

A-Level English Literature

An introduction

Before we start, please download the reading list and transition task documents ('History' poem and questions) from the 'Support Materials' tab on the Induction website...

Am I right for this course?

Do these statements apply to you?

- I am predicted at least level 6 for my English & English Lit GCSEs.
- I love reading novels/poetry/plays and I love finding out as much as possible as I can about them.
- I enjoy analysing language and looking at layers of meaning.
- I like to share my point of view about books or poems I have read.
- I am fascinated by the way context plays such an important part in the reading and understanding of literature.
- I can meet deadlines and work under pressure.
- I am an independent learner and I read around the topics I study in class.
- I am enthusiastic in class and love to participate in discussions.

If these apply to you then this might be a suitable course for you to study...

How is A-Level English Literature assessed?

Exam board - Pearson Edexcel

Three exams:

- **Paper 1: Drama (two essays) - 30%**
- **Paper 2 Prose (one essay) - 20%**
- **Paper 3 - Poetry (two essays) - 30%**

One piece of coursework

- **NEA study (one 2,500-3000 word extended essay) - 20%**

Assessment Objectives & Weightings:

Students must:		% in GCE
A01	Articulate informed, personal and creative responses to literary texts, using associated concepts and terminology, and coherent, accurate written expression	26.7
A02	Analyse ways in which meanings are shaped in literary texts	26.7
A03	Demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written and received	21.9
A04	Explore connections across literary texts	14
A05	Explore literary texts informed by different interpretations	11
Total		100%

NB: some figures have been rounded up

Note: this is over the two year course.



Paper 1 - Drama



Shakespeare - Hamlet

- Studied in Year 13
- Critical anthology will be supplied

**Modern: *A Streetcar Named Desire*
- Tennessee Williams**

- Studied in Year 12
- **Context**





Paper 2 – Prose (Childhood)



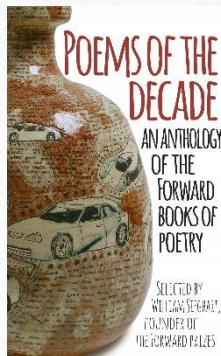
Atonement – Ian McEwan

- Year 12
- Answer one essay question
comparing how a key theme is
explored in the pre 1900 and post
1900 novels

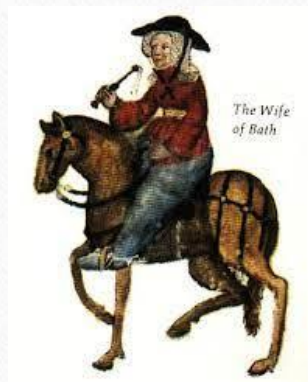
What Maisie Knew – Henry James

- Year 12
- Context and comparison





Paper 3 - Poetry



Poems of the Decade

- Year 12
- Study a selection of poems set by the exam board
- Exam: comparing one of the poems to an unseen poem.

Wife of Bath's Tale

- Year 13
- Study a 600-year-old narrative poem that feels surprisingly modern



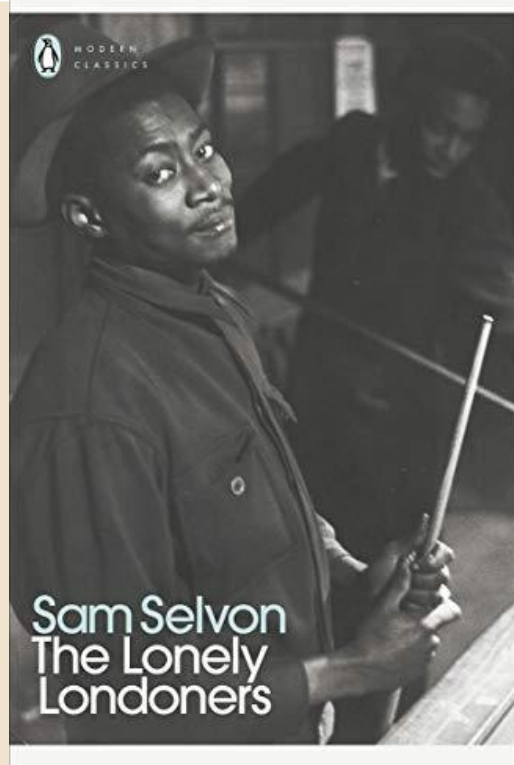
Non-Examination Assessment



1. Read first text – keep notes.
2. Read second text
3. Select an area of study.
4. Do some context research.
5. Do some critical reading.
6. Finalise title.
7. Plan
8. Write first draft.
9. Read & respond to teacher feedback
10. Write final draft (2,500 – 3000 words)
11. Feel proud of your academic accomplishment.

