

Prospective Year 12: 2019

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:

A classic novel*

- *Heart of Darkness*: Joseph Conrad
- **or**
- *The Great Gatsby*: F. Scott Fitzgerald
- **or**
- *Wuthering Heights*: Emily Brontë

To help with your studies of *Richard III*

- *Henry VI Part 3*: William Shakespeare*
- *The Hollow Crown, The Wars of the Roses and the Rise of the Tudors*: Dan Jones

To help with your studies of *Paradise Lost Books 1 and 2*

- *Mythos and/or Heroes*: Stephen Fry

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 have selected books that will help you with your studies. You should be able to borrow them from your local library-if you still have one.

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.

We look forward to seeing you in September.

***Essential. You must read one of the novels and the play; all others are strongly recommended**

The English Department