

# ENGLISH LITERATURE SUMMER WORK

# READING LIST

- Below are a list of set texts for the two halves of the course.
- Whilst there is not an expectation for you have read all of these texts, it may be beneficial for you to make a start on some of them. Alternatively, research the key themes and literary purpose of each of the texts and make some notes based on your findings.

## Aspects of Tragedy

‘Othello’ by William Shakespeare

‘Death of a Salesman’ by Arthur Miller

Selected poetry by John Keats

## Elements of Political and Social Protest Writing

‘Songs of Innocence and of Experience’ by William Blake

‘The Kite Runner’ by Khaled Hosseini

‘The Handmaid’s Tale’ by Margaret Atwood

## Additional Areas for Research

In order to extend your understanding of literature, you will be using different critical lenses when approaching your texts.

Spend some time researching the following branches of literary criticism. Aim to identify what theorists in these fields are concerned with.

- 1) Marxism
- 2) Feminism
- 3) Postcolonialism
- 4) Eco-criticism

# ASPECTS OF TRAGEDY

- Choose one of the texts below to read over the summer.
- ‘The Great Gatsby’ by F Scott Fitzgerald
- ‘Tess of the D’Urbervilles’ by Thomas Hardy

## TASK:

In no more than 300 words, explain where some of the listed features of the tragedy genre can be seen in your chosen text.

- |                                     |                                    |
|-------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| • tragic hero                       | • chaos                            |
| • victim                            | • suffering                        |
| • villain                           | • fate                             |
| • megalopsychia (status)            | • supernatural                     |
| • hubris (pride or self-confidence) | • climax                           |
| • hamartia (fatal flaw)             | • anagnorisis (tragic recognition) |
| • blindness                         | • death                            |
| • peripeteia                        | • catharsis                        |

# ELEMENTS OF POLITICAL AND SOCIAL PROTEST WRITING

- Choose one of the texts below to read over the summer.
- ‘Animal Farm’ by George Orwell
- ‘Never Let Me Go’ by Kazuo Ishiguro
- ‘V’ by Tony Harrison

## TASK:

In no more than 300 words, explain how you can link some of our elements to the text.

Governments and State Power	Oppression	Tyranny	The Law	Decision Making
Control	Enfranchisement	Social Economics and Capitalism	Gender Imbalances	Settings
Defiance	Disenfranchisement	The Public and the Personal	Endings	Treatment of Women
Links with Political Journalism	Breaking Boundaries	War	Morality	Power
Corruption	Social Organisation	Invasion	The Class System	Deprivation (+ Deprivation of Language)

## SUBMISSION OF WORK

- Please email your work to:
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