



WOOTTON ACADEMY TRUST

ENGLISH DEPT



OCR A-level English Summer Work Project 2021

Welcome to A-level English...

In this pack you will find the materials that you need to complete your Summer Work Project.

Bring all completed work to your first lesson back in September 2021.

Content:

1. Unseen Poetry
2. Othello
3. Critical Vocabulary
4. Further Reading List

Task 1: Read and analyse the poem by Simon Armitage on the next page:

Gooseberry Season

Which reminds me. He appeared

at noon, asking for water. He'd walked from town

after losing his job, leaving a note for his wife and his brother

and locking his dog in the coal bunker.

We made him a bed

and he slept till Monday.

A week went by and he hung up his coat.

Then a month, and not a stroke of work, a word of thanks,

a farthing of rent or a sign of him leaving.

One evening he mentioned a recipe

for smooth, seedless gooseberry sorbet

but by then I was tired of him: taking pocket money

from my boy at cards, sucking up to my wife and on his last night

sizing up my daughter. He was smoking my pipe

as we stirred his supper.

Where does the hand become the wrist?

Where does the neck become the shoulder? The watershed

and then the weight, whatever turns up and tips us over that razor's edge

between something and nothing, between one and the other.

I could have told him this

but didn't bother. We ran him a bath

and held him under, dried him off and dressed him

and loaded him into the back of the pick-up.

Then we drove without headlights

to the county boundary,

dropped the tailgate, and after my boy

had been through his pockets we dragged him like a mattress

across the meadow and on the count of four

threw him over the border.

This is not general knowledge, except

in gooseberry season, which reminds me, and at the table

I have been known to raise an eyebrow, or scoop the sorbet

into five equal portions, for the hell of it.

I mention this for a good reason.

-- Simon Armitage

Task 2: To prepare for the essay, complete the tasks below:

1. What is the poem about? Create a LIST for the poem.

- Language
- Intention
- Structure
- Theme

2. Analyse the words/phrases underlined. What is the effect on the reader?

Task 3: Write a 500 word essay that answers the following question:

How does the poet present the speaker of the poem and his attitude towards his guest?

You will submit the essay and your tasks to your English teacher in your first lesson back in September. This will be your first assessment and your grade will be recorded. Failure to hand in any work will jeopardise your place on the course.

Task 4: Use this link to sign up to and complete the free Future Learn Poetry course entitled 'A-level Study Boost: Unseen Poetry and the Creative Process:' This course is accredited by the University of Reading and should take 6 hours over 2 weeks to complete.

<https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/a-level-study-unseen-poetry>

Task 5: Learn as much of the critical vocabulary on the attached sheet as possible. This vocabulary is vital for any sophisticated study of Literature at A-Level.

Task 6: Read as much of the attached Reading List as possible.

Recommended reading list for English Literature A Level

The list that follows is by no means exhaustive, but it should give you somewhere to start when faced with a whole library full of possibilities!

Prose:

- | | |
|----------------------------|---|
| • Chinua Achebe | Things Fall Apart |
| • Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie | Purple Hibiscus, Americanah |
| • Margaret Atwood | The Handmaid's Tale, Oryx and Crake, The Blind Assassin |
| • Jane Austen | Pride and Prejudice, Emma, Sense and Sensibility |
| • Charlotte Brontë | Jane Eyre |
| • Emily Brontë | Wuthering Heights |
| • AS Byatt | Possession |
| • Angela Carter | The Bloody Chamber, Nights at the Circus, |
| • Joseph Conrad | The Secret Agent, The Heart of Darkness |
| • Charles Dickens | Great Expectations, Hard Times, Bleak House |
| • Daphne Du Maurier | Rebecca |
| • Sebastian Faulks | Birdsong, Charlotte Gray |
| • F. Scott Fitzgerald | The Great Gatsby, Tender is the Night |

