

Year 12 English Literature Summer Work

Please read as much as you can before starting Year 12. This should primarily be good fun but should also be challenging! Do step out of your comfort zone and experience a mix of prose, poetry and drama. Most of all, enjoy your reading!

Summer Activities

All three activities below should be completed and brought to your first Year 12 Literature lessons.

1. Drama in Performance Task:

Watch a performance of a play of your choice.

Log-on to <https://edu.digitaltheatreplus.com> to help.

User: student.hhs Pass: women@4744

If you have Amazon Prime you can also search for 'Great British Theatre' to find some performances from The National Theatre.

Make notes on the performance, outlining 10 key decisions made by the director and/or individual actors to create an effective performance for the audience. Consider the use of voice, movement, costume, set, special effects, music etc. *Example: The director has placed the character of Jim to be physically lower than his wife Sarah in order to portray the power dynamic in the relationship. During the argument in the Second Act, Sarah was standing throughout, whereas Jim was sitting at the kitchen table. Similarly, at the end of the play Sarah stood up and left, reflecting her character's success, whereas Jim remained sat on the steps outside their home, reflecting his defeat.*

2. Independent Prose Reading Task:

Choose a novel to read over the Summer and write a 300 word literary review.

This should cover:

- Why did you select the book?
- A brief outline of the plot (without revealing the conclusion!)
- What you enjoyed about the text.
- Any evaluative comments you can make- E.g., was there anything you did not particularly enjoy?
- The key themes.
- Any critical opinions or alternative interpretations that you think are relevant.

You should choose a book that interests you and that you will enjoy- **this can be from any genre.**

However, if you choose to read something Dystopian (as this is the focus for your future coursework), these lists may be helpful as inspiration:

<https://www.booklistqueen.com/dystopian-books-for-teens/>

<https://bookriot.com/new-ya-dystopian-novels/>

3. Exploring Gothic Conventions Task:

Using your imagination and current understanding of the Gothic genre, **write the next 500 words of this Gothic tale.** Try to match the style and tone of the existing opening. Your use of language features, Gothic conventions, structural devices and narrative voice are all equally important. If you prefer, **you could write prose, a poem, song lyrics or part of a screenplay.** We are excited to see what you do with the material provided!

Extract from a short story by Kate Mosse (from the anthology, "The Mistletoe Bride and Other Haunting Tales", Orion Books 2013):

I hear someone coming.

Has someone caught the echo of my footsteps on these floorboards? It is possible. It has happened before. I pause and listen, but now I no longer hear anything. I sigh. As always, hope is snatched away before it can take root.

I do not understand how I am still waiting, waiting after all these years. Sometimes I see them moving about below. Sense their presence.

I pray that this will be the day. The end of my story. That, this time, someone will at last find me...