

# A Level English Literature

Congratulations for achieving a place on A Levels here at Bury College and welcome to A Level English Literature!

You've probably been wondering how studying A Levels will compare to your previous studies so we have put together a quick guide and some activities to help you get ready for starting in September.

## **What you will need to bring to your lessons:**

- Yourself: on time and to every lesson. A high level of attendance and punctuality is key to success. If you need to be absent for an unavoidable reason, you'll need to notify us and catch up with the work you missed.
- A black pen, some highlighters/coloured pens and a notepad.
- You will also need a folder to store and organise your work. Some people like to get different folders for the different topics but start off with one folder and you can decide on an effective organisation system when your work starts to build up.
- You will be provided with a copy of the set texts throughout the two years so it is important that you always bring the correct book to lesson.
- You will also be provided with different topic and revision booklets so make sure you bring these with you when they are needed along with any homework that is due in that day.

## **Taking ownership of your learning:**

English Literature is a challenging but exciting subject that allows you to immerse yourself into different worlds and learn about different societies throughout history and across the world.

To be successful on this course, it is very important that you keep up with the set reading on the course. You also need to make sure you read widely around the subject in order to gain knowledge of how other people interpret the texts. You also need to practise your writing skills by completing a selection independent written activities set by your teacher per week.

With this in mind, it is really important that you take ownership of your own learning and we would expect you to use your allocated independent study to:

- Review your notes by creating revision resources to assist your learning of the material. It is essential that you do this from the very beginning and do not leave all of your revision until the end of the year before exams.
- Complete all of the homework set by your subject teachers.
- Read widely on each topic and use MyVLE for extra resources.

## Are there exams and coursework?

The exam board for English Literature is OCR and you will be studying the specification H472.

You will sit two exams at the end of your second year.

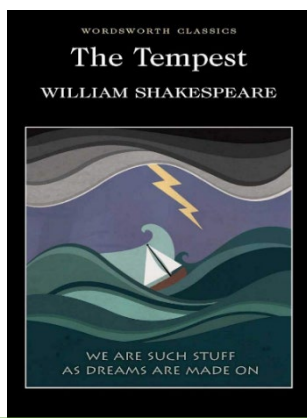
- Paper 1 – Drama and Poetry Pre-1900
- Paper 2 – The Gothic 1870-1940

You will also be producing a coursework folder over the two years. This folder will include:

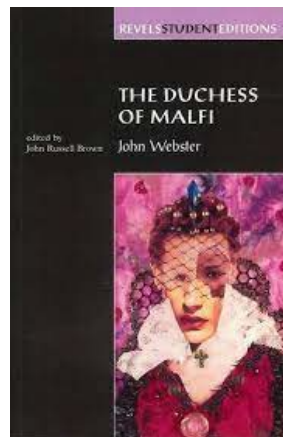
- An Close Critical Analysis of the play: A Streetcar Named Desire
- A Comparative Analysis of two collections of work.

