

# TRANSITION WORK



## ENGLISH LITERATURE 2020

HoD: Annabel Gibbs

Email: [agibbs@guildfordcounty.co.uk](mailto:agibbs@guildfordcounty.co.uk)

Now is your chance to be inspired and become passionate about your chosen subject. The recommended time you should spend on each task is provided, but spend longer if you want, particularly if something really grabs your interest.

Transition work is designed to challenge you and make you think. Take it as far as you want to and don't give up if you find it hard.

Once you have worked through all the tasks (you can do them in any order) you will submit a **350 word piece of writing** in which you reflect on what you have learned. We will also expect to see the **notes you have made on each task** in your Eng Lit folders (more details on your folder will be provided at the start of term).

### Task 1

Watch a production of Shakespeare's *Othello*. A recent RSC production is available on BBC iPlayer as part of their Culture in Quarantine series (approx. 3 hours)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p089zj52/culture-in-quarantine-shakespeare-othello>

### Task 2

Listen to Melvyn Bragg's Radio 4 Programme on Tragedy (part of his *In our Time* series) and make notes on some key points that interest you (1 hour)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p005464v>

### Task 3

Listen to Rana Mitter's podcast on Tragedy and make notes on key points that interest you (1 hour)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p07k365z>

### Task 4

Watch John Bolton's Ted Talk on what we can learn from Shakespeare and make notes on key points that interest you. (30 minutes)

[https://www.ted.com/talks/john\\_bolton\\_the\\_power\\_of\\_imagination\\_lessons\\_from\\_shakespeare](https://www.ted.com/talks/john_bolton_the_power_of_imagination_lessons_from_shakespeare)

### Task 5

Read a book from the English and Media Centre's list of recommended reads for A Level students (<https://www.englishandmedia.co.uk/blog/50-great-21st-century-novels-for-6th-formers>)

Write a short review of your chosen book to share with everyone at the start of term. Use this review of *Mister Pip* to guide you in your approach to writing your review

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2007/jul/07/featuresreviews.guardianreview21>  
(approx. 4 hours)

## Task 6

Explore poetry. Choose a poem, any poem, from one of the websites listed below. Make notes on anything that strikes you as interesting about the poem. Why did you choose it? What do you like/not like about it? (1 hour)

Poetry Foundation <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/>

The Saturday Poem <https://www.theguardian.com/books/series/saturdaypoem>

National Poetry Library <https://www.nationalpoetrylibrary.org.uk/online-poetry/poems>

Poem Hunter <https://www.poemhunter.com/>

Poetry by Heart anthology <https://www.poetrybyheart.org.uk/anthology/>

Scottish Poetry Library <https://www.scottishpoetrylibrary.org.uk/>

## Task 7

Explore the *English and Media Centre emagazine*, a magazine and website for A Level students with articles written by academics, critics, writers, teachers and students on texts and topics set for A Level – and on literature and language more generally.

[www.englishandmedia.co.uk](http://www.englishandmedia.co.uk) (2 hours)

**Please contact Mrs Gibbs ([agibbs@guildfordcounty.co.uk](mailto:agibbs@guildfordcounty.co.uk)) or Mrs Doar ([jdoar@guildfordcounty.co.uk](mailto:jdoar@guildfordcounty.co.uk)) for the login details to the *English and Media Centre emagazine*.**

- Choose an article that most immediately grabs your attention.
- Read the article and pick out three points. These could be ideas you find interesting, that you want to question (perhaps because you disagree, perhaps because you want to find out more), a point you don't understand.
- Take one of the points and add your own ideas to it or write a new point of your own.

## Task 8

Dip into literary criticism. The opening pages of all the books listed below are available online via Amazon's 'Look Inside' feature. (approx. 2 hours)

- Read the opening pages of two or three (or more) of these books. Which would you most like to go on to read? Why?
- Select short quotations which interest and make brief notes on your ideas.

### On novels

David Lodge: *The Art of Fiction*

Francine Prose: *Reading Like a Writer*

### On poetry

James Fenton: *An Introduction to English Poetry*

Ruth Padel: *The Poem and the Journey*

Mark Yakich: *Poetry – A Survivor's Guide*

### **On Shakespeare**

Bill Bryson: *Shakespeare – The World as a Stage*

### **On Drama**

David Edgar: *How Plays Work*

Richard Eyre: *Interviews with Theatre People*

On English in general

Robert Eaglestone: *Doing English*

## **Written work**

Once you have completed all the tasks above you need to produce a piece of writing reflecting on what you have learned. You should include ideas such as what new knowledge you found the most interesting and why. Were you inspired to go further and study more in depth on a particular topic? If so, which topic and why? What did you find the most challenging and why?

**You should write about 350 words.**

Remember too that we expect to see the **notes you have made on the tasks** in your English Literature folder.

## **Resources**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episode/p089zj52/culture-in-quarantine-shakespeare-othello>

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/sounds/play/p005464v> (Melvyn Bragg)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p07k365z> (Rana Mitter)

[https://www.ted.com/talks/john\\_bolton\\_the\\_power\\_of\\_imagination\\_lessons\\_from\\_shakespeare](https://www.ted.com/talks/john_bolton_the_power_of_imagination_lessons_from_shakespeare) (John Bolton)

<https://www.englishandmedia.co.uk/blog/50-great-21st-century-novels-for-6th-formers>

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2007/jul/07/featuresreviews.guardianreview21>  
(Mr Pip review)