



# **PiXL Gateway: Progression – English Literature**

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Year 12-13 English Literature

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## I. English Literature Vocabulary

### ENGLISH LITERATURE:

Currently, within the English Literature section of the app, we have the following units:

- Features of Language
- Features of Structure
- Literary Theory
- Context, Culture and Society

Features of Language Keywords and Definitions

Word	Definition
verse	A verse is writing that has a metrical rhythm and usually also rhyme.
interpretation	An interpretation is an understanding or explanation of meaning or meanings.
anthropomorphism	Anthropomorphism is the giving of human characteristics or behaviour to non-human entities, such as animals, objects or gods.
aesthetics	Aesthetics is a set of principles that outline how something looks and how its beauty is perceived.
elegant	Elegant is the characteristic of being both graceful and stylish.
witty	Witty is the characteristic of a quick or clever humour.
patterned	Patterned means a regular or repeated form or idea.
controlled	Controlled means to be deliberately restricted or restrained.
empiricism	Empiricism is the theory that knowledge is learned primarily through what we experience through our senses.
ambiguity	Ambiguity is the quality of having, or being open to, more than one interpretation.
auditory imagery	Auditory imagery is an image created by sounds.
denotation	A denotation is the primary or literal meaning of a word.
parrhesia	Parrhesia is the act of speaking frankly, with boldness, even if what is spoken is not popular opinion.
ecphonesis	Ecphonesis is an exclamatory phrase that is emotional or emotive.
antanaclasis	Antanaclasis is a rhetorical device where a word or phrase is repeated but with a different meaning with each use.
polypoton	Polypoton is a literary device where the writer repeats the root of a word but uses it in different words.
ekphrasis	An ekphrasis is a vivid or dramatic description of an artwork or, in ancient times, an person, place or thing.
melancholy	Melancholy is a feeling of deep and thoughtful sadness.
blurring of genres	Blurring of genres is the mixing of two or more genres.
pragmatographia	Pragmatographia is a detailed or vivid description of an event.

reification	In rhetoric, reification is the process of treating something that is abstract or unreal as real and substantive. Often, this oversimplifies ideas or asserts that opinions or ideas are factual truths.
free verse	Free verse can be defined as poetry without the constructs of rhythm and rhyme.
blank verse	Blank verse has a regular metre, often iambic pentameter, but no regular rhyme scheme.
syncope	Syncope is the omission of sounds or letters from words. For example, primary is often pronounced as 'prime-ry'.
aporia	Aporia is a rhetorical device where the speaker expresses doubt about how to proceed or challenge a point. Often, the doubt is feigned to challenge or mock the opposing speaker or view.
hypophora	Hypophora is when a writer asks a question and answers it directly afterwards.
epithet	An epithet is a word or phrase that is used in place of an original name, often in praise or criticism. They become common usage through time, e.g. Alfred the Great.
gustatory imagery	Gustatory imagery is imagery that evokes taste, rather than general images.
Cavalier lyricists	Cavalier lyricists were lyric poets whose Royalist writings were designed to glorify the crown in the time of King Charles I.

#### Features of Structure Keywords and Definitions

Word	Definition
characterisation	Characterisation is the act of constructing the features of a fictional character.
narrative structure	Narrative structure is the events and their order in a narrative.
central figure	A central figure is the leading, or one of the leading characters, in a narrative.
resolution	The resolution in a narrative is the part where the main problem is resolved or concluded.
tragedy	A tragedy is a narrative form that includes the tragic downfall of a hero caused by their own flaws and actions.
epic	In literature, an epic is a long narrative, often in poetic form, concerning heroic deeds.
omniscient narrator	An omniscient narrator is a narrator who is all-seeing and all-knowing, meaning that they can express the thoughts and feelings of all characters.
comedy	Comedy is a literary genre that is amusing and usually includes a happy or light-hearted ending.
satire	Satire is a literary genre that uses humour, irony and exaggeration to expose, mock and criticise society, politics and corruption.
melodrama	Melodrama is a literary genre that has a sensationalised plot designed to appeal to the audience's emotions.
dichotomy	A dichotomy is a rhetorical and literary technique that shows opposition or contradiction between two parts of the same thing or idea, sometimes within the same character.
subversion	Subversion is the process of reversing the values, principles or structures of an established system, such as the political system.

