Transition Task – English Literature

What can I expect in A Level English Literature?

We follow the AQA English Literature A Syllabus. This specification enables students of all abilities to develop the skills they need to read, understand and analyse a wide range of different texts covering the 19th, 20th and 21st century time periods as well as to write clearly, coherently and accurately using a range of vocabulary and sentence structures. Each paper has a distinct identity to better support high quality provision and engaging teaching and learning. Paper 1, *Explorations in Creative Reading and Writing,* looks at how writers use narrative and descriptive techniques to engage the interest of readers. Paper 2, *Writers' Viewpoints and Perspectives,* looks at how different writers present a similar topic over time.

1. **These are the main texts you will study. You will have to purchase copies of the texts listed below.**

Title	Author	Edition	ISBN
A Streetcar Named Desire	Tennessee Williams	Modern Classics Penguin	978 0 141 19027 3
The Handmaid's Tale	Margaret Atwood	Vintage	978 0 099 74091 9
The Great Gatsby	F Scott Fitzgerald	Penguin Classics	978 0 141 18263 6
Othello	William Shakespeare	Penguin Shakespeare	978 0 141 39651 4
Feminine Gospels	Carol Ann Duffy	Picador	978 1 509 85291 8
You will be provided with an anthology of poetry published by the examination board: Love Poetry Through the Ages.			

2. **Research** the period known as **'The Jazz Age'.**

3. **Read** 'The Great Gatsby', keeping a reading log as you go detailing how much you read at each sitting, your thoughts, questions raised etc. (See below for a suggested format.) **Bring this to the first lesson, please.**

4. **Task:**

Explore what Fitzgerald has to say about 'The Jazz Age' in his novel, *The Great Gatsby.*

- You should consider, his use of language and structure
- what he has to say about society at that time
- how he uses characters to get his message across.

You should handwrite no more than two sides of A4. **Bring the work to the first lesson.**

5. **Watch a film version of 'Othello'.** There are a few on YouTube and the one in which Kenneth Brannagh plays Iago (1995) is particularly good. This version is also available on Amazon Prime Video if you have access to a Prime subscription.
6. **Want a challenge?** Read Othello and complete a Reading Log also.

Reading Log – Suggested Format

Date	Time spent reading	Pages	My thoughts on what I have read.	Questions I have
1 July	45 minutes	7-24	• Introduced to the narrator – Nick Carraway • Buchannans – relationship not all it seems	• Who is Gatsby? Title but only briefly mentioned. • Does Nick have a hidden agenda?