

Year 11 Transition Unit A Level English Literature

The first year of this course is devoted to the study of Tragedy as a genre. Every text you study will be read through the lens of Tragedy. This means that you need a thorough understanding of the genre and its conventions. The following tasks will help you to develop your understanding of Tragedy and start to apply its themes and structures more widely.

It is up to you how you wish to present your learning, it could be in the form of a knowledge organiser, notes, a powerpoint or a mind map.

1. Find out about Greek Tragedy. These short introductions from the National Theatre give a good overview of theatre in Ancient Greece and the origins of Tragedy

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=aSRLK7SogvE>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dSr6mP-zxUc>

2. Find a definition for the following terms:

- Hamartia
- Hubris
- Pathos
- Anagnorisis
- Catharsis
- Peripeteia
- Protagonist
- Antagonist

3. The Tragic Hero. Read the following articles on the conventions of the tragic hero:

<https://literarydevices.net/tragic-hero/>

<https://www.litcharts.com/literary-devices-and-terms/tragic-hero>

Can you write your own definition of the tragic hero?

Challenge: traditionally Tragedy has focused on male protagonists as tragic heroes but female characters can be tragic heroines. Can you find some examples? How are tragic heroines different to heroes?

4. Revise the genre conventions of Shakespearean tragedy:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TqwETHbjhGE>

You have all read a full tragedy: Macbeth. Can you identify the nine elements of the Shakespearean Tragedy and apply them to your understanding of Macbeth?

5. What are considered to be the greatest literary tragedies? Research drama, the novel, poetry.

5. Why are Tragedies intriguing? Watch the TedEd Talk which explores why we still enjoy tragedies

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eVRU5MVYNiw>

In your opinion, why is Tragedy an enduring genre? Can you think of any modern texts which follow the conventions of Tragedy? Consider modern texts and films (think about Marvel characters and Star Wars) - you might be surprised to find how many modern texts use tragic conventions as the basis of their narratives.

6. You will study Othello as your Shakespearean tragedy. Find out the plot. How does it adhere to tragic conventions?

You can watch some adaptations on Youtube:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=clcCE3s_rFc (15 age rating)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RicgaOy64>

And don't forget...

The first rule about (virtual) book club is....

Reading widely is the best preparation for any English-related course.

Additionally, if you have opted for Literature, you will have to choose your own texts to write your coursework essay, which will count for 20% of your final grade. You could use this time to help you think about the texts you enjoy and feel passionately about.

If you would like to join our virtual book club, head over to our newly crated Padlet space and leave us a message to say you're in!

<https://padlet.com/macnamarae/oybur6uof1uy>

Then, spend some time choosing a text you would like to read. Obviously, you may be limited to the texts in your house but you may have an e-reader and be able to choose more widely. There are also plenty of classic texts which are available to read online for free. Follow the link below to find them

<https://www.bustle.com/p/21-classic-books-that-you-can-read-for-free-online-8483838>

Please commit to a text you would like to read by Monday 30th and upload a picture of the front cover to our Padlet so we can see what everyone has chosen. If we aim to complete reading by April 20th we can set aside some time to have a virtual chat about what we enjoyed, etc.