

Introduction to Y12 English Literature



Summer GAP Task



1. Othello

Othello is a tragedy play.

Your knowledge and understanding from texts such as A View From the Bridge / Macbeth will help with your study of this text as you will be familiar with generic conventions of tragedy

e.g. tragic hero, hamartia, catharsis etc.

We will be reading lots of tragedy texts and you will become experts in this genre, being able to articulate what is or is not typical of the tragedy genre.

Familiarise yourself with the plot of Othello by watching 2 different versions of the play.

For each version you watch, answer the following questions (your answer to each section should be 100-150 words):

1. How is the character of Othello presented?

How effectively does the actor convey his change throughout the play?

To what extent do you sympathise with him?

2. How is the character of Iago presented?

To what extent is he presented as a villainous character?

3. As a tragic hero, how do you think this presentation of Othello compares to Macbeth?

Are there any similarities / differences between the ways their characters are presented?

Struggling to find the play? Watch these trailers instead and answer the same questions.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Willjya_5Oro

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=fCZ0obRJa08>

2: Using sophisticated vocabulary.

TASK: For each piece of vocabulary, write as many sophisticated synonyms as you can to create a bank of ambitious vocabulary.

<u>Good</u>	<u>Bad</u>	<u>Brave</u>	<u>Happy</u>	<u>Proud</u>
<u>Dangerous</u>	<u>Nervous</u>	<u>Difficult</u>	<u>Fear</u>	<u>Isolated</u>
<u>Violent</u>	<u>Sad</u>	<u>Disgust</u>	<u>Anger</u>	<u>Sympathy</u>

3: Research project – The Romantics:

Today the word 'romantic' evokes images of love and sentimentality, but the term 'Romanticism' has a much wider meaning.

It covers a range of developments in art, literature, music and philosophy, spanning the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

The 'Romantics' would not have used the term themselves: the label was applied retrospectively, from around the middle of the 19th century.

On the course, you will explore the works of Romantic writers and therefore an understanding of the movement and influences of their work will deepen your understanding of their writing.

TASK: Create a resource (booklet, guide, revision cards, A3 mindmap) with research on the Romantics.

You should use the following questions as a starting point.

- Who were the key figures in the Romantic movement?
- What historical and social events influenced the Romantic movement?
- What influenced the Romantics?
- What ideas are often explored in Romantic poetry?
- What is the sublime and how does this link to the Romantics?
- What are the typical characteristics of Romantic poetry?
- Who was William Blake and how does he link to the movement?
- What aspects of society were protested against in Blake's poetry?

A bit of Fun:

If you've got some extra time on your hands then why not listen to some podcasts inspired by literary figures. Whilst they don't entirely focus on their literary works, they are an interesting insight to their lives and world.

Lord Byron:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p09h5qfd>

Mary Shelley:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p08532gd>