didactic	A didactic text is one that is designed to teach or dictate thoughts and ideas to the reader or audience.
climax	A climax of a narrative is the most intense or important moment, often the culmination of other events.
diacope	A diacope is where a writer repeats a short phrase with only a small number of words between.
antithetic parallelism	Antithetic parallelism is rhetorical device where the writer uses contrasting ideas in their parallelism.
monostich	A monostich is a poem that only has one line.
adumbrate	To adumbrate is the process of outlining something. In literature, to adumbrate can also be to foreshadow.
anagnorisis	An anagnorisis is the moment in a narrative, usually in a tragedy, when a character realises their true nature, identity or the reality of their situation.
analogy	An analogy is a comparison of one thing to another, usually where a fictional construct represents something in the real world, often in order to highlight particular features of the latter.
exposition	Exposition is the process of exposing the reader or audience to background information about a character, setting or event.
parenthesis	A parenthesis is a word or phrase aside, usually punctuated by a pair of commas, brackets or dashes.
denouement	The denouement is the very ending of a narrative, usually where all parts of the story are concluded.
lyric poetry	Lyric poetry is poetry that explores strong emotions, usually in the first person. It originates from Greek poetry that was accompanied by music played on the lyre.
digressive time	Digressive time is when the plot of a narrative is not chronological.
progressive time	Progressive time is when the plot of a narrative is chronological.
philosophical reflection	A philosophical reflection is an examination and evaluation of life and the human experience, using ideas from philosophy.
frame-story	A frame story is a story that is used to frame and link additional stories that exist within it.
metafiction	Metafiction is a literary device where the writer deliberately emphasises the literariness of the conventions, often to highlight their artificiality.
in media res	In media res means in the middle of the story, often in a sequence of action. Some texts begin in the middle of this action.
time-shift narrative	A time-shift narrative is a narrative whose plot moves backwards and forwards in time.
prolepsis	In rhetoric, prolepsis is anticipating the counter argument and offering a rebuttal.
flat-character	A flat-character is a character who is straightforward and who does not undergo significant changes during a narrative.
round-character	A round-character is a character who is life-like, with complex emotions, who undergoes development throughout the narrative.
narrative gap	A narrative gap is a device where part of the narrative is left untold to the reader.
motif	A motif is a dominant or reoccurring idea in a text or work of art.

foreword	A foreword is a brief introduction to a book and is usually not written by the author.
absurdist drama	Absurdist drama is a genre of theatre that developed post-WW2 in Europe and was categorised by an existentialist philosophy where human existence was meaningless and confusion reigned.
allegory	In literature, an allegory is a piece of work with a deeper, hidden meaning, often one of a social or political commentary.
canto	A canto is a section of a long poem.
stichomythia	Stichomythia is a device where two characters speak alternating rhyming lines of verse, a technique that originated from Greek drama.
metalepsis	A metalepsis is where a new figure of speech is made by referring to something from a previous figure of speech.
epanelepsis	Epanelepsis is the repetition of a word or phrase at the beginning and end of a clause or sentence.
hyperbaton	Hyperbaton is the reordering of the usual word order for emphasis.

#### Literary Theory Keywords and Definitions

Word	Definition
criticism	In literature, criticism is the analysis and evaluation of texts and parts of texts.
lens	In literature, a lens is a way of looking at a text. The lenses are made up of different literary theories and world views.
critique	In literature, a critique is an analysis and evaluation of texts and parts of texts.
Marxism	Marxism is the theory of politics and economics developed by Karl Marx, which was later developed by their followers as the basis of socialism.
Karl Marx	Karl Marx was a German philosopher, economist and historian who established the revolutionary theory of Marxism.
Marxist philosophy	A Marxist philosophy is a philosophy or outlook defined by Marxism, whereby the class struggle is the central element to understanding societies.
feminism	Feminism is the advocacy of women's rights in order to achieve equality for women.
feminist	A feminist is a person who supports the cause of feminism, working towards equality for women.
narrative	A narrative is a story in either written or spoken form.
post-colonialism	Post-colonialism is the study of the legacy of colonialism on people and their lands.
ideology	An ideology is a system of ideas that usually form the basis of political and economical thoughts.
consciousness	Consciousness is the awareness of one's being and surroundings.
determinism	Determinism is a belief that events and circumstances are determined by external forces and not by the will of individuals.
materialist	A materialist is a person who holds great value in material possessions. In philosophy, a materialist is a person who believes that nothing truly exists except matter and that thought and consciousness cannot exist without matter.

