Literature Reading Log: The Great Gatsby

<b>CLOSE READING</b>		
	<b>Note down interesting short quotes</b>	<b>Add your own notes / ideas / even questions you would like answers to...</b>
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Perspective</b></p> <p>What kind of voice is the text written in? From whose perspective mainly? A character or an all-knowing narrator / the writer? Does the text use different voices / perspectives?</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Settings</b></p> <p>How does the writer use settings? Do certain settings have effects upon the tension or help to show up particular themes? What type of language is used when creating settings? Are certain characters associated with a particular setting?</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Time</b></p> <p>How does the writer use time (past, present, future)? How does the writer structure, organise, and develop the ideas in the text? Does the text jump around in time or progress in a chronological / linear way from the beginning to then end?</p>		
<p style="text-align: center;"><b>Language</b></p> <p>What kinds of language are used? (For example, formal, informal, descriptive, dialogue, and so on...) Is the language all the same or does the writer use contrast? What is the overall tone of the text? (Is it mocking / outraged / sad / reflective / detached / emotional...?)</p>		

<p><b>Structure</b></p> <p>Are there any patterns, repetitions of key ideas, uses of contrast? Is there anything distinctive in the way the text is written? (Consider structure, repeated choices of vocabulary or sentence structures, variations in pace...)</p>		
<p><b>Writer's Purpose</b></p> <p>What might be the writer's purpose in this text?</p>		
<p><b>Audience's Response</b></p> <p>How might you, as a twentieth-first century reader interpret and react differently to the audience at the time the text was actually written? Why might there be a difference?</p>		

## Recommended Reading List – Year 12-13

This is just a small selection of great reads available in the library and local library.

*Those in **bold** are our exam texts. You will need to purchase a copy for annotation in lessons. You are encouraged to read these in advance of the course beginning.*

### **Fiction:**

Little Women - Louisa May Alcott

Pride and Prejudice - Jane Austen

Pickwick Papers – Charles Dickens

Dracula - Bram Stoker

Frankenstein – Mary Shelley

Emma - Jane Austen

Great Expectations - Charles Dickens

The Time Machine - H.G. Wells

Wuthering Heights - Emily Brontë

The Hounds of the Baskervilles - Arthur Conan Doyle

Jane Eyre - Charlotte Bronte

The Picture of Dorian Gray - Oscar Wilde

To Kill a Mockingbird- Harper Lee

Go Set A Watchman – Harper Lee (sequel to ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’)

1984 - George Orwell

### **The Handmaid's Tale - Margaret Atwood (Year 12)**

Paper Towns- John Green

Things Fall Apart - Chinua Achebe

The Heart of Darkness - Joseph Conrad

Rebecca - Daphne Du Maurier

Birdsong - Sebastian Faulks

Tender is the Night - F. Scott Fitzgerald

A Room with a View - E.M. Forster

North and South - Elizabeth Gaskell

Love in the Time of Cholera - Gabriel Garcia Marquez

Brighton Rock - Graham Greene

Tess of the D'Urbervilles - Thomas Hardy

The Go-Between - L.P. Hartley

For Whom the Bell Tolls - Ernest Hemingway

A Thousand Splendid Suns - Khaled Hosseini

The Remains of the Day - Kazuo Ishiguro

The Dubliners - James Joyce

The Namesake - Jhumpa Lahiri

Atonement - Ian McEwan

Beloved - Toni Morrison

The God of Small Things - Arundhati Roy

The Bell Jar - Sylvia Plath

The Grapes of Wrath - John Steinbeck

The Colour Purple - Alice Walker

### **The Great Gatsby – Fitzgerald (Year 12)**

To the Lighthouse - Virginia Woolf

Brave New World – A.Huxley

**Non – Fiction:**

I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings - Maya Angelou  
The Lost Continent, Notes from a Small Island – Bill Bryson  
Writing Home - Alan Bennett  
Testament of Youth - Vera Brittain  
Skating to Antarctica - Jenny Diski  
Down and Out in Paris and London - George Orwell  
A Long Walk to Freedom - Nelson Mandela  
Twelve Years a Slave - Solomon Northrop  
Why Be Happy When You Could be Normal? - Jeannette Winterson  
What the Chinese Don't Eat – Xinran  
The Colour Purple – A Walker  
Ake – W Soyinka  
Empire of the Sun - J G Ballard

**Plays:**

The Glass Menagerie – Tennessee Williams  
Antigone - Bertolt Brecht  
The Seagull - Anton Chekhov  
A Doll's House - Henrik Ibsen  
Death of a Salesman - Arthur Miller  
The Birthday - Harold Pinter  
Hamlet - William Shakespeare  
Rosencrantz and Guildenstern - Tom Stoppard  
**Othello – Williams Shakespeare (Year 12)**  
The Importance of Being Ernest - Oscar Wilde  
**A Streetcar Named Desire – Tennessee Williams (Year 13)**

**Poetry:** read poems by -

Simon Armitage	WH Auden
William Blake	Lord Byron
Evan Boland	Elizabeth Barrett Browning
Geoffrey Chaucer	Samuel Taylor Coleridge
Emily Dickinson	<b>Carol Ann Duffy (Feminine Gospels) (Year 13)</b>
TS Eliot	Seamus Heaney
Ted Hughes	John Keats
Philip Larkin	John Milton
Wilfred Owen	Sylvia Plath
Christina Rossetti	Jacob Sam-La Rose
Siegfried Sassoon	Percy Shelley
Alfred Lord Tennyson	William Wordsworth