

Oasis Academy South Bank English Subject Summer Project

*Studying texts at English A Level is about breadth and depth – students read a range of texts in class and their understanding of these texts is enriched by the things they have read in their own time. This summer, you are going to be **reading around, not reading ahead**. Your job is to understand the background of these texts, so that, by the time you start them in class, you will be familiar with some of the ideas. Do not read any of the taught texts over the summer.*

Paper	Taught Texts	Summer Task	Additional information
P1 Drama	A Streetcar Named Desire	<p>Watch 'Gone with the Wind' to learn about the longevity of racism and the Antebellum South. You can find this film on Amazon Prime.</p> <p>On an A4 sheet of paper, write down the moments in the film that you find most interesting.</p>	<p><i>Gone with the Wind</i> is a book written by Margaret Mitchell and made into a film with Vivien Leigh who also stars (alongside Marlon Brandon) in the Elia Kazan version of <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>. Watching this film will teach you a lot about this period of American history known as the Antebellum South when racism and class division permeated the deep South of North America.</p> <p>The Antebellum South was a period in history in the Southern United States from the late 18th century until the start of the American Civil War in 1861. It was characterized by the rise of abolition and the gradual polarization of the country between abolitionists and supporters of slavery.</p>
	Othello	/	/
P2 Prose	Frankenstein and A Handmaid's Tale	<p>Read 'The Rime of the Ancient Mariner' by Coleridge</p> <p>On an A4 sheet of paper, write down 10 moments where man and nature unite and conflict.</p>	<p>Both Shelley's <i>Frankenstein</i> and Coleridge's <i>The Rime of the Ancient Mariner</i> explore ideas around man's respect for nature and living things, as well as retribution for transgression. Each text explores the power of natural forces: the Mariner intrudes on nature by killing an albatross bird and is punished, much like Frankenstein intrudes on nature by playing god as in punished.</p>
P3 Poetry	Keats	<p>Listen to 'In Our Time' <i>The Romantics</i> podcast for an overview of the period of Romanticism.</p> <p>On an A4 sheet of paper, take notes on ideas about Keats.</p>	<p>The Romantic poets were writing from the late 18th to early 19th centuries. The early Romantics were Coleridge, Wordsworth and Blake and the Later Romantics were Shelley, Keats and Byron. We will be studying the poetry of Keats who died aged 25 following a challenging life of emotional and physical suffering. His writing is an exploration of the human condition and a searching for some universal truth about mortality and our place in the natural world.</p>
	Poetry of the Decade	/	/
P4 Coursework	Wide Sargasso Sea and Maud Martha	<p>Read 'Jane Eyre' by Charlotte Bronte.</p> <p>You may also go on to read some texts by Gwendolyn Brooks.</p>	<p>Jean Rhys read the 19th novel 'Jane Eyre' and was shocked by its ending. At the end of the novel, when the hero Rochester and the heroine Jane Eyre are just about to marry, it is revealed that Rochester is already married – to Bertha, a "fearful and ghastly [...] savage" who he has trapped in his attic. Rhys, who had grown up in the West Indies, wanted to offer another narrative about Bertha. She wrote a prequel which explained Bertha's upbringing, marriage, and eventual psychological instability. This novel explores the effects of colonialism, of liminal identities and of responses to difference.</p>