idealist	An idealist is a person who is led by their ideals more than other practical considerations.
reify	To reify is to make something that is abstract more concrete.
theory	A theory is a system of ideas that aims to explain something.
overt	Overt means something that is done plainly or openly.
covert	Covert means something that is hidden or not openly acknowledged.
communism	Communism is the system of social organisation where all property is owned by the community and resources are distributed by need.
representation	Representation is the process of using signs to stand for or to symbolise other things. In literature, representation is the process of presenting something in a particular way.
exploitative	Exploitative means to treat people badly for personal gain.
stereotypical	Stereotypical describes a view that is often widely held but which is based on over-simplified ideas of a particular thing or people.
gynocriticism	Gynocriticism is a way of evaluating women's literature through the lens of a female framework.
psychodynamics	Psychodynamics are the interactions between the emotional and mental forces that determine personality and behaviour.
universalism	Universalism is an idea or concept that can be applied universally. In religion, it is the belief that all people will eventually be saved by God.
psychosexual	Psychosexual describes the psychological aspects of sexuality and sexual acts.
queer theory	Queer theory is a field of literary criticism based on LGBTQ+ readings and issues.
the literary canon	The literary canon is a collection of works that represent high art and those considered most important and influential.
flat character	A flat character is a character who is straightforward and who does not undergo significant changes during a narrative.
phenomenal	Phenomenal describes something that is exceptional, usually exceptionally good.
phallogocentrism	Phallogocentrism is the theory that masculine issues are favoured in the construction of meaning in texts.
reification	In rhetoric, reification is the process of treating something that is abstract or unreal as real and substantive. Often, this oversimplifies ideas or asserts that opinions or ideas are factual truths.
paradoxically	Paradoxically describes an action that appears absurd or self-contradictory.
male gaze	The male gaze is the act of viewing women in art as primarily sexual objects, to be viewed by heterosexual men for pleasure.
conditioning	Conditioning is the process of making a behavioural or emotional response more frequent by reinforcing it with acceptance as normal or with reward.
androtexts	Androtexts are texts written by men.
gynotexts	Gynotexts are texts written by women.
new historicism	New historicism is a literary theory that seeks to understand texts through their contexts and understand history and context through literature.

ecocriticism	Ecocriticism is the literary theory of evaluating how texts explore the nature and environmental concerns.
psychoanalytic criticism	Psychoanalytic criticism is a literary theory based on Freud's principles or psychoanalysis and often asserts that all characters are manifestations of the author's own psyche.
anthropocentrism	Anthropocentrism is a way of interpreting literature with a human-centered point of view.
canonical status	In literature, canonical status is the state of being accepted as part of the literary canon.

