

## English Literature Induction Work

Dear student,

First of all, thank you for choosing our wonderful course! We are delighted that so many of you have opted to take English Literature next year and look forward to welcoming you in September. We know that this is not a normal situation – who could have predicted any of this a few months ago when you were deciding on your A-levels – but I hope you are as excited as we are to be starting afresh in the Autumn.

To help you to make a flying start to the year, we have some tasks and a little project to get you going. Hopefully, it will help you get an understanding of our course – but, beyond that, I hope you enjoy doing it as well. Literature, after all, should *be enjoyed* as well as studied – and, as I'm sure you realise by now, we love our subject!

### What do I need to do?

You may already know some of this from previous correspondence, so please forgive the repetition if so!

#### 1. Firstly, please purchase and read the following texts:

'The Great Gatsby' by F. Scott Fitzgerald

'Othello' by that bloke William Shakespeare (it is worthwhile looking on BBC iPlayer for the version of 'Othello' broadcast a while back – it will make much more sense!)

#### 2. Poetry Research Task

One of the most important aspects of our A-level is context. And one of the most important literary movements in 'Romanticism'. You may have already done some work on this for GCSE, but don't worry if you haven't!

You will need to research and collate your findings. Please complete all the tasks below in preparation for the first few lessons.

- a. What was the Romantic Movement?  
What time period did it cover? What seemed to prompt its creation?
- b. What are some of the main themes/ideas/philosophies of the Romantics? (You might want to start with their relationship with nature and move from there.)
- c. Choose one of the following poets and create a mini-presentation for class – **William Wordsworth, Samuel Taylor Coleridge, Lord Byron, John Keats, William Blake, Percy Bysshe Shelley.**
  - Research any biographical details that help us to understand their poetry
  - Choose one of their poems and read and analyse it – how does it fit the themes of the Romantic Movement? What is your response to it? **(N.B. It cannot be a poem that you studied at GCSE.)**
  - Length and depth: Everyone will need to speak for about 5 minutes so I'd say a side of typed A4 for this part of the research task.

#### 3. Extension Task

If you are interested in getting even further ahead of the game, then why not research the context of 'The Great Gatsby'? Research Modernism as a literary movement and 1920s America.

If you would like any more guidance or more work(!), please do drop me an email and I am happy to help.

Finally, do have a great summer! Try to find some time to read for pleasure – it is honestly one of the most important traits of any aspiring Literature student.

Yours faithfully,

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