- E.M. Forster A Room with a View, A Passage to India
- Elizabeth Gaskell North and South, Wives and Daughters
- Gabriel Garcia Marquez Love in the Time of Cholera
- Graham Greene Brighton Rock
- Thomas Hardy Far from the Madding Crowd, Tess of the D'Urbervilles
- L.P. Hartley The Go-Between
- Ernest Hemingway For Whom the Bell Tolls, A Farewell to Arms
- Khaled Hosseini The Kite-Runner, A Thousand Splendid Suns
- Aldous Huxley Brave New World
- Kazuo Ishiguro The Remains of the Day, Never Let Me Go
- James Joyce Portrait of the Artist as a Young Man, Dubliners
- Jhumpa Lahiri The Namesake
- Harper Lee To Kill a Mockingbird
- Hilary Mantel Wolf Hall, Bring out the Bodies
- Ian McEwan Atonement, Enduring Love
- Toni Morrison Beloved
- Iris Murdoch The Bell, The sea, the sea
- George Orwell Nineteen Eighty-Four
- Arundhati Roy The God of Small Things
- Sylvia Plath The Bell Jar
- Annie Proulx Postcards, The Shipping News
- Bram Stoker Dracula
- Alice Walker The Colour Purple
- Sarah Waters The Little Stranger
- Jeanette Winterson Oranges are not the only Fruit
- Zadie Smith White Teeth, NW, On Beauty
- Virginia Woolf Mrs. Dalloway, To the Lighthouse

Non Fiction:

- Anon: I Am The Secret Footballer
- Maya Angelou: I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings
- Allie Brosh: Hyperbole and a Half
- Bill Bryson: The Lost Continent, Notes from a Small Island
- Alan Bennett: Writing Home
- Vera Brittain: Testament of Youth
- Truman Capote: In Cold Blood
- Anna Funder: Stasiland
- Anne Frank: The Diary of a Young Girl
- Robert Graves: Goodbye To All That
- George Orwell: Down and Out in Paris and London
- Alexander Masters: Stuart: A Life Backwards
- Helen Macdonald: H is for Hawk
- Nelson Mandela: Long Walk to Freedom
- Solomon Northrop: Twelve Years a Slave
- Jeannette Winterson: Why Be Happy When You Could be Normal?
- Xinran: What the Chinese Don't Eat

Poetry (Any collections by the following):

- Simon Armitage
- WH Auden
- William Blake
- Elizabeth Barrett Browning
- Lord Byron
- Geoffrey Chaucer
- ST Coleridge
- Emily Dickinson
- Carol Ann Duffy
- TS Eliot
- Seamus Heaney
- Ted Hughes
- John Keats
- Philip Larkin
- John Milton
- Wilfred Owen
- Sylvia Plath
- Christina Rossetti
- Siegfried Sassoon
- Percy Shelley
- Alfred Lord Tennyson
- William Wordsworth

Drama: You could also try and read and/or watch performances of work by the following dramatists:

- Samuel Beckett
- Alan Bennett
- Bertolt Brecht
- Anton Chekhov
- Shelagh Delaney
- Brian Friel
- Henrik Ibsen
- Ben Jonson
- Christopher Marlowe
- Arthur Miller
- Harold Pinter
- William Shakespeare
- George Bernard Shaw
- Richard Brinsley Sheridan
- Polly Stenham
- Sam Shephard
- Tom Stoppard
- John Webster
- Tennessee Williams
- Oscar Wilde

Task 7: Read Othello by William Shakespeare. As you read, answer the questions below.

Othello Reading Questions: The New Folger Library Version

Act One

1. What is Iago's complaint in Scene I? In other words, why does Iago hate Othello?
2. Who is Brabantio, and why do Iago and Roderigo awaken him in the middle of the night?
3. Why does Iago leave Roderigo at Brabantio's house rather than wait until Brabantio comes down?
4. What is Roderigo's previous relationship with Brabantio and Desdemona?
5. What is Brabantio's reaction to Othello's marriage to Desdemona?
6. Why does the Duke send for Othello? What danger is Cyprus facing?
7. What accusation does Brabantio make against Othello to the Duke?
8. What explanation does Othello give as cause for Desdemona's affections for him?
9. Brabantio complains to the Duke about Othello's marriage to Desdemona. After listening to both sides of the story, what is the Duke's reply?
10. To whom does Desdemona pledge her duty?
11. What warning does Brabantio give to Othello?
12. What is Roderigo's complaint, and what is Iago's reply to it?
13. According to the soliloquy at the end of play, what additional reason does Iago have for "hat[ing] the Moor"?

Act Two

1. Where are we as Act 2 begins? What is the situation at sea? What has happened to the Turkish fleet?
2. Which ship from Venice arrives first? Which ship arrives second? Why is it surprising that it arrives before Othello's?
3. What does the discussion between Desdemona and Emilia tell us about their relationship?
4. Who is Emilia?
5. How does Cassio greet Desdemona and Emilia? Why is Iago so careful to observe the interactions between Cassio and Desdemona?
6. What information does Iago use to spark Roderigo's interest in his plan to discredit Cassio?
7. What "proof" does Iago use to convince Roderigo that Cassio and Desdemona are lovers? What keeps Roderigo from seeing the truth instead of Iago's lies?
8. Why does Iago instigate Roderigo to provoke Cassio to a fight?
9. What is the purpose of Iago's plan?
10. What emotion seems to be governing Iago's thoughts and actions?
11. How does Iago see Desdemona, and how does Cassio see Desdemona?

