

Prospective Year 12: 2018 Summer Reading for English Literature

Prose and Drama

In an attempt to ensure that the momentum created through the exam period is maintained over the summer, and to help your preparation for the Cambridge Pre-U, we want you to read at least **one** of the texts suggested below:

- *Vanity Fair*: William Thackeray
Or
 - *Emma*: Jane Austen
Or
 - *The Portrait of a Lady*: Henry James
- And at least **one** play from:
- *The Importance of Being Earnest*: Oscar Wilde
 - *Henry VI : Part 1*: William Shakespeare
 - *Henry VI : Part 2*: William Shakespeare
 - *Henry VI : Part 3*: William Shakespeare
 - *Who's Afraid of Virginia Woolf*: Edward Albee

If you have read any of these it would obviously be of benefit to read something else from the list to broaden your experience. They are not set texts but we will be following up your reading briefly in early September as we have selected stories and plays that will help you with your studies of the course. In reading them you will become familiar with the breadth of study in exam work over the next two years.

We expect you to provide your own copies from bookshops or libraries, or of course electronic versions.

Poetry

The super-keen amongst you will anticipate that the study of English Literature includes poetry. You will have to write confidently, fluently and with strong technical understanding of the genre to do well. Consequently it would serve you well to become familiar with the forms, rhythms and language of a range of English poetry.

- The Norton Anthology of Poetry
- The New Penguin Book of English Verse
 - The Rattle Bag
- Staying Alive: Real Poems for Unreal Times

We don't suggest that you buy these anthologies, although of course if you enjoy reading poetry then they would be useful additions to your collection. You should be able to borrow them quite easily. Alternatively there is a wide variety of websites dedicated to disseminating literature online, such as Luminarium (www.luminarium.org) or *British And Irish Authors on the Web* (Google it-the IP address is ridiculously long!)

We look forward to seeing you in September.