#### Context, Culture and Society Keywords and Definitions

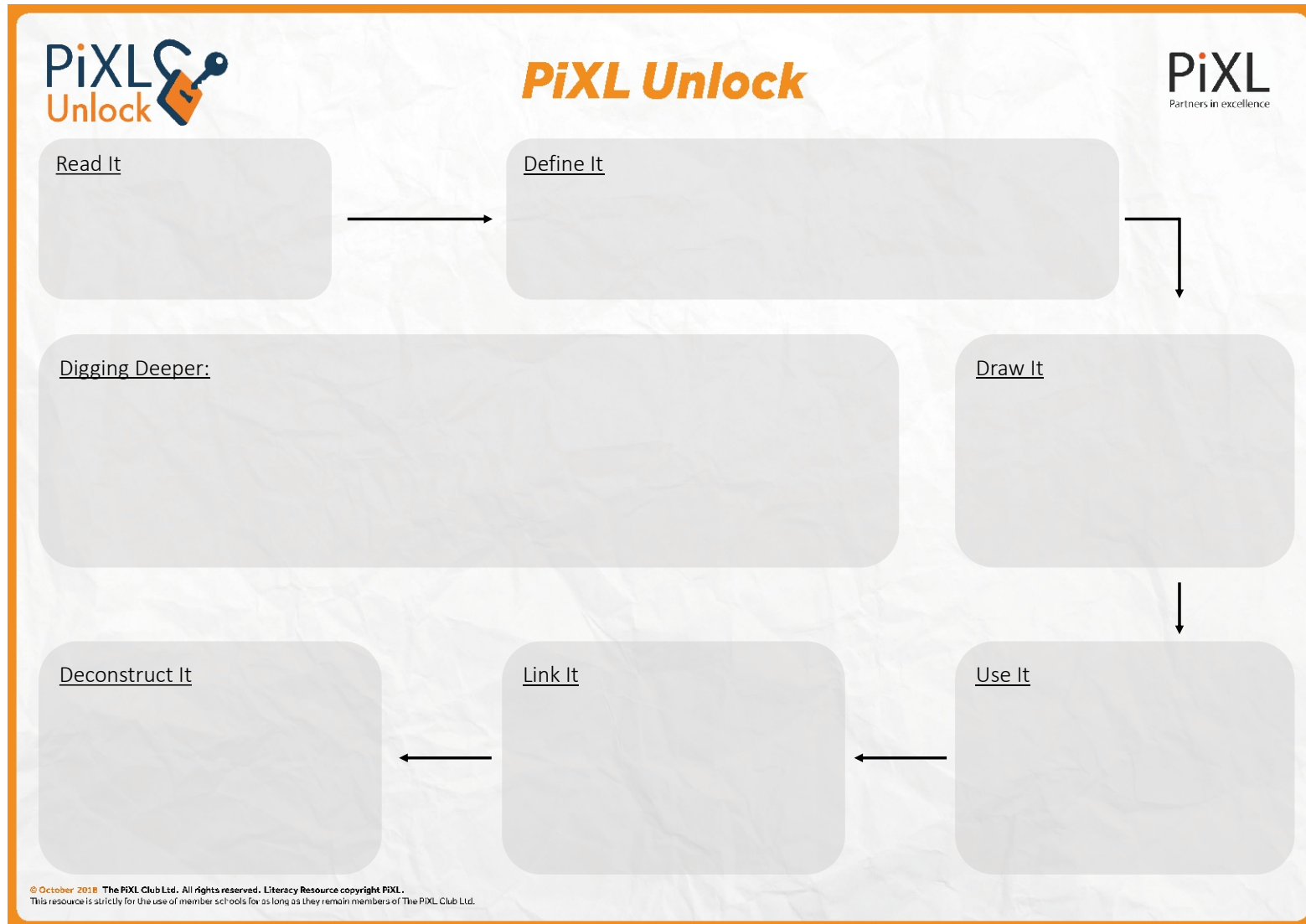
Word	Definition
masculinity	Masculinity means possessing qualities traditionally associated with men.
femininity	Femininity means possessing qualities traditionally associated with women.
cultural construction	A cultural construction is a construct that is formed by culture and society, rather than by other predetermined factors, such as biology.
Paganism	Paganism is a religion that predates Christianity. In modern times, Paganism includes the worship of nature.
identity	Identify is the feature that determine who or what something is.
mise-en-scene	Mise-en-scene is the arrangement of a set, including the props and lighting in a play or film.
authenticity	Authenticity is the quality of being authentic or genuine.
antiquity	Antiquity is the ancient past.
oppress	To oppress is to subjugate someone or to keep them in hardship.
social classes	The social classes are groups of people, divided by their social and economic status.
capitalism	Capitalism is a theory of politics and economics whereby businesses, trade and industry are privately owned and run for private profit rather than specifically for social good.
values	Values are standards of behaviour or the principles one believes in.
marginal	Marginal means on the margin or outside and thus not central or important. It can also describe something that is on the borderline.
socio-economic	Socio-economic describes something that is concerned with the relationship between societal and economic factors.
autonomy	Autonomy is the right to self-control or self-governance.
feudalism	Feudalism was the most common social and political system in medieval Europe. It involved the nobility holding the Crown's land in return for military service and peasants had to give labour and produce to the lords for military protection.
economy	The economy is the state of a country or place's supply of money, production and consumption of goods and services.