12. Why does Iago want Cassio to drink more wine? What is the outcome of Cassio's drinking?
13. What lie does Iago tell Montano about Cassio?
14. Why does Othello strip Cassio of his rank?
15. Why does Iago want Cassio to ask Desdemona for help in restoring Othello's faith in Cassio? What does Iago tell Cassio to do to get back in Othello's good graces?

Act Three

1. Why does Cassio bring musicians? What is Othello's response to them?
2. What responses do Iago and Othello have to seeing Cassio leave Desdemona?
3. How successfully does Desdemona plead for Cassio? What is Othello's response to Desdemona as she leaves?
4. Why doesn't Iago simply tell Othello right away that Desdemona and Cassio are having an affair?
5. What thing does Emilia find and give to Iago? What does Iago intend to do with it?
6. What is Iago's reply when Othello demanded proof of his wife's disloyalty?
7. What does Othello decide and command at the end of Scene 3?
8. How likely is it that Othello will keep an open mind until he has seen real proof? How much have Iago's suggestions about Desdemona's "nature" worked on Othello?
9. What is Emilia's relationship with Iago? Desdemona?
10. Identify and explain two examples of irony found in Act III, Scene 3.
11. How does Iago use Othello's racial differences against him?
12. How is the dropping of the handkerchief ironic?
13. What, according to Othello, is the history of the handkerchief (3.4.65-79)? Is Othello telling the truth here? What else might he be doing?
14. What is Emilia's view of men (3.4.120-.24)? How justified is she?
15. Who is Bianca? What is her relationship to Cassio? What does he ask her to do? What is her emotional response? Sound familiar?
16. Who had the handkerchief at the end of Act 3? Why?

Act Four

1. After Iago lied and told Othello that Cassio confessed going to bed with Desdemona, what advice does he give the overwhelmed Othello?
2. What happens to Othello in Scene 1? How does Iago respond?
3. How does Iago trick Othello into thinking Cassio is gloating and bragging about his affair with Desdemona?
4. Why is Bianca angry with Cassio?
5. How does Bianca's return with the handkerchief help Iago?

6. Why does Othello hit Desdemona?
7. Who is Lodovico, and why has he come to Venice?
8. What is Lodovico's reaction to Othello's behaviour towards Desdemona? How does Iago later explain Othello's behaviour to Lodovico?
9. Why does Othello ask Emilia about Cassio's affair with Desdemona, and what is her reply?
10. How correctly does Othello identify his weakness in Scene 2?
11. To whom does Desdemona turn for help after Othello calls her a strumpet?
12. Why does Iago tell Roderigo to kill Cassio? Why does Roderigo consent to think about it?
13. What is the effect of the "Willow Song" and the interruptions to it?

Act Five

1. How would Iago gain from Roderigo's death? Cassio's?
2. What happens when Roderigo attacks Cassio? Who actually wounds Cassio?
3. What does Othello assume has happened?
4. After Bianca appears, what new part of his plot does Iago begin in Scene 1, starting at line 88?
5. Who will get the blame for the attack on Cassio if Iago has his way?
6. What justification does Othello try to give the murder of Desdemona in Scene 2?
7. How does Othello kill Desdemona? What interruption occurs while he is doing it?
8. Whom does Desdemona blame for her death?
9. How is Desdemona faithful to Othello to the end?
10. What happens when Iago tells his wife not to speak and to go home (orders which good Renaissance wives should follow without question)?
11. What is Emilia's reaction when Othello tells her that Iago has revealed Desdemona's affair with Cassio to him?
12. Why does Othello attack Iago?
13. What is Othello's reaction to having his sword taken away?
14. Why does Othello kill himself?
15. How do Roderigo's pockets conveniently help to clarify much of what has happened?
16. What happens to Othello, Iago and Cassio in the end?

If you have any questions or do not understand the work set, email me at bcoleman@wootton.beds.sch.uk or Mrs. Davis edavis@wootton.beds.sch.uk

We look forward to seeing you in September and remember to keep reading over the summer break. I have also enclosed a reading list to get you started if you are unsure on what to read in order to prepare for the course.

Happy reading!