**ENGLISH LITERATURE STEP UP TO POST 16 CHALLENGE**

**Minimum Subject Entry Requirements:** Grade 6 or above in English Literature

**Challenge 1**

The Gutenberg Project is a website that takes books that are now in the public domain (70 years after copyright started) and shares them. It means there are thousands of books available for free. Search online: Gutenberg Project.

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These books also tend to be free on the Amazon store if you have a Kindle or the Kindle app on your phone. Attached is also a reading list with recommended books.

**Challenge 2**

For all of the texts you read, create a reading log. Record what happens in your chosen novel. Think about the plot and the characters, as well as any thoughts you might have on the novel in general. If you are not enjoying the novel, try another one and start again. It’s important you read and learn the kinds of books you enjoy.

**Challenge 3**

In your studies, you will also explore the genre of tragedy and social and political protest writing. Below are a list of texts that would enrich your understanding of these genres and themes in these texts. Read and study at least one of these texts, looking to understand how they relate to tragedy and also social and political protest. You will find a great deal of help on the internet with this.

- Arthur Miller: 'All My Sons' or 'A view from the Bridge'
- William Shakespeare: 'Hamlet' or 'King Lear'
- Henrik Ibsen: 'Ghosts' or 'Hedda Gabler'
- Khaled Hosseini 'A Thousand Spendid Sons' or 'And the Mountains Echoed'
- Thomas Hardy: ‘Mayor of Casterbridge’ or ‘Jude the Obscure’

**Challenge 4**

During your studies, you will be asked to read and analyse texts through the lens of Marxist and Feminist thinking. Do some research on these terms to familiarise yourself.

‘Sun’ by DH Lawrence [http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks04/0400301h.html](http://gutenberg.net.au/ebooks04/0400301h.html)

Use the link above (or search for: ‘Sun’ by DH Lawrence). Read this story and consider how we might apply Feminist and Marxist criticism. Above all, it is important that you consider the different ways in which a text can be understood.

Task: Write an 800 word essay on: How do you view DH Lawrence’s ‘Sun’ in light of either Feminist or Marxist thought?

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A-Level English Literature: Reading List

- ‘Never Let Me Go’ by Kazuo Ishiguro
- ‘Mansfield Park’ by Jane Austen
- ‘Pride and Prejudice’ by Jane Austen
- ‘Jane Eyre’ by Charlotte Bronte
- ‘Wuthering Heights’ by Charlotte Bronte
- ‘Frankenstein’ by Mary Shelley
- ‘The Woman in Black’ by Susan Hill
- ‘Great Expectations’ by Charles Dickens
- ‘On Chesil Beach’ by Ian McEwan
- ‘The Child in Time’ by Ian McEwan
- ‘Enduring Love’ by Ian McEwan
- ‘A Thousand Splendid Suns’ by Khaled Hosseini
- ‘And The Mountains Echoed’ by Khaled Hosseini
- ‘The Lovely Bones’ by Alice Sebold
- ‘Oranges Are Not the Only Fruit’ by Jeanette Winterson
- ‘One Flew over the Cuckoo’s Nest’ by Ken Kesey
- ‘1984’ by George Orwell
- ‘Animal Farm’ by George Orwell
- ‘Life of Pi’ by Yann Martel
- ‘The Road’ by Cormac McCarthy
- ‘Trainspotting’ by Irvine Welsh
- ‘White Teeth’ by Zadie Smith
- ‘We Need to Talk About Kevin’ by Lionel Shriver
- ‘Beloved’ by Toni Morrison
- ‘The Heart Goes Last’ by Margaret Atwood
- ‘Oryx and Crake’ by Margaret Atwood
- ‘The Blind Assassin’ by Margaret Atwood
- ‘The Color Purple’ by Alice Walker
- ‘The Buddha of Suburbia’ by Hanif Kureishi
- ‘Madam Bovary’ by Gustav Flaubert
- ‘Love in the Time of Cholera’ by Gabriel Garcia Marquez
- ‘One Hundred Years of Solitude’ by Gabriel Garcia Marquez
- ‘The House of Spirits’ by Isabelle Allende
- ‘To Kill a Mockingbird’ by Harper Lee
- ‘Go Set a Watchman’ by Harper Lee
- ‘Catcher in the Rye’ by J.D. Salinger
- ‘The Reader’ by Bernard Schlink
- ‘Alice in Wonderland’ by Lewis Carroll
- ‘Dorian Gray’ by Oscar Wilde
- ‘A Farewell to Arms’ by Ernest Hemingway