

Year 11 into Y12 – Summer Reading List.

We are so excited that you'll be joining us to do English Lit in September. The holiday stretching ahead of you is an ideal time to get ahead with some of the reading for Y12. There are links here to help you order these books, or you could find second-hand copies elsewhere. It will be really useful if you can get the same editions as the ones here, especially for the exam texts, so that when we are studying them in class we'll all have the same page numbers.

Compulsory exam text for study in September:

Brighton Rock, Graham Greene

<https://www.hive.co.uk/Product/Graham-Greene/Brighton-Rock/145748>

or [Brighton Rock By Graham Greene | Used | 9780099478478 | World of Books \(wob.com\)](#)

In our lessons, we'll be working on the assumption that you've already read this book. So if you want to avoid spoilers, you need to come in September having read it! There isn't time to read every word together in class the way that you may be used to from GCSE studies.

Advised:

Atonement, Ian McEwan (exam text for study later in the year)

<https://www.hive.co.uk/Product/Ian-McEwan/Atonement/143237>

or [Atonement By Ian McEwan | Used | 9780099429791 | World of Books \(wob.com\)](#)

The Big Sleep, Raymond Chandler (background for our study of crime writing)

<https://www.hive.co.uk/Product/Raymond-Chandler/The-Big-Sleep/613534>

If you have time:

The Murder of Roger Ackroyd, Agatha Christie (background for our study of crime writing)

<https://www.hive.co.uk/Product/Agatha-Christie/The-Murder-of-Roger-Ackroyd/15034627>

Death of A Naturalist, Seamus Heaney (for poetry coursework during Y12)

<https://www.hive.co.uk/Product/Seamus-Heaney/Death-of-a-Naturalist/1516938>

Selected Poems by Sylvia Plath, edited by Carol Ann Duffy (for poetry coursework during Y12)

<https://www.hive.co.uk/Product/Sylvia-Plath/Sylvia-Plath-Poems-Chosen-by-Carol-Ann-Duffy/22384031>

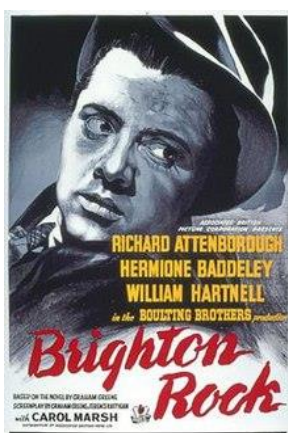
You may be eligible for a bursary to help with the costs of books for your sixth form courses. Email Mrs Thomas if you want to find out more about this: stthomas@combertonvc.org

English Literature – A Level transition tasks

In September, one of our first texts for study will be *Brighton Rock* by Graham Greene. As an A level Literature student, you're expected to have read it by the time you arrive. Unfortunately, there is no time to read along in class – and you wouldn't want to, as you'll prefer to arrive bursting with ideas and views to share!

Task 1:

Read *Brighton Rock* all the way through. Don't rush: a careful first reading will help you when you come to re-read sections for analysis in the autumn. Avoid any film versions of it until you've finished reading so they don't influence your personal, imaginative responses to the characters, or mislead you, as some events are added or omitted in them. However once you've finished reading, you may want to watch the 1948 film that Greene adapted, and consider carefully how it differs from the book, written 10 years earlier, and why that might be.



Task 2:

Create a page of notes on Graham Greene by using the questions below to guide your research.

Contexts

- What is known about his life?
- Who were his influences?
- What were his other famous books?

Background to this book:

- What was happening in 1939?
- What were the dominant beliefs about gender roles, religion, class, etc.? (careful: it's easy to generalise here...)
- What events / issues might have influenced Greene?
- How might the writer have adapted the text to reflect contemporary society or consciously be critical of society in some way?

Different Perspectives

- How was it received at the time? (see if you can find a review from when it first came out)
- How is it perceived now?

Task 3: Reading for Pleasure

In Y12 you will have one lesson each week to read a novel of your choice – giving you time to keep up with your own reading and letting you develop your own tastes. Often pupils ask us for recommendations, so here are a few titles to get you started. See if you can read one of these over the holiday, or at least choose one to start in your reading lessons in September.

Birdsong by Sebastian Faulks

Things falls Apart by Chinua Achebe

The Color Purple by Alice Walker

Of Mice & Men by John Steinbeck

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood

Mrs Dalloway by Virginia Woolf

Persuasion by Jane Austen

The Secret History Donna Tartt

Tess of the D'Urbervilles by Thomas Hardy

Great Expectations by Charles Dickens

The Kite Runner by Khaled Hosseini

The Little Stranger by Sarah Waters

Jane Eyre by Charlotte Bronte

White Teeth by Zadie Smith

Enjoy a summer of reading!

Mrs Norman

English Literature Subject Leader

enorman@combertonvc.org