

Dear Student

Thank you for your interest in studying English Literature next year at AS Level; we are very much looking forward to the new academic year.

The WJEC GCE AS/A Level English Literature course is designed for people who genuinely love reading and analysing a range of different literary forms and genre. It is important that all our students are independent readers and thinkers, and to this end I have included a reading list here to give you a flavour of the kind of challenging literature you will read over the coming two years.

Essential Prose:

Jane Eyre - Charlotte Brontë

Desirable Prose:

The Wasp Factory – Iain Banks

Essential Drama:

A Streetcar Named Desire – Tennessee Williams

Desirable Drama:

Death of a Salesman – Arthur Miller

Essential Poetry:

The Thought Fox/The Jaguar - Ted Hughes

Daddy/Mirror - Sylvia Plath

Y Gaer/The Hill Fort - Owen Sheers

The Skunk/The Harvest Bow - Seamus Heaney

Desirable Poetry:

A Poison Tree/The Tyger/The Chimney Sweeper - William Blake

Queen Kong/Mrs Midas - Carol Ann Duffy

Gifts/Welsh Landscape - R.S. Thomas

You must have read the texts identified as 'essential' by the time you join us in September. However, please attempt to read as much as possible in the lead up to the new academic year.

There will be an extra-curricular group – 'Great Literature' – running after-school on Thursdays from September onwards. These sessions are likely to take the form of seminars and we are also planning to invite poets and notable persons from the academic world to participate throughout the year. I would like to encourage you to sign-up to these sessions to support and inform your study of English Literature.

You are also warmly invited to attend an afternoon workshop session with the University of Bristol on June 14th. The workshops will be held at Monmouth School and are in conjunction with the Monmouth Literary Festival. The focus for the workshops will be *Enduring Voices* in literature; we will be looking at a range of texts, as well as key critical voices. The texts will span all eras, and we hope you will be inspired to widen your own literary horizons after exploring texts together. If you would like to attend, please confirm this with Mrs Young using the following address: youngt@monmouth.schoolsdu.org.uk.

Best of luck with your exams, and have a relaxing holiday.

Kind regards,

Mr N Jones

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