

A Level English Literature

Summer Tasks

Over this course you will be introduced to a wide range of texts. These have been carefully selected to ensure that you will continue to enjoy reading (we hope) and always have something to say about each text we study.

You will have to think about these texts in regards to how they offer comedic value or how they represent elements of protest. Therefore, these summer tasks are designed for you to gain an idea of the sorts of discussions we will be encouraging in class.

1. Elements of political and social protest writing

One of the texts you will be studying is the heart-wrenching and moving novel *The Kite Runner*. Over summer you are to **read this text** and complete the following in approximately 300 words:

“I opened my mouth, almost said something. Almost. The rest of my life might have turned out differently if I had. But I didn’t. I just watched. Paralyzed.”

This quotation comes from Chapter 7 and it describes what perhaps, is the biggest mistake of Amir’s life.

Based on the ideas within this quote and from the novel itself, what is your response to the following questions?

- How important do you think is giving a voice to the ‘voiceless’?
- How are the ‘voiceless’ depicted in literature?
- Refer to the novel as much as you can. Think about the presentation of characters and the situations that they are in.



2. Aspects of comedy

You will also be studying texts for their comedic value. Throughout this module you will be exposed to a vast amount of comedic features and begin to analyse how



different comedic definitions relate to each text. In order to prepare for this, research the definitions of; **parody, farce and degradation**. Once you have done this watch the ‘Dead Parrot’ clip on Youtube <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=npjOSL2hE> (Monty Python clip, first video to show up) and answer the following question: **How does this sketch relate to the definitions of comedy you have just researched?**

And finally... Make sure you’re organised! You need to make sure that you have an A4 file ahead of September and page dividers. You will be acquiring lots of valuable notes during this course but these will only be of any use if they are organised and kept up to date. Plus... there’s nothing worse than a messy file!

