

Work for Yr 11 students planning to study English Literature A Level

The best thing you can do before starting the course is to read the set texts and do some wider reading to support the set texts and to prepare for the coursework.

The set texts

A Streetcar Named Desire - Tennessee Williams

Never Let Me Go - Kazuo Ishiguro

Frankenstein - Mary Shelley

Measure for Measure - William Shakespeare

This is quite tricky to read independently. You might be best looking at some plot synopsis/summaries first and then watching a version of it. Probably the best easily accessible version of the play is the 2015 Globe production, available on Globe

Player <https://globeplayer.tv/videos/measure-for-measure-english>

Wider Reading to support the set texts

If you've not read '*Dr Jekyll and Mr. Hyde*' before, by Robert Louis Stevenson, then read it now. It's not a set text, but it's very helpful to know it, as it supports the work we do on '*Frankenstein*.'

Shakespeare - it would be really helpful to have a good knowledge of a classic romantic comedy (eg. *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, *Much Ado About Nothing*) and a tragedy (*Macbeth* is probably the most accessible independently). *Measure for Measure* (our set text) is a mixture of tragedy and comedy so it's really important to know the typical genre conventions of each.

Wider Reading to Support Coursework- Read a selection from the following:

Things Fall Apart - Chinua Achebe

The Bloody Chamber and Other Stories – Angela Carter

1984 - George Orwell

Oranges are Not the Only Fruit - Jeanette Winterson

The Handmaid's Tale - Margaret Atwood

The Kite Runner - Khaled Hosseini

Death of a Salesman - Arthur Miller

The Great Gatsby - F Scott Fitzgerald

Pride and Prejudice - Jane Austen

Dracula - Bram Stoker

Jane Eyre – Charlotte Bronte

Wuthering Heights – Emily Bronte

Great Expectations – Charles Dickens

The Purple Hibiscus – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

The Poisonwood Bible – Barbara Kingsolver

A Picture of Dorian Grey – Oscar Wilde

As You Like It, A Midsummer Night's Dream – Shakespeare

The Importance of Being Earnest – Oscar Wilde

The Picture of Dorain Grey – Oscar Wilde

Many of the above texts are out of copyright and available free online, or in the college library, so check before you buy any. You will, however, need your own hard copies of the set texts. You should get the following editions: *Frankenstein* and *Measure for Measure* (Wordsworth Classics) *A Streetcar Named Desire* (Penguin Modern Classics) *Never Let Me Go* (Faber and Faber). They will be available to buy in the college library in September.