



English Literature GCSE to A level

Bridging Work

Year 11 into 12 for 2025/26



Name: _____

Tutor Group: _____

Teacher: _____



English Literature A Level Bridging Work 2025


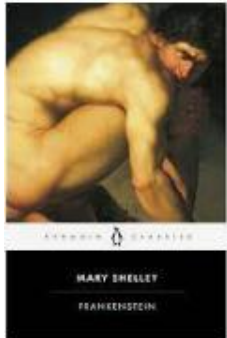
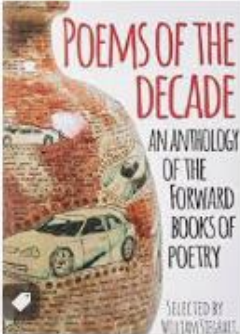
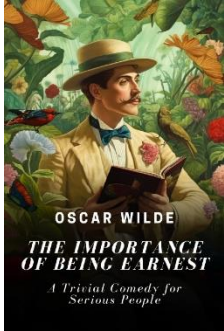
**Summer holiday reading and research linked to
The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood**

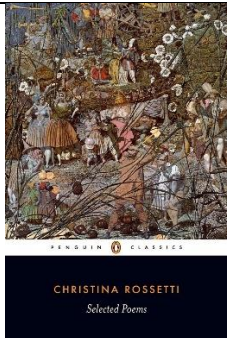
Poems of the Decade – analysis and presentation

Oscar Wilde - Wider Reading

Ms Azad & Miss Mouskis

Set Texts to be purchased and read for the start of the year

<p align="center">Prose 1</p>	<p><i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> - Margaret Atwood</p> <p>ISBN 0099740915 Contemporary Classics</p>	
<p align="center">Prose 2</p>	<p><i>Frankenstein</i> - Mary Shelley</p> <p>ISBN 0141439475 Penguin Classics</p>	
<p align="center">Poetry 1</p>	<p><i>Poems of the Decade</i> - Anthology</p> <p>ISBN 0571325408 Faber and Faber</p>	
<p align="center">Drama</p>	<p><i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> - Oscar Wilde</p> <p>ISBN 979-8395307286</p>	

<p>Poetry 2</p>	<p><i>Selected Poems</i> – Christina Rossetti</p> <p>ISBN 978-0140424690 Penguin Classics</p>	
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Bridging Work: Prose

Ms Azad

‘The Handmaid’s Tale’, Margaret Atwood

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

Think harder:

1. What is a perfect world?
2. What is speculative fiction?

<https://oxfordre.com/literature/display/10.1093/acrefore/9780190201098.001.0001/acrefore-9780190201098-e-78>

Task 2: Research the author (the novel is set in early 1980s and published in 1985)

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- <https://www.independent.co.uk/arts-entertainment/books/news/margaret-atwood-handmaids-tale-author-feminism-women-not-always-right-a7847316.html>
- 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

Miss Mouskis

Prepare a presentation 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

Bridging Work: Drama

Use the following links to conduct independent research on Oscar Wilde.

Victorian Web: <https://victorianweb.org/authors/wilde/>

British Library: <https://www.britishlibrary.cn/en/authors/oscar-wilde/>

Writers Inspire: <https://writersinspire.org/writers/oscar-wilde>

The Oscar Wilde Society: <https://oscarwildesociety.co.uk/>

Make Notes about the following:

Background and education

Political Beliefs

Religious Beliefs

Gender

The Aesthetic Movement

Romance and Sexuality

Lifestyle, Fashion

His Attitude to Upper Class Society

Using your research, answer the following questions **evaluatively** – think about why the question has been asked, different possible answers, and evidence from your research. Write a short paragraph for each.

- To what extent did Oscar Wilde dislike Victorian upper-class society?

- Would it be accurate to identify Oscar Wilde as gay?
- Was Oscar Wilde religious?
- Was Oscar Wilde a socialist?
- Was Oscar Wilde a feminist?