

English Literature at A Level

Studying English Literature at A Level will be similar to what you have done at GCSE in terms of analysis, but you will need to make sure that you have read the texts in advance as we focus on these thematically in the lessons. In order to prepare yourself for your studies, there are lots of helpful, interesting and fun things that you can do and watch to help aid your understanding of the three main texts. You will also study Christina Rossetti poetry, but we will give you a booklet and information on this nearer the time, however, you can read some of her poetry in advance if you wish to.

Texts:

1984 by George Orwell – we do this text first and any edition will be fine for you to read. We look at the general concepts of dystopian fiction and common themes found in the genre.

A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams – this is a play studied for the coursework element of the course which will be worth 10% of your marks.

The Tempest by William Shakespeare – we do this at the end of the first year but it is good to read in advance and then recap it at the end of the year.

1984 / Dystopian literature:

These are some key sites to look at for the dystopian genre:

- 1984 audio book [1984 - George Orwell. full audiobook - YouTube](#)
- The dystopian world of 1984 explained <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQxOKXEff4I>
- Sparknotes summary of 1984 <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h9JIKngJnCU>

Other dystopian texts:

- **The Iron Heel** audio book <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=L2JbDMtxaA4>
- **We** audio book <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ifWZOSMMeHA>

Films / video summaries:

- **The Road** [The Road - What it all Meant - YouTube](#)
- **Fahrenheit 451** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=yZg6bqDHZ6k>
- **Brave New World** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=raqVySPrDUE>

A Streetcar Named Desire:

- Study guide <https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/streetcar/>

The Tempest:

- Summary of the play: https://www.shakespeare.org.uk/explore-shakespeare/shakespeadia/shakespeares-plays/tempest/?gclid=EAlaIqObChMlt4uuyuPn6AIVFeJ3Ch0gTQ3sEAAAYASAAEgLmw_D_BwE
- Animated Tales: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kAZKlpWGN_Q
- Film version with Helen Mirren: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=pt_QckdzKOU

Exam Board:

- You will be studying on the OCR specification for A Level English Literature.