subservient	Subservient means to be below or less important than another. It can also mean one who will follow the orders of others unquestionably.
dogmatic	Dogmatic describes someone who is unmoving in their views and presents them to others as undeniably true.
undogmatic	Undogmatic describes someone who is not dogmatic with their views.
propaganda	Propaganda is the dissemination of biased information in order to promote a cause.
bourgeoisie	The bourgeoisie are the middle class who have materialistic values.
aristocracy	The aristocracy is the highest class in particular societies, including those with hereditary titles.
middle class	The middle class is the class or group of people between the upper and lower class, characterised by professionals and business people.
repressive	Repressive describes something (often a regime) that restricts people's personal freedoms.
patriarchy	A patriarchy is a system of society or governance in which men hold the power and women have very little power.
colonialism	Colonialism is the practice of taking control of another country and exploiting its people or resources.
industrialism	Industrialism is a social or economic system in which manufacturing plays a large part.
existentialism	Existentialism is a philosophical theory in which the individual is considered a free person, entirely responsible for their acts and their consequences.
prohibition	Prohibition is the action of preventing something, usually through outlawing it.
women's suffrage	Women's suffrage is the right of women to vote.
humanism	Humanism is the belief that human beings are more important than any supernatural beings or gods.
cynicism	Cynicism is the characteristic of scepticism, considering things from a pessimistic viewpoint.
Luddites	Luddites were English workers who destroyed machinery, mostly in mills, because they thought that it threatened their jobs.
antinomian heresy	An antinomian is a person who believes that those who are saved in Christianity do not need to follow the Ten Commandments. Some churches consider this heresy.
agnostic	An agnostic is a person that believes that there is no evidence of the existence of a god.
transcendentalism	Transcendentalism was a movement which originated in America in the nineteenth century. It encouraged people to trust their intuition and view objects as smaller versions of the universe.
metaphysical poets	Metaphysical poets are a group of 17th century poets whose work focused on philosophical exploration and whose style challenged the established norm, including flexible metre, colloquialisms and wit.
romanticism	Romanticism was an 18th century movement in the arts that focused on emotions, the individual and the celebration of nature and the past.
rationalism	Rationalism is the practice of basing ideas on reasonable and rational thought.
Puritanism	Puritanism was a set of beliefs followed by a group of English Protestants in the 16th and 17th centuries who believed that church worship should be simplified.

realism	Realism was an arts movement that began in France after the revolution in the mid-18th century, focusing on portraying real people accurately and rejecting the exaggerated emotion of romanticism.
modernism	Modernism is an art movement that rejected the features of traditional and classical art.
post-modernism	Post-modernism is a 20th century art movement that rejects modernism and includes the self-conscious use of earlier styles.
Renaissance	The Renaissance is the period in European history between the 14th and 17th centuries which saw great developments in art and literature.
sentimentalism	Sentimentalism is very sentimental or overly emotional behaviour or writing.
utopian	Utopian describes something or somewhere that is aiming to be, or has reached, the state of perfection.
dystopian	Dystopian describes a, usually fictional, place where everything is negative, usually because of a totalitarian political regime.

## II. The PiXL Unlock Template



### III. Summer Reading list

It is impossible to create a fully comprehensive reading list for A Level Literature as there are too many great books to list but below are a few authors and books that regularly crop up as coursework choices or on recommended reading lists. Whilst you are unlikely to be able to read every book on this list, you should take a look at them and pick a few that you think would widen your experience of Literature.

