

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE PREPARING FOR A LEVEL

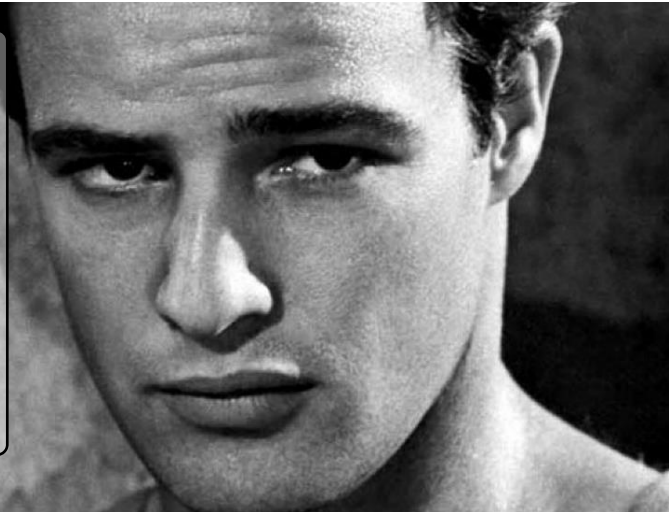
We are looking forward to seeing you at Xaverian for an exciting two years in September. We hope that you are coping effectively with the conditions over Summer and thought you might like to know what you are going to do in the course and some of the things you can do to prepare yourself for your time studying English at Xaverian.

WHAT WILL YOU STUDY DURING YOUR ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE COURSE ?

Component One: Voices in Speech and Writing

For this element you will study the ways we use language in both speech and writing to create meanings and affect other people. There are two main elements to study:

- An anthology of non-fiction writing from the last 100 years
- The play *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams



Component Two: Varieties in Language and Literature

For this element you will study the ways great writers in a variety of different genres have used language to explore ideas and express the complexity of the world. There are two main elements here:

- A variety of great non-fiction writing
- The poetry of Philip Larkin; in particular, his volume of poems *The Whitsun Weddings*
- Fitzgerald's novel *The Great Gatsby*



Component Three: Creating Texts

You will study how to write your own pieces here and you will write both fiction and non-fiction



What Can I do Over Summer?

You could have a read of the set texts of course. These are easily available, new and second hand from Amazon and Waterstones. However, you might also think about a wider type of reading as those that do best in the course are those who are familiar with as wide a style of writing as possible. Here are some good places to start.

Modern Fiction Classics

- 📖 *Trainspotting* by Irvine Welsh
- 📖 *Atonement* or *Birdsong* by Ian McEwan
- 📖 *Go Tell it on the Mountain* by James Baldwin
- 📖 *Catch 22* by Joseph Heller
- 📖 *Half a Yellow Sun* or *Purple Hibiscus* by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- 📖 *To Kill a Mocking Bird* by Harper Lee
- 📖 *The Catcher in the Rye* by J.D Salinger
- 📖 *Beloved* by Toni Morrison
- 📖 *The Remains of the Day* by Kazuo Ishiguro
- 📖 *1984* by George Orwell
- 📖 *The Colour Purple* by Alice Walker
- 📖 *Fight Club* by Chuck Palahniuk
- 📖 *Lord of the Flies* – William Golding
- 📖 *One Flew over the Cuckoo's Nest* by Ken Kesey
- 📖 *The Poisonwood Bible* by Barbara Kingsolver
- 📖 *Angela's Ashes* by Frank McCourt
- 📖 *The Commitments* by Roddy Doyle
- 📖 *Things Fall Apart* by Chinua Achebe
- 📖 *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley
- 📖 *The Diary of Anne Frank*
- 📖 *The Long Goodbye* by Raymond Chandler
- 📖 *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings* by Maya Angelou
- 📖 *We Need to Talk About Kevin* by Lionel Shriver
- 📖 *The Virgin Suicides* by Jeffrey Eugenides
- 📖 *The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time* by Mark Haddon
- 📖 *A Clockwork Orange* – Anthony Burgess
- 📖 *Portnoy's Complaint* – Philip Roth
- 📖 *The New York Trilogy* – Paul Auster
- 📖 *The Bell Jar* – Sylvia Plath



Great Non-Fiction

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- 📖 *The Motorcycle Diaries* – Che Guevara
- 📖 *Testament of Youth*, – Vera Brittain
- 📖 *Persepolis* – Marjane Satrapi
- 📖 *An Evil Cradling*, – Brian Keenan
- 📖 *This Party Has to Stop* – Rupert Thomson
- 📖 *My Family and Other Animals* – Gerald Durrell
- 📖 *We Should all be Feminist* – Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie
- 📖 *Girl Up* – Laura Bates
- 📖 *How to be a Woman* – Caitlin Moran
- 📖 *The Suspicions of Mr Whicher*
- 📖 *In Cold Blood* – Truman Capote
- 📖 *Dead Man Walking* – Helen Prejean
- 📖 *The Establishment* – Owen Jones
- 📖 *Awopbopalooma Awopbamboom* – Nik Cohn
- 📖 *The Electric Kool Acid Test* – Tom Woolf
- 📖 *Awakenings* – Oliver Sachs
- 📖 *Stuart: A Life Backwards* – Alexander Masters
- 📖 *Once in a House On Fire* – Andrea Ashworth
- 📖 *The Psychopath Test* – John Ronson
- 📖 *Bad Blood* – Lorna Sage

English Classics

- 📖 *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte
- 📖 *Emma* by Jane Austen
- 📖 *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte
- 📖 *Great Expectations* by Charles Dickens
- 📖 *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
- 📖 *The Woman in White* by Wilkie Collins
- 📖 *Tess of the D'Urbervilles* by Thomas Hardy
- 📖 *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Arthur Conan Doyle
- 📖 *The War of the Worlds* by H.G.Wells
- 📖 *Dracula* by Bram Stoker

Poetry

- 📖 Sylvia Plath
- 📖 Ted Hughes
- 📖 Wilfred Owen
- 📖 U.A. Fanthorpe
- 📖 Robert Frost
- 📖 William Blake
- 📖 Seamus Heaney
- 📖 T.S. Eliot

Drama

- 📖 *The Homecoming* or *The Caretaker* by Harold Pinter
- 📖 *A View From the Bridge* or *All My Sons* by Arthur Miller
- 📖 *Herons* by Simon Stephens
- 📖 *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde
- 📖 *The Glass Menagerie* by Tennessee Williams
- 📖 *The Cherry Orchard* by Anton Chekhov
- 📖 *A Doll's House* by Ibsen

Writing Task

This lock down will be a good opportunity to do some writing. If you have the opportunity why not think about some writing based on your experiences over the Summer. Covid -19 would be a great background to a story, or you could write a piece of journalism about how you think people are responding to the crisis. Or perhaps a piece of autobiography in which you record your thoughts and feelings about your experiences. Bring it in to us in September.