



# A Level English Literature

**Key contact:**

Mrs Pitcher (Director of English)

**Exam Board:**

AQA

## Overview of the course:

If you enjoy reading, discussing and critiquing books, it is very likely that you will enjoy English Literature! Over the two years, you will study a wide range of plays, poetry and prose, and will develop a strong knowledge of their contexts and their critical reception. You will gain an awareness of the way texts have affected different audiences and develop your own critical awareness as well as your ability to make links between texts.

Choose English Literature if you enjoy getting really involved in discussions and exchanging opinions. It is important that you are open to new ideas, as well as being ready to assert your own viewpoints about a text. In English Literature, the more you put into the lessons, the more you will get out of them, so don't expect to sit passively in class taking notes!

All students opting for English Literature will achieve a full A Level qualification at the end of the two year course.

The skills and attributes needed to succeed in this course include a willingness to share your opinions about texts, strong written communication skills and, above all, a love of literature.

## What will you study?

You will study drama, prose and poetry from as early as 1300, right up to the modern day. Much of the course is comprised of modern literature and there is opportunity to study the texts that most interest you. Naturally, we will study a Shakespeare play and Pre-1900 poetry as well as modern prose texts.

You will learn how to approach an unfamiliar text (unseen analysis) and how to make comparisons between texts.

You will also study criticism of various texts with a view to writing your own creative critical response. The NEA is an exciting feature of this course as you decide which texts you would like to investigate and then compare how a theme of your choice is presented through literature over time.

Set Texts:

Othello

The Great Gatsby

Anthology of pre-1900s love poetry

Skirrid Hill

The Color Purple

A Streetcar Named Desire

## What I will read?...

The more you read the better you will do in this course. Therefore, we recommend that, as well as the set texts, you read other texts from similar authors and contexts. Here are just a few that you might like to read to prepare you for the course:

- Jane Austen: Persuasion
- Charlotte Brontë: Jane Eyre
- Emily Brontë: Wuthering Heights
- Kate Chopin: The Awakening
- Jonathan Coe: The Rotters' Club
- George Eliot: The Mill on the Floss
- Thomas Hardy: Tess of the D'Urbervilles
- E.M. Forster: A Room with a View
- L.P. Hartley: The Go-Between
- Daphne Du Maurier: Rebecca
- Mary Shelley: Frankenstein
- Oscar Wilde: The Picture of Dorian Gray
- Ian McEwan: Saturday

## Assessment

Assessment is 80% exam (two papers) and 20% NEA (Non Exam Assessment).

## Possible career path?

A Level English Literature does not just prepare you for reading English at university. Your studies will lead to an improvement in your spoken and written skills of analysis, communication and understanding. As an academic A Level which demands flexible thinking skills and a fluent writing style, it is welcomed in almost all fields of further study and employment. In increasingly competitive higher education and employment markets, English Literature is a highly respected subject, viewed as a traditional and academically rigorous A Level which gives its students essential, transferable skills.

The study of Literature will increase your opportunities in the following careers:

- Journalism
- Publishing
- Television
- Advertising
- Marketing / PR
- Copywriting
- Teaching
- Law

## Entry requirements

Five GCSEs Grade 9-5, including Mathematics, and English Language **and** English Literature Grade 6 or above.