

# A Level English Literature Bridging Booklet

## Introduction

Welcome to A Level English Literature!

We cover lots of different types of Literature that range from poetry to drama to prose but the most important skill that we teach you is the ability to think critically about what you're reading and about the world around you. See the attached specification for the course to see some of the texts that you might study.

## Entry Criteria

Grade 5 in GCSE English Language

Grade 6 in GCSE English Literature

## Suggested Reading

You don't have to read all of these by any means – pick a text you like the look of the most or dip in and out of several:

### **Drama**

- *The Importance of Being Earnest* - Oscar Wilde
- *Dr Faustus* - Christopher Marlowe
- *A Streetcar Named Desire* - Tennessee Williams
- *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* - Tennessee Williams

### **Novels**

- *Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde* – Robert Louis Stevenson
- *Dracula* – Bram Stoker
- *We Have Always Lived in the Castle* - Shirley Jackson

### **Activities**

The British Library has some brilliant and short articles on areas of Literature. The articles on Victorian literature and the Gothic are particularly good. The link is <https://www.bl.uk/learning/online-resources>

- Research the life of Oscar Wilde and produce a handout that puts his work into the context of the time in which he lived and worked.
- Research William Blake. Pick one of his poems and annotate it.
- Watch the film *The Woman in Black*. Write a short essay (no more than 300-400 words) in response to the question: *How is tension created?*

