



A Level English Literature Summer Homework

Welcome! We are very pleased you have chosen English Literature at A Level. The following tasks are designed to give you an insight into American Literature and prepare you for the contextual and interpretative elements of the course.

We look forward to meeting you!

*Ms Leeson, Ms Heneghan, Mr Youl, Miss Pilkington, Ms Davidson
and Mrs Barlow*

Task 1: - Summer Research

You will be studying American Literature between 1880-1940. A good understanding of historical and literary context will be crucial for your success.

Create a timeline of significant historical and literary events between 1880 – 1940. This should:

- be handwritten
- include images
- Brief explanations

There are lots of examples on the internet if you need support, but research the elements you do not understand. Your future self will thank you for a clear and accurate revision resource.

Task 2: Summer Reading

Two of our set texts for this course will be 'The Great Gatsby' by F. Scott Fitzgerald and 'The Age of Innocence' by Edith Wharton. Before you start the course, it's important to familiarise yourself with these texts.

Purchase and read 'The Great Gatsby' (cheap ones available in charity shops, ebay etc – just make sure they are not already annotated and have space for annotations in the margins).

Task 3: Summer Writing

The character of 'Gatsby' has been interpreted in many ways. Here are a few:

- A romantic hero
- Obsessed by power and wealth
- A tragic hero

What is your personal interpretation of Gatsby? Do you think his fixation with Daisy is motivated by social status and greed or love and fulfilment?

Write one side of A4 expressing your first impressions of this character. There is no need to analyse writer's methods in your response but you should aim to support your interpretations with references to the text.

This image shows a full page of white paper with horizontal blue or grey ruling lines. The lines are evenly spaced and run across the width of the page, providing a template for handwriting practice or general writing. There are no margins, text, or other markings on the page.

h.leeson@theredhillacademy.org.uk