#### Fiction:

Author	Book
Atwood, Margaret	The Handmaid's Tale
Austen, Jane	Pride and Prejudice
Bronte, Charlotte	Jane Eyre
Carter, Angela	The Bloody Chamber
Coetzee, J.M.	Disgrace
Conrad, Joseph	Heart of Darkness
Dickens, Charles	Great Expectations
Faulks, Sebastian	Birdsong
Fitzgerald, F. Scott	The Great Gatsby
Huxley, Aldous	Brave New World
Hardy, Thomas	Tess of the D'Urbervilles
Ishiguro, Kazuo	The Remains of the Day
Lee, Harper	To Kill a Mockingbird
Plath, Sylvia	The Bell Jar
Rushdie, Salman	Midnight's Children
Stoker, Bram	Dracula
Walker, Alice	The Colour Purple
Wells, H.G.	The Island of Doctor Moreau
Wilde, Oscar	The Picture of Dorian Gray
Woolf, Virginia	Mrs Dalloway

#### Poetry:

Poet	Poems
Blake, William	Songs of Innocence and Experience
Duffy, Carol Ann	Any
Eliot, T.S.	The Wasteland
Heaney, Seamus	Any
Hughes, Ted	Birthday Letters
Keats, John	The Odes
Larkin, Philip	The Whitsun Weddings
Owen, Wilfred	Any
Plath, Sylvia	Any
Wordsworth, William	Any
Various (contemporary)	Poems of the Decade: An Anthology of the Forward Books of Poetry

## Drama:

Playwright	Play
Beckett, Samuel	Waiting for Godot
Miller, Arthur	Death of a Salesman
Pinter, Harold	The Birthday Party
Shakespeare, William	Any!
Stoppard, Tom	Rosencrantz and Guildenstern are dead
Williams, Tennessee	A Streetcar Named Desire
Wilde, Oscar	The Importance of Being Earnest

It is also worth looking at other books by the same writers.

If you want to seek out more, the good news is that it is very easy to do so. Simply do an online search for anything like 'English Literature A Level reading list' and there will be hundreds (if not thousands) of books suggested. For now, here are a few more pointers:

- Read the books listed on your course (even the ones you don't have to!)
- Read other books by the same authors of the ones that you will be studying
- Read other books within the same genre(s) that you will be studying.

### Recommended Reads

There are 10 books listed below which are the kinds of books that (if you are given the choice) you may want to choose eventually for your coursework and ultimately will help with your wider reading. Read through the descriptions and choose at least one book that you would like to read over the holidays. When you finish reading, you should write a 300-500 word review of the book and prepare a 3-5 minute presentation to deliver to the class which covers your views of the book.

For a model on how to write a review, take a look at this review of a popular book choice for many A Level courses, *The Handmaid's Tale*: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2010/sep/26/the-handmaids-tale-margaret-atwood>

**Banks, Iain – *The Wasp Factory*:** A disturbing bildungsroman (coming of age story) surrounding the unusual protagonist of Frank growing up on a remote Scottish island.

**Burgess, Anthony – *A Clockwork Orange*:** A blistering exploration of social attitudes towards youth and aggression focusing on Alex, an ultra-violent psychopath who terrorises society in the near future.

**Bronte, Emily – *Wuthering Heights*:** A classic gothic romance centring on the familial tensions caused by the love between Catherine and Heathcliff amongst the moors.

**Eugenides, Jeffrey – *The Virgin Suicides*:** An exploration of youth and attitudes towards death and sex within a claustrophobic suburban environment.

**Heller, Joseph – *Catch 22*:** An absurdist and satirical take on maintaining your sanity in an insane world during WW2.

**McEwan, Ian – *Atonement*:** A powerful account of the ramifications of childish experience set against the backdrop of WW1.

**Mitchell, David – Cloud Atlas:** A Chinese box style segmented narrative exploring the connections across and between generations and lives.

**Morrison, Toni – Beloved:** A deeply uncomfortable and unsettling (in a good way) sort of supernatural take on guilt and motherhood in the context of slavery in America.

**Orwell, George – 1984:** Big Brother is watching you; a terrifying imagining of a future dystopian state covering authoritarianism and surveillance.

**Palahniuk, Chuck – Fight Club:** A stark and visceral look at masculinity within modern society.

**Smith, Zadie – White Teeth:** A dual account focusing on Britain's relationships with former colonised countries and the resulting ideas surrounding immigration and identity.

**Tartt, Donna – The Secret History:** An unusual crime mystery – not whodunit? but whydunit? Focusing on a small clique of students at a small elite college in Vermont.

