



English Literature GCSE to A level

Bridging Work

Year 11 into 12 for 2024/25



Name: _____

Tutor Group: _____

Teacher: _____



English Literature A Level Bridging Work 24


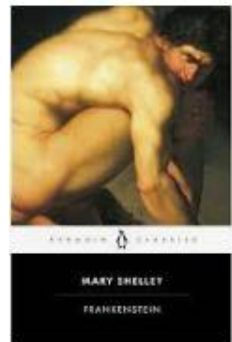
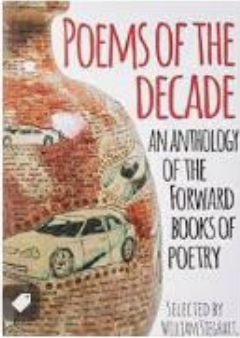
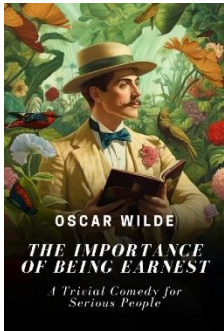
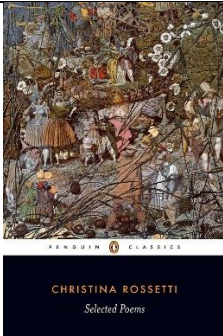
**Summer holiday reading and research linked to
The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood**

Poems of the Decade – analysis and presentation

Oscar Wilde - Wider Reading

Mr Nussbaum & Mr O'Riordan

Set Texts to be purchased for the start of the year

<p>Prose 1</p>	<p><i>The Handmaid's Tale</i> - Margaret Atwood ISBN 0099740915 Contemporary Classics</p>	
<p>Prose 2</p>	<p><i>Frankenstein</i> - Mary Shelley ISBN 0141439475 Penguin Classics</p>	
<p>Poetry 1</p>	<p><i>Poems of the Decade</i> - Anthology ISBN 0571325408 Faber and Faber</p>	
<p>Drama</p>	<p><i>The Importance of Being Earnest</i> - Oscar Wilde ISBN 979-8395307286</p>	
<p>Poetry 2</p>	<p><i>Selected Poems</i> – Christina Rossetti ISBN 978-0140424690 Penguin Classics</p>	

Bridging Work: Prose

Mr O’Riordan

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>

A Red Shirt

(For Ruth)

i

My sister and I are sewing
a red shirt for my daughter.
She pins, I hem, we pass the scissors
back & forth across the table.

Children should not wear red,
a man once told me.
Young girls should not wear red.

In some countries it is the color
of death; in others passion,
in others war, in others anger,
in others the sacrifice

of shed blood. A girl should be
a veil, a white shadow, bloodless
as a moon on water; not
dangerous; she should

keep silent and avoid
red shoes, red stockings, dancing.
Dancing in red shoes will kill you.

Task: Read the **opening section** of Atwood's poem '**A Red Shirt.**'

- How does the title act as a "way in" to the poem?
- How is the speaker explore the treatment of women?
- What use is Atwood making of the symbolism?
- Look closely at the connotations of 'red' in the poem. Are the connotations consistent or do they contradict? Are they culturally specific, or do they cross cultures?
- Look at how Atwood explores relationship between a mother and daughter
- Look at tense and voice are used
- What words / phrases / language features suggest themselves to you?

Bridging Work: Poems of the Decade**Mr Nussbaum**

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?**