

English Language and Literature A-level summer work

Dear A-Level Language and Literature student,

Well done on making an excellent choice.

Below is a list of activities for you to choose from and complete this summer. You have to complete at least 3 hours' worth of activities and submit the results to your teacher when you start in September:

The activities will prepare you for the sorts of learning and activity that form the basis of the A-Level qualification.

I hope you enjoy fulfilling these activities and I look forward to seeing you in September.

Warm regards,

Mr A. Schneider

Activity	Expected completion time
<p>A Graphic Novel adaptation of a text</p> <p>You are going to experiment with getting to the heart of a set text by thinking about how you would adapt it into a graphic novel.</p> <p>Begin by having a look online at some other graphic novel adaptations. If you can, choose another text you know reasonably well. There are lots of the texts set for GCSE in graphic novel format here (http://www.classicalcomics.com/book-shop/). You might also want to have a look at some original graphic novels such as the prize-winning ones listed on this website.)</p> <p>Outline the way you would re-tell one of your GCSE set texts in the form of a graphic novel.</p> <p>Without looking back at your copy, make notes on the text, under the following headings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">o Storyo Themes and ideas o The way it is toldo The things that make it distinctive and special. <p>Create a page plan for the re-telling and choose one section to work up in detail. (If you have time and are interested you could create the whole adaptation.)</p> <p>How well can you get across what is most important and distinctive? What gets lost?</p>	2 hours
<p>Books adaptations</p> <p>Watch a film or TV adaptation of a novel you know, for example Northern Lights, Noughts and Crosses, Emma, David Copperfield, Sherlock Holmes, Agatha Christie.</p> <p>(See BBC iPlayer for freely available dramas; Netflix and Amazon Prime have a wide selection if you have a subscription. Some complete dramas are also available on YouTube)</p> <p>Write your own review of the adaptation you have watched.</p> <p>Now write a pitch for a different novel you think would make a great film or film adaptation.</p> <p>Explain why and how you would approach it.</p>	2 hours

<p>Let a poem brew over time</p> <p>Choose a poem. National Poetry Library https://www.nationalpoetrylibrary.org.uk/online-poetry/poems</p> <p>Set a timer for 10 seconds.</p> <p>Do a ‘snapshot’ look at the poem for 10 seconds – don’t try to read it – and jot down anything you notice about it.</p> <p>Do the same again but this time for 30 seconds.</p> <p>Now put the poem to one side.</p> <p>On three different days over the next week or so, spend about 10 minutes reading the poem and writing about it in any way you want. You might write about what you like or what you are puzzled by or you might just ask questions. It’s up to you whether you read over what you wrote on the previous occasion – there are advantages to both ways. Over the course of the next few weeks you could try the activity both ways.</p> <p>On the last day, read the poem again, read over all your writing, then make a few notes or record a voice message exploring how your response to the poem changed and developed</p>	<p>1 hour</p>
<p>Try exploratory writing</p> <p>Choose a short text you have not studied before. This could be the opening of a novel, a poem, a scene from a play – it doesn’t matter what. (Some suggestions for where you can find extracts from different types of texts are suggested below.)</p> <p>Read the text, without making notes.</p> <p>Now write about it. Just write, in any way you want, almost as though you are having a conversation with yourself. Let your ideas develop and change, contradict yourself, ask questions – it’s up to you. The only rule is that you should write in full sentences, not notes or bullet points.</p> <p><u>Short stories</u></p> <p>A Personal Anthology https://apersonalanthology.com/ Granta https://granta.com/discoveries-24/</p> <p>New Yorker (limited number of articles/stories per month before subscribing) https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/fiction Electric Literature https://electricliterature.com/</p> <p>Selected Shorts: Let Us Tell You Story https://podcasts.apple.com/gb/podcast/selected-shorts/id253191824</p> <p><u>First chapters</u></p> <p>New York Times – First Chapters Archive https://archive.nytimes.com/www.nytimes.com/books/first/first-fiction.html</p>	<p>1 hour</p>

The Art of a review

2 hours

Read three or four online reviews for a novel you enjoyed. Places to find reviews

By writers, critics etc: *Guardian*, *Independent*, *New York Times*, *Slate* or by readers: Amazon, GoodReads, LibraryThing, Book Riot.

Begin by thinking about your personal response to these – is there one you feel more in sympathy with, that captures what you thought and felt? Do you like the style/approach of one more than another?

Then take a step back and look at each a bit more clinically. What do each of the reviewers focus on (the story, the characters, underlying themes, their personal response)? What approach do they take to writing the review?

Drawing on what you have learned about the art of the review and the novel itself, either write your own or write a response to one of them. If you have time, you might like to read this article on [writing a great book review. \(https://www.stylist.co.uk/life/the-art-of-the-book-review/46762\)](https://www.stylist.co.uk/life/the-art-of-the-book-review/46762)

