

English Literature A-Level Preparation Booklet

Name

This Booklet

This booklet forms the basis of the knowledge you will need to succeed in your studies of English Literature at A-Level at Hammersmith Academy.

There are 2 key tasks for you to complete on the first texts we will study.

Before the first term starts, you should **buy and read the texts below in bold**.

- ***Tess of the D'Urbervilles* by Thomas Hardy**
- ***Othello* by William Shakespeare**

The others you will also be expected to purchase as the year continues. These can be bought from second hand, charity if you can find, or new from bookshops and Amazon.

- *A Thousand Splendid Suns* by Khalid Hosseini
- *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams
- *Poems of the Decade* poetry anthology
- Various poems by Christina Rossetti

The stronger your knowledge of these texts (including quotations, key ideas, themes, character and their contexts), the easier you will find English at A-Level.

A Note on Reading

At A-Level, texts are read independently; this means that you will not read as a class as at GCSE and before. If you are a person who likes to read and who has read many novels outside of the texts covered in school, then this course is for you.

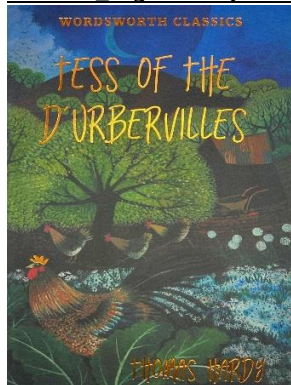
As you read the texts, it is good practice to make notes as you go – highlighting key quotations, annotating with any ideas you have, adding post-its or folding down pages on key sections. Then, as with GCSE, creating flashcards as you go to ensure that you spread your workload across the year.

The most important preparation is to read the first two texts (Tess of the D'Urbervilles and Othello).
We cannot stress how vital this is!!! If not, you are starting behind.

Please make sure you **ALL BUY THESE COPIES** and not different editions.

Tess of the D'Urbervilles, Thomas Hardy

https://www.amazon.co.uk/dUrbervilles-Wordsworth-Classics-Thomas-Hardy/dp/1853260053/ref=sr_1_1?crid=3JWMHG11Y2NUV&dib=eyJ2ljojMSJ9.YAw-ORy--hhi9ZhnGPG70NillZWuApevtNplowmBpvvw9Zli2rHlajmgymGXkqQun-3MRq3PFFe7lOHarrXpuqCgBediHtZjCcmA6emMmEyryjszJXirXh1qZryJaBUqIZ0XK60quTyvZxoa5Mjffme6vR_jm0FJ2mgLEEqk5eU-MRntGvQK6pYmYitfnr3vVPDESdbPF2iMfqFVzS7B1mOTR4jZw5H3cPyhtFn3xs.8yhmM5MLZO2MpfWNq2EYETVONblsBaQL-Janw_nG-wU&dib_tag=se&keywords=tess+of+the+durbervilles&qid=1782899840&srefix=tess+of+the+du%2Caps%2C133&sr=8-1



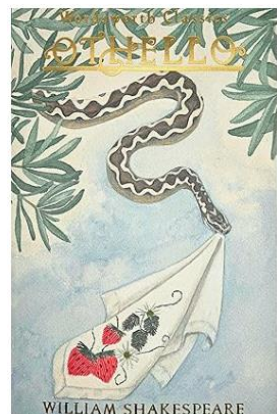
Why we love this text!

A sweeping, harrowing and devastatingly beautiful novel about Tess, a pure and strong-willed young woman crushed by fate, class and rigid morality. Hardy's beautiful prose and deep empathy makes Tess one of literature's most beloved and radiant figures. A timeless masterpiece!

Read!! Although it may initially seem a challenging novel, this will only be your first reading of it. Read for understanding of plot and to become familiar with the language of Hardy. Try setting a 40 minute timer, and reading at regular intervals, not trying to read the whole novel in one sitting. On the first week, aim to be able to explain the plot, the key characters, and overarching themes to your teacher.

Othello, William Shakespeare

[Othello \(Wordsworth Classics\) : Shakespeare, William, Watts M.A. Ph.D., Professor Cedric, Watts M.A. Ph.D., Professor Cedric, Carabine, Dr Keith: Amazon.co.uk: Books](#)



Why we love this text!

An intriguing psychological exploration of human weakness and the power of manipulation. We will decide if Othello is a victim of his own insecurities or an easily manipulated tragic hero. We will try to dislike the Macchiavellian Iago but secretly admire his ingenuity.

Read!! And then watch the play using the following link. Focus on plot, characters, themes and stagecraft.

Login: <https://www.dramaonlinelibrary.com/custom-browse?docid=nationalTheatreCollections12>

Username: VNLNER

Password: GBXAWC

(The Log in button can be found in the top right-hand corner of the landing page. If you copy and paste the details, please be very careful not to include any invisible spaces as these will invalidate the details. If you have any difficulties please test in another browser as some are known for having issues.)