



# English Literature GCSE to A level

Bridging Work  
Year 11 into 12 for 2023/24



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Tutor Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_



English Literature AS Bridging Work 2023

**Summer holiday reading and research linked to  
*The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood**

and


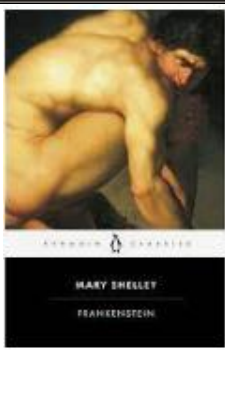
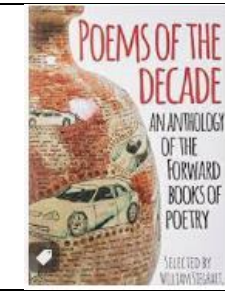
**Poems of the Decade – analysis and presentation**

and

**Wider Reading**

**Ms Azad and Ms Mouskis**

**Set Texts to be purchased for the start of the year**

<p align="center"><b>Prose 1</b></p>	<p><i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> by Margaret Atwood ISBN 0099740915 Contemporary Classics</p>	
<p align="center"><b>Prose 2</b></p>	<p><i>Frankenstein</i> by Mary Shelley ISBN 0141439475 Penguin Classics</p>	
<p align="center"><b>Poetry</b></p>	<p><i>Poems of the Decade: An Anthology of the Forward Books of Poetry</i> ISBN 0571325408 Faber and Faber</p>	
<p align="center"><b>Drama</b></p>	<p><i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> by Oscar Wilde ISBN 1503331741 CreateSpace</p>	

## Bridging Work Prose

Ms Azad

**Task 1:** Read 'The Handmaid's Tale' by Margaret Atwood (**There will be a quiz**)

**Task 2:** Research the author

Find out as much as you can about the life and times of the author, Margaret Atwood.

Below is a list of themes that frequently appear in Atwood's writings. In your research, try to identify the factors that motivated her to write about those themes, and write a few paragraphs that focus on biographical events that influenced any of her writings.

- the social myths of femininity
- the social and economic exploitation of women
- women's relationships with one another and with men
- the ways that art portrays women's bodies
- environmental issues
- human rights concerns
- the dangers of biotechnology
- Canada's national identity
- Canada's relationships with the United States and Europe



Atwood has written and conducted interviews several times about 'The Handmaid's Tale'. Below are two articles she has written. It is very useful to read these, as it is useful to understand how the writer's mind was working as the idea germinated and the book took shape.

### **'Orwell and Me' by Margaret Atwood**

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2003/jun/16/georgeorwell.artsfeatures>

### **The Handmaid's Tale – The Article by Margaret Atwood**

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2012/jan/20/handmaids-tale-margaret-atwood>

<http://www.hollywoodreporter.com/live-feed/handmaids-tale-author-margaret-atwood-sees-a-totalitarian-drift-99820>

## Bridging Work: Poems of the Decade

### Ms Mouskis

Prepare a presentation and handout on a poem of your choice from the 'Poems of the Decade' Anthology.

- Read the poem through thoroughly
- What is it about? Does it have a purpose?
- Annotate any key language that help you understand the poem
- Identify any linguistic devices employed by the poet. E.g. similes, metaphors
- Identify any structural devices employed by the poet. E.g. repetition
- Consider the effect of these devices on the reader and annotate
- What is the TONE of the poem overall? What does that tell us?

YOU MUST **NOT** PICK ANY OF THE FOLLOWING POEMS:

**Eat Me** Patience Agbabi  
**Chainsaw Versus the Pampas Grass** Simon Armitage  
**Material** Ros Barber  
**History** John Burnside  
**An Easy Passage** Julia Copus  
**The Deliverer** Tishani Doshi  
**The Lammas Hireling** Ian Duhig  
**To My Nine-Year-Old Self** Helen Dunmore  
**A Minor Role** U A Fanthorpe  
**The Gun** Vicki Feaver  
**The Furthest Distances I've Travelled** Leontia Flynn  
**Giuseppe** Roderick Ford  
**Out of the Bag** Seamus Heaney  
**Effects** Alan Jenkins  
**Genetics** Sinéad Morrissey  
**From The Journal of a Disappointed Man** Andrew Motion  
**Look We Have Coming to Dover!** Daljit Nagra  
**Please Hold** Ciaran O'Driscoll  
**On Her Blindness** Adam Thorpe  
**Ode on a Grayson Perry Urn** Tim Turnbull

**Inheritance** Eavan Boland *Inheritance*  
**A Leisure Centre is also a Temple of Learning** Sue Boyle  
**The War Correspondent** Ciaran Carson  
**The Map-Woman** Carol Ann Duffy  
**The Fox in the National Museum of Wales** Robert Minhinnick  
**Fantasia on a Theme of James Wright** Sean O'Brien  
**You, Shiva, and my Mum** Ruth Padel  
**Song** George Szirtes

***Any poem shorter than 14 lines***