## IV. Links to TED Talks/Articles/Documentaries/Books/Journals

One great way to inform your wider understanding of your Literature course is to read around the topics and books that you are studying. Here are a number of ways to do this:

- Read critical reviews of the books you are studying (simply search '[book title] critical review')
- Read articles on the topics or historical periods that you are studying
- Watch videos and documentaries on the books you are studying (you can find lots of great stuff on YouTube).

The following links are designed to prompt you to look onwards and give you a direction as to what kinds of resources are available to aid with your research. Try looking on these websites for articles and content related to the texts you are studying.

### **TED Talks, clips and speeches:**

A series of talks grouped under the topic of fiction exploring many different angles:

[https://www.ted.com/playlists/346/the\\_power\\_of\\_fiction\\_1](https://www.ted.com/playlists/346/the_power_of_fiction_1).

The School of Life series on Literature: an excellent series exploring many great literary figures. It is also worth looking at their historical videos such as that on the Romantic Movement.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=LAzKGkTIKpg&list=PLwxNMb28Xmpfv2COuuJaKzy6E2n8nSMdi>

The history of the novel, a talk by Terry Castle: [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M49C-K1W\\_oo](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=M49C-K1W_oo)

### **Helpful websites with articles and research information:**

LitHub: as it says – a hub for Literature: <https://lithub.com/>

Shakespeare Online - an incredible resource which has many academic articles on Shakespeare's plays and works: <http://www.shakespeare-online.com/>

Bardweb – more on Shakespeare: <http://www.bardweb.net/index.html> and this is particularly useful for terminology with examples: <http://www.bardweb.net/content/grammar/02rhetoric.html>

The Conversation - an academic website with articles contributed by lecturers and researchers: <https://theconversation.com/uk/topics/english-literature-3052>

The Guardian - an open access newspaper which regularly has features relating to Literature: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/all> & <https://www.theguardian.com/stage> & <https://www.theguardian.com/books/literary-criticism>

The White Review - a literary magazine which has featured contributions from widely respected authors: <http://www.thewhitereview.org/>

The British Library – a fantastic resource with lots of historical and contextual information: <https://www.bl.uk/>

BBC – has many brilliant documentaries and programmes such as those here:

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/topics/Literature>

### **The Art of Writing English Literature Essays**

This is an excellent book (which is part of a series of excellent books) for honing your essay writing skills. It has a superb section on the idea of writing coherently and cohesively (a difficult skill to master) and is ultimately an excellent reference guide for each and every essay you will write.

### **Some more specific articles you might find helpful:**

Margaret Atwood on the subject of defining the genres of Science Fiction in the context of dystopian fiction:

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2011/oct/14/margaret-atwood-road-to-ustopia>

David Lodge on the subject of consciousness in Literature:

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2002/nov/02/fiction.highereducation>

Kazuo Ishiguro and Neil Gaiman in conversation about genres:

<https://www.newstatesman.com/2015/05/neil-gaiman-kazuo-ishiguro-interview-literature-genre-machines-can-toil-they-can-t-imagine>

Ian McEwan on books to do with the apocalypse and thoughts surrounding ‘end-times’:

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2008/may/31/fiction.philosophy>

Thomas Foster on how to read poetry:

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2018/apr/20/how-to-read-poetry-like-a-professor-thomas-foster>

Shakespeare’s Life (article by Andrew Dickson):

<https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare/articles/shakespeares-life>

Toni Morrison: Black Matters – an abridged extract from an essay on racial identity in literature:

<https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/black-matters-toni-morrison-is-the-new-nobel-laureate-for-literature-here-we-print-an-extract-from-1509384.html>

Virginia Woolf – Modern Fiction – the whole collected essays are here but Modern Fiction is recommended:

<http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks03/0300031h.html#C12>

Roland Barthes on ‘The Death of the Author’, a famous argument made concerning the idea that the meaning of a text cannot be derived through determining the author’s identity, intentions or existence but instead meaning is found in the reader.