20%

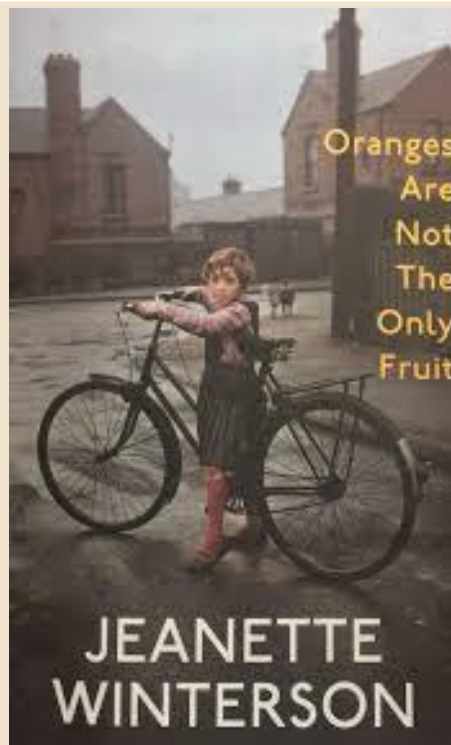
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The Lonely Londoners

Sam Selvon

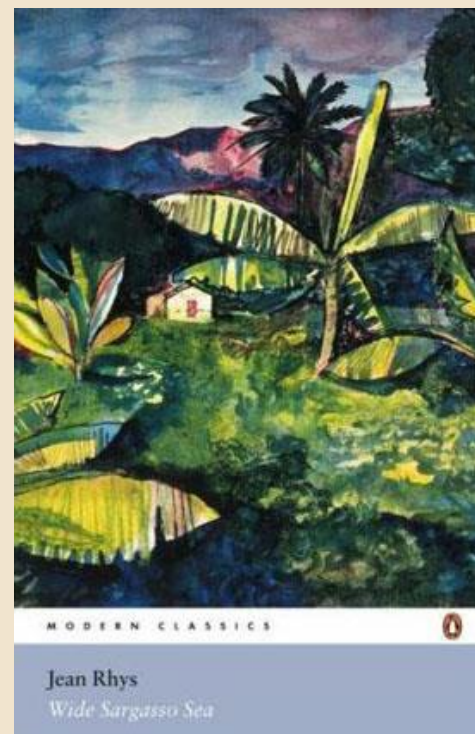
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*Oranges Are Not the
Only Fruit*

Jeanette Winterson

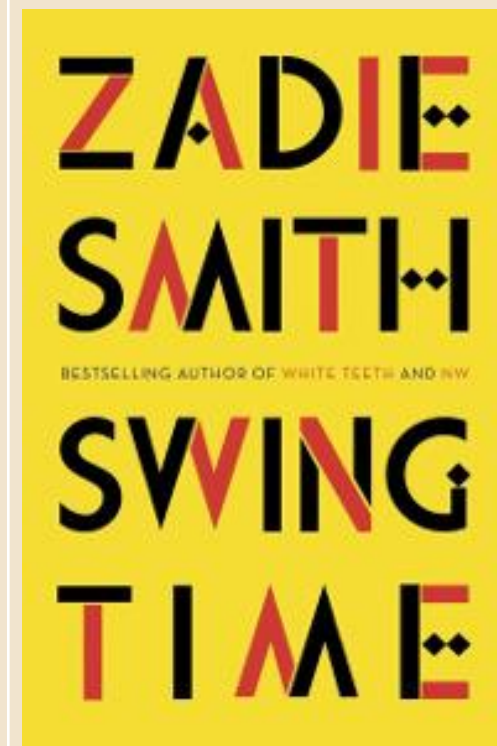
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Wide Sargasso Sea

Jean Rhys

4



Swing Time

Zadie Smith

Component	AO1	AO2	AO3	AO4	AO5
Shakespeare	✓	✓	✓		✓
A Streetcar Named Desire	✓	✓	✓		
Childhood (prose fiction)	✓	✓	✓	✓	
Poems of the decade/Unseen	✓	✓		✓	
Wife of Bath's Tale	✓	✓	✓		
NEA (Coursework)	✓	✓	✓	✓	✓

TERM	TEACHER 1 LESSONS	TEACHER 2 LESSONS	INDEPENDENT WORK
HOLIDAY			Complete Poetry task Reading/preparation
TERM 1	Poems of the Decade	Atonement	Essays for both teachers Homework tasks including (but not limited to) notes and chapter logs Wider reading
TERM 2	Poems of the Decade	Atonement	Essays for both teachers Homework tasks including (but not limited to) notes and chapter logs Wider reading
TERM 3	A Streetcar Named Desire	Atonement/What Maisie Knew	Essays for both teachers Homework tasks including (but not limited to) notes and chapter logs Wider reading
TERM 4	A Streetcar Named Desire	What Maisie Knew	Essays for both teachers Homework tasks including (but not limited to) notes and chapter logs Wider reading
TERM 5	Cwk	What Maisie Knew	Reading NEA novels Start revision
TERM 6	Cwk	Childhood theme links and connections	Revision Reading NEA novels

From now until the beginning of the course...

- Complete the poetry task – do your best even if you find it challenging, you are now working at Advanced Level.
- Brush up on your literary terminology
- Keep a reading journal of everything you read, make sure you include titles and writers – you should include things that have interested you about the work. This includes articles about literature too!
- Read as many items from the reading list as you can.
- Buy and read the set texts.
- Read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read, read...