



Sturminster Newton High School Sixth Form

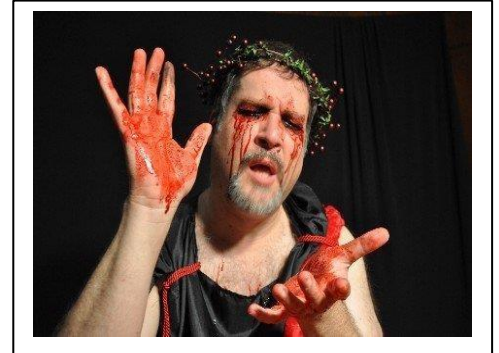
English Literature Transition Project

Board: AQA

Type: A Level

School: Sturminster Newton High School

Contact: Mrs K Collins



The English Literature A Level is divided up into the study of two genres: **TRAGEDY** and **SOCIAL PROTEST**.

The aim of this transition project is to offer you an opportunity to experience the best possible selection of great literature, which will both supplement and support your future A-Level study. The texts below have been chosen carefully to offer an appropriate level of challenge and enjoyment.

The Tragedy task offers you the opportunity to investigate a wide range of thematically linked texts, and to discover more about the origins of literature itself. The Social Protest task gives you the chance to look really closely at one piece of literature; to really get to know the author, the context and become an expert in the text itself.

I hope you enjoy the selected texts, and that this transitional project helps you to look forward to the English Literature A level.

Task 1: Tragedy

First, familiarise yourself with the key features and structures of tragedy, as defined in Aristotle's Poetics. You will need to read around the text and use the internet for research; you are not expected to get everything you need from the ancient Greek original! Some links to helpful videos and study guides have been included in Google Classroom.

Next, choose **at least** one text from **each** of the following three categories: Greek origins, Drama and Classic Novels (minimum of three texts overall). Read each text carefully, noting the key features of tragedy and how each writer explores the genre in their own way. Again, feel free to use online study guides and general web-based research to help you.

For assessment on your return in September: Create a presentation exploring the way your chosen texts fit into the tragic genre. This should include an introductory overview of Aristotle's theories on the structure and purpose of Tragedy, followed by an outline of your chosen texts (narrative,

characterisation, language and theme), an overview of their relative merits and how well they 'fit' into the classic structure of tragedy.

An example of an appropriate selection could be:

Introduction = Poetics

Greek Origins = Oedipus Rex

Drama = Hamlet

Novel = A Farewell to Arms

All of the texts listed below are available on Google Classroom as PDF's, but, if possible, I would advise you to order your own copies for an easier and more pleasurable experience.

Foundation:

Poetics (335 BC)– Aristotle (just the section on tragedy)

1 – **Greek origins:**

Antigone (441 BC) – Sophocles

Oedipus Rex (429 BC) – Sophocles

Medea (431 BC) - Euripides

2 – **Drama:**

Elizabethan:

The Spanish Tragedy (1582-92)– Thomas Kyd

Dr. Faustus (1592) – Christopher Marlowe

Tamburlaine (1587) – Christopher Marlowe

Hamlet (1599-1601)– William Shakespeare

King Lear (1605-06) – William Shakespeare

Modern Drama:

A Doll's House (1879) – Henrik Ibsen

Hedda Gabler (1891) – Henrick Ibsen

The Crucible (1953) – Arthur Miller

A View from the Bridge (1955) – Arthur Millar

A Streetcar Named Desire (1947) – Tennessee Williams

Sweet Bird of Youth (1959) – Tennessee Williams

3 - **Classic novels:**

The Great Gatsby(1925)– F.Scott.Fitzgerald (218 pages–level of challenge 2/5)

Tender is the Night (1934) – F. Scott. Fitzgerald (320 – 2/5)

Jude the Obscure (1895) – Thomas Hardy (480 – 5/5)

Tess of the d'Urberville's (1891) – Thomas Hardy (592 – 4/5)

A Farewell to Arms (1929) – Ernest Hemmingway (335 – 3/5)

The Sun Also Rises (1926) – Ernest Hemmingway (256 – 2/5)

Anna Karenina (1878) - Leo Tolstoy (864 – 5/5)

The Death of Ivan Ilyich (1886) – Leo Tolstoy (114 – 3/5)

The Grapes of Wrath (1939) – John Steinbeck (464 – 3/5)

Of Mice and Men (1937) – John Steinbeck (187 – 1/5)

Task 2: Social Protest

This task gives you the opportunity to conduct a close study of just **one** text. Your main focus is to become an expert in the text itself – it's narrative, use of language, contextual references etc – and in the social issues of protest presented within. This will include a thorough biography of the author, their political interests and an overview of the time period (of both the novel's setting, and publication). Assessment via written essay. Further details to follow on Google Classroom.

Animal Farm – George Orwell (112 pages – 2/5 level of challenge)

1984 – George Orwell (328 pages – 3/5)

A Tale of Two Cities – Charles Dickens (341 pages – 4/5)

Les Miserables – Victor Hugo (1,400 pages – 5/5)

The Colour Purple – Alice Walker (304 pages – 2/5)

To Kill a Mocking Bird – Harper Lee (296 pages – 2/5)