[http://www.tbook.constantvzw.org/wp-content/death\\_authorbarthes.pdf](http://www.tbook.constantvzw.org/wp-content/death_authorbarthes.pdf)

Percy Bysshe Shelley – A Defence of Poetry

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/articles/69388/a-defence-of-poetry>



## V. Knowledge Organiser Template



## VI. Thinking Hard Revisit Template

**Name of Topic:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Class:** \_\_\_\_\_

Take a section of the text and do the following:

1) **Prioritise:** Underline the three most important sentences here. Rank 1-3, briefly explain number 1. Cross out the least important sentence

2) **Reduce:** Reduce the key information into 12 words

3) **Transform:** Transform this information into four pictures or images (no words allowed)

4) **Categorise:** Sort this information into three categories. Highlight and think of a suitable title for each category.

5) **Extend:** Write down three questions you'd like to ask an expert in this subject.

## VII. A Model of the Thinking Hard Revisit document

**Name of Topic:** English Literature – Wider Reading – Guardian Article

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2016/may/14/whatever-next-pleasures-plot-dickens-line-of-duty>

**Name:** A. Student

**Class:** 12bLit

Take a section of the text and do the following:

6) **Prioritise:** Underline the three most important sentences here. Rank 1-3, briefly explain number 1. Cross out the least important sentence:

1. You can see why serious novelists became suspicious of plots: they subjugate reality to a plan; they require that the author be a trusted manipulator.

- This sentence shows how plots force writers to move away from realism which is perceived as 'less serious'. They also require a sense that the author is intentionally deceiving the reader to force and create connections where they may not be likely or at least seem overly coincidental.

2. Plot involves the laying of clues, the implicit promise to the reader or viewer that the true significance of what we read or see is not self-evident, but will eventually be revealed.

3. ~~The frisson of this realisation [that the end was hinted at and planned from the start] comes in part from seeing that you have not, until now, understood the significance of what was there in plain sight.~~

7) **Reduce:** Reduce the key information into 12 words

Plots are clues/connections laid by writers; revealing them is satisfying.

8) **Transform:** Transform this information into 4 pictures or images (no words allowed)



9) **Categorise:** Sort this information into three categories. Highlight and think of a suitable title for each category.

Reader Expectation

Narrative Structure

Examples

10) **Extend:** Write down three questions you'd like to ask an expert in this subject.

What are the different narrative structures?

How do characters and plots interact?

Why do we need or want plots in novels?

## VIII. Cornell Notes Template

Name	Date
Topic	Subject

Main Ideas	Notes
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Summary
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## IX. A Model of the Cornell Notes document

Name: A. Student

Date: 07.03.19

Topic: Wider Reading – Article on Characters

Subject: English Literature

Main Ideas

**Guardian Article on Characters**

**Poses question – what is a character?**

**Poses short depictions of characters.**

**Short characterisation is often as good as more ‘rounded’ detailed descriptions.**

**Dismisses the ‘nonsense’ written about characters in fiction.**

**Returns to question of what a character is – considers how connected to consciousness it is.**

**Rejects the simple distinction between ‘flat’ and ‘round’ characters.**

Notes

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2008/jan/26/3>

**A life of their own: James Wood studies character**

**Begins with a consideration of how novelists begin with photographs/static images.**

**Focuses on ‘getting a character up and running’ and how writers use a brief line to build a strong impression of who they are.**

Believes that many readers have fixed views of characters and what they ‘should’ be – morally like us and developing or simply that because they don’t exist that they are relatively meaningless.

‘Superb examples of characters’ are ones that seem to have an ‘interior life’.

Focus on examples – The Prime of Miss Brodie and Pnin (lookup).

Refers to ‘Aspects of the Novel by EM Forster (lookup) to consider that ‘flat’ characters have repetitive statements and don’t change whereas ‘rounded’ characters surprise us.

To do:

Look at how the novels I’m studying begin – are they static images or ‘mobile’? **How does this affect character?**

Identify how each key character is ‘got in’ in the novels I’m studying.

Look at the characters I ‘like’ and ‘dislike’ – is this due to them being similar to me? Is that due to my moral outlook?

Do the characters in the novels seem to have ‘interior life’? Ask teacher about ‘interior life’ in relation to characters.

Summary:

Characters are not easily defined and simplistically judging them on how detailed or ‘rounded’ they are is not enough. James Wood clearly feels that it is important to consider how much of a ‘true self’ is being revealed by the author and to what purpose. He finishes by considering how maintaining a pretence of a ‘flat character’ can itself lend towards more interesting tragi-comic characters.



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