## The Set Texts

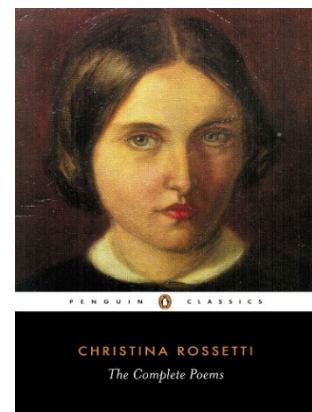
### Drama and Poetry pre-1900



The Tempest  
A play by William Shakespeare

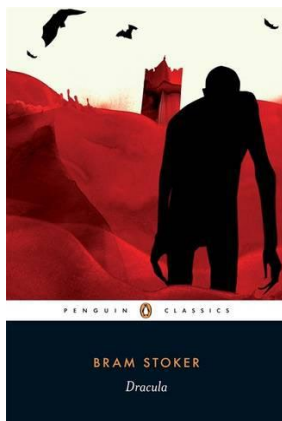


The Duchess of Malfi  
A play by John Webster



A selection of poetry by Christina Rossetti

### The Gothic 1870-1900



Dracula  
By Bram Stoker

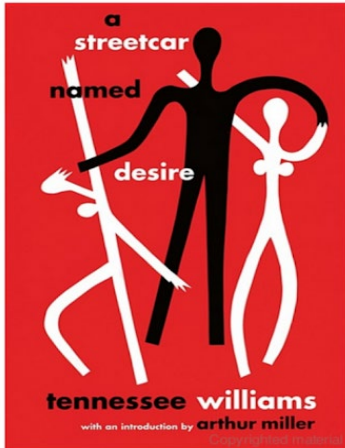


The Picture of Dorian Gray  
By Oscar Wilde

You will also study a wide selection of unseen extracts from The Gothic throughout your course including:

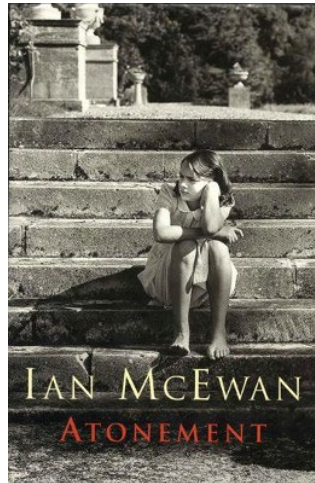
Frankenstein by Mary Shelley, The Fall of the House of Usher by Edgar Allen Poe, Rebecca by Daphne du Maurier and more!

## Literature Post-1900 (Coursework module)



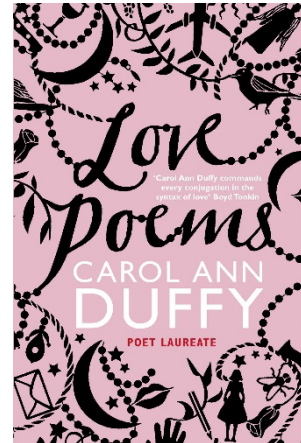
A Streetcar Named  
Desire

A play by Tennessee  
Williams



Atonement

By Ian McEwan



Look We Have Coming  
to Dover!

A collection of poems  
by Carol Ann Duffy

## Useful resources and weblinks to explore

The Learning Resource Centre (LRC) on campus stocks a range of study guides for the set texts. We also have subscriptions to online resources like the English and Media Centre where you will find lots of interesting and relevant articles and up to date research.

The internet is bursting with lots of English Literature research and information and we will be exploring a wide range of online resources during the course.

A good place to start for lots of information about the course is the OCR website [www.OCR.org.uk](http://www.OCR.org.uk)

## **Your Task: What does English Literature mean to you?**

### **Task 1: Mood Board**

Create a **mood board** that expresses your experiences with the world of English Literature.

A mood board is a visual tool that communicates different ideas. So, in short, it is an arrangement of images, materials and pieces of text that is intended to project your ideas: in this case, what English Literature means to **you**.

There are lots of different ways you can create a mood board and they can either be

- A physical mood board where you cut and stick (or even draw!) images or patterns onto paper or card and handwrite your ideas.
- An electronic mood board where you add your images and text to a PowerPoint, Prezi, Photoshop or other program you are familiar with.

You can be as creative as you like with this and have fun with it!

### **A few ideas to get you started:**

- You could start by thinking of the answers to the following questions
  - Why did you choose to study A Level English Literature?
  - Which texts did you study at school? Which were your favourites/least favourites? Why?
  - What is your favourite part of studying English Literature? Is it analysing the texts? Learning about the author? Writing? Etc.
  - What do you enjoy reading outside of your studies?
  - Your favourite literary characters and why, favourite authors, genres and so on.

### **Task 2: Research Task**

1. Select one of the set texts from the list above.
2. Then go online and locate a website that you think would be useful in researching your chosen novel and write it down.
3. Then on your mood board, write down 10 key facts relating to the text or its author. These are facts that you think might be useful in writing an essay on your chosen text.

**For example mood boards and to get some ideas, you can search for them online by typing 'Mood Boards' or 'English Literature Mood Boards' into a search engine.**

**Your teacher will remind you to bring these in during your first week.**

**We look forward to welcoming you to the department!**