Dear students,

Thank you for choosing to study English Literature at A-Level. This is a challenging but highly rewarding course, and will open up possibilities for you to study a wide range of courses at Higher Education. If you have any questions or suggestions during this unusual period, please don’t hesitate to contact me: jharper1@edcu.somerset.gov.uk

Task 1:

**Wider Reading**

Although you may already be an avid reader, it is important that you begin to engage with texts that are comparable with those on the course. While you may want to read ‘ahead’, it is not essential and I would really prefer you to choose other texts that may interest you.

Please choose a minimum of 3 texts from the linked list below and record a summary of these to present back in September. Try to choose books you have not read before and might be new to you.

WSC Wider Reading List

Task 2:

**National Theatre Production Access**

We are awaiting login details from the National Theatre for access to the full suite of theatre productions available. As soon as we have these, I would like you to choose from a shortlist of five productions and watch at least one of these.

Record a summary of what your views are on the play and how it interested you.

Task 3:

**Wider Reading Anthology**

This anthology gives you a series of short stories, extracts from longer texts and poems that work well with the course. Please work through the reading of the anthology and record your ideas as you read.

When you have finished, a good task would be to join up one or two of the texts with the theory section below.

WSC Wider Reading Anthology

Task 4:

**Bridging the Gap**
Many of you will be keen readers already, but most will not have been exposed to very much academic literary criticism. At A-Level, you will be required to read a range of academic material which deals with literary theory such as Feminism, Marxism, Eco-Criticism and Gender/Queer theory. While much of this is new to you, the concepts may already be familiar.

I would like you to read the following extracts (linked below) and make brief notes. Try to think about a novel/poem/play you are familiar with (GCSE texts OK) and see if you can relate the ideas in the text to the ideas in the theory. For example, how might a Feminist literary critic think about the ideas in Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde? How might a narratologist want to apply theory to An Inspector Calls?

NOTE: This is hard! For many of you, you will not have read much material like this so go easy on yourself!

- Introduction to Feminist Criticism
- Introduction to Marxist Criticism
- Introduction to Narratology
- Introduction to Value/Literary Canon