

# Prospective Year 12: 2020

## Summer Reading for English Literature

### Prose and drama

When it comes to the study of English Literature, there is no substitute for preparatory reading. In an attempt to create some momentum heading towards A-Level, we want you to engage with some of the reading suggestions below:

**To help with your study of the novel (coursework), try to read one of the following:**

#### Pre-2000

- *The Great Gatsby*: F. Scott Fitzgerald
- *A Bend in the River*: V. S. Naipaul
- *Wuthering Heights*: by Emily Brontë

#### Post-2000

- *On Beauty*: Zadie Smith
- *Life After Life*: Kate Atkinson
- *True History of the Kelly Gang*: Peter Carey

**To help with the study of *The Duchess of Malfi* and *A Streetcar Named Desire* (author familiarisation):**

- *The White Devil*: John Webster
- *Cat on A Hot Tin Roof*: Tennessee Williams

**To help with the study of *Hamlet*:**

- *King Lear*: William Shakespeare

**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 it opens. Failing that, the Shakespeare and Webster plays are easily accessible online.

### 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.

**The English Department**