

English Literature A Level – Summer Project

Introduction:

Throughout your A Level English course, you will be studying and analysing the following texts:

Othello – a Shakespeare text about the tragedy of love

Unseen Poetry – a comparison of two unseen poems from different time periods

The Great Gatsby – a novel based on unrequited love

A selection of Pre-1900 Poetry – explores famous poets through the ages and their ideas of love

The Handmaids Tale – a novel based on a future dystopian world

Unseen Prose – extracts of novels

A Streetcar Named Desire – a play based on ideas of love in a changing world

Feminine Gospels – a selection of poems

Your Task:

1. Create a glossary of key terminology based on the list of words below. In your glossary you must include a definition and an example.

Key Term	Definition	Example
Ballad		
Elegy		
Ode		
Lyric		
Iambic pentameter		
Iambic tetrameter		
Catharsis		
Hamartia		
Hubris		
Soliloquy		
Satire		
Allegory		
Semantic field		
Extended Metaphor		
Metaphor		
Rhetoric		
Biblical allusion		

Mythological allusion		
Dramatic irony		
Litotes		

Task 2:

A timeline of the following literary ages and which key texts and authors would fit into each category:

- **Medieval**
- **Renaissance**
- **Restoration**
- **Enlightenment**
- **Romantics**
- **Victorian**
- **Modern**
- **Post modern**

Task 3:

Read a novel from the following list and submit: Tess of the D'Uberilles, Atonement, The Passion, Wuthering Heights, Pride and Prejudice.

- a) A quotation bank about the different types of love in the novel
- b) Explain these different critical views on the novel you have read: Marxism, New Historicist, Feminism and Psychoanalysis and your own view.
- c) A presentation on why you would recommend this novel to be read and comment on its literary worth.

Extension – Write a 500 word essay on how your chosen novel reflects the conventions of the period in which it was written.

Key Information:

Be prepared to give a short presentation in September to secure your entry onto the English Literature A Level course. This presentation will be based on Task 3 above.