

GCSE book challenge

In Year 10, you will be reading a range of exciting and challenging texts for your GCSE English literature exam. To prepare for this, the English department would like you to start reading some GCSE texts!

Whilst these are not ones that you will study in Year 10, they are on the AQA specification. Therefore, they will prepare you for the demands of challenging context, structure and language.

Copies of these are available in the library. How many can you read between now and September?

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| 19th century literature: | |
| Frankenstein – Mary Shelley | |
| Pride and Prejudice – Jane Austen | |
| Jane Eyre – Charlotte Bronte | |
| Great Expectations – Charles Dickens | |
| Modern prose: | |
| Lord of the Flies – William Golding | |
| Never Let me Go – Kazuo Ishiguro | |
| Pigeon English – Stephen Kelman | |
| Anita and Me – Meera Syal | |
| Modern drama: | |
| A Taste of Honey – Shelagh Delaney | |
| DNA – Dennis Kelly | |
| The History Boys – Alan Bennett | |
| The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night – Time (play version) | |
| Shakespeare: | |
| Romeo and Juliet | |
| Julius Caesar | |
| Much Ado About Nothing | |
| The Tempest | |
| The Merchant of Venice | |

When reading any of the titles above, consider the following GCSE style questions:

Language:

How does the writer use language for effect?

What language techniques do they use?

How does language create atmosphere?

Structure:

What does the writer get their reader to focus on in the first sentence/paragraph? How might this be important?

Are there any patterns of language and imagery you notice? i.e. repeated symbols, motifs etc.

Is there a switch between internal monologue (thoughts of characters) and external action/dialogue? What effect does this create?

Who is the narrator? Is it the same narrator throughout? What is the effect of the story being told from this character's perspective? Or if it's written in the third person, what's the effect of this?

Is the story written in chronological order? Are there flashbacks? What's the effect of this?

Does the writer withhold any information from the reader? Is this revealed at any point? What's the effect of this?

Writer's viewpoint:

What are the main themes/ideas/issues raised and explored in the text and what does the writer seem to suggest about these?

What is your own personal response to issues/themes/characters?