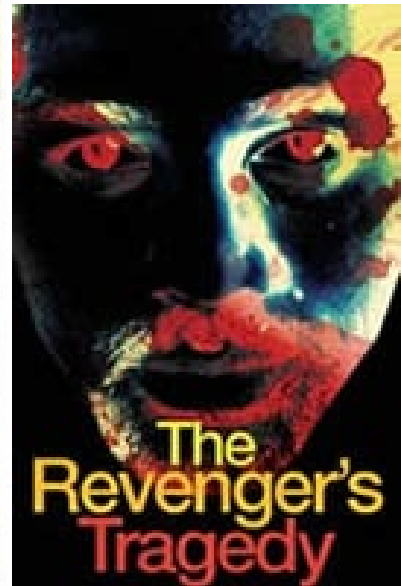
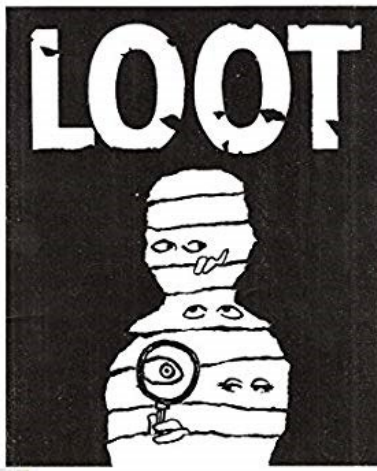
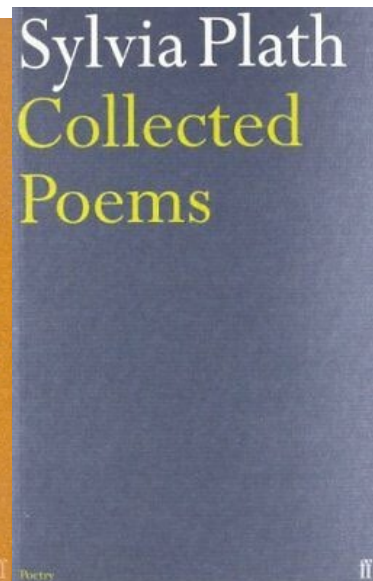
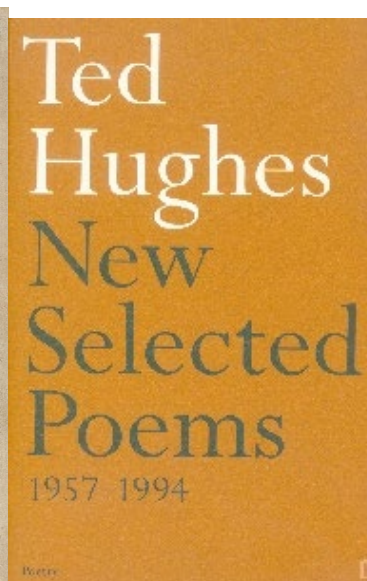
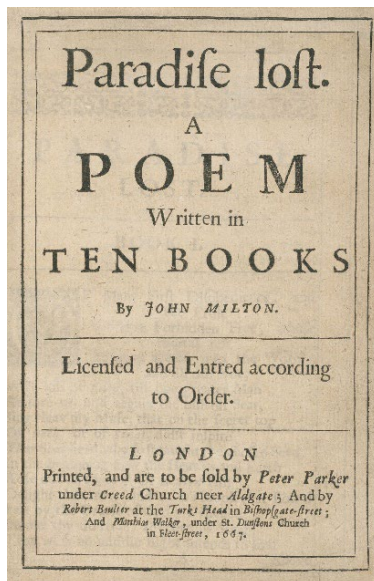


PLAYBILL
THE MUSIC BOX



A Level English Literature



The Latymer School



English is a popular subject choice at A Level. We follow the Eduqas English Literature specification which offers pupils a broad, engaging and challenging passage through the study of English Literature. We are proud of our lessons at A Level and our pupils are well prepared for the AS and A level examinations and beyond.

The curriculum explores texts from a wide range of social, historical and cultural contexts and seeks to develop the skills of reading and engaging with literary criticism at a high level.

AS Level:

Component 1 - Poetry and Drama

Selected poetry of Ted Hughes and Joe Orton's 'Loot'

Component 2 – Prose

Charlotte Bronte's 'Jane Eyre' and Jean Rhys' 'Wide Sargasso Sea.'

A Level:

Component 1 – Poetry

Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath

John Milton's 'Paradise Lost Book IX'

Component 2 – Drama

Joe Orton's 'Loot' and Thomas Middleton's 'The Revenger's Tragedy'

William Shakespeare's 'Hamlet'

Component 3 – Unseen

Prose passage from the Interwar Years

Poetry

Component 4 – Coursework Prose Study

Comparative analysis of 'Jane Eyre' and a text of choice from the following list:

Kazuo Ishiguro - 'Never Let Me Go'

Sarah Waters - 'The Little Stranger'

Helen Oyeyemi – 'Mr Fox'

Andrew Michael Hurley – 'The Loney'

Monica Ali – 'Brick Lane'

Colm Toibin – 'Brooklyn'

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie – 'Purple Hibiscus'

Marilynne Robinson – 'Gilead'

The course is rigorous and challenging; pupils are expected to write essays, conduct further research and deliver presentations on aspects of the texts. We have also made some time in the year to allow students to develop their creativity by writing their own poetry. We get exceptional results at A level every year and many students go on to read English at university. The Department also provides excellent enrichment opportunities for A level student to go beyond the curriculum, with clubs, trips, frequent lectures and visitors from outside the school coming to discuss aspects of literature every year – occasionally even a former student!

Why Study A Level English Literature?

1. It's about creativity – not just in the texts you read but how you respond, think and change in relation to them. What does it mean to you?
2. Read a rich range of wonderful novels, poems, plays and texts that can't easily be categorised! (plus works of history, philosophy, theory and more...).
3. We're shaped by language, so studying its use and significance is both important and exciting.
4. English isn't always English - texts in English come from across the globe and bear witness to the diverse cultures that produced them.
5. English doesn't always start out in the UK: texts in translation help us to read across national borders and to think about communication between cultures.
6. The medium is the message - whether it's a medieval manuscript, a hand-printed book, or an e-reader. Literature has always shaped and responded to technological change.
7. Be taught by enthusiastic + committed experts who are reading, thinking, researching + writing too!
8. Literature is a part of our living cultural ecosystem: it's still growing, developing and changing.
9. Employers LOVE English graduates: research shows companies value communication, collaboration, critical thinking, independence, adaptability. English teaches these. So become an effective researcher, great communicator and active, lifelong learner.
10. The discipline of English is about dissensus as well as consensus. The disagreements are as fascinating and intellectually engaging as the agreements!
11. What you read for pleasure is also part of what you study – it will fuel you as a reader and as a person for the rest of your life.
12. Join the greatest, longest conversation of humanity.
13. It's sociable! English degrees rely on talking, arguing and communicating with others.
14. Assessed in all kinds of different ways: creative work, reviews, presentations, coursework, discussions, essays, portfolios (traditional exams are rarely used in many degree courses.)
15. There are many different strands and combinations to choose from – English Literature, English Language, Creative Writing, Linguistics, Cultural studies, Liberal Arts, Comparative Literature + English is a great combined or joint honours subject too!
16. Often labelled as a 'Humanities' subject, some English degrees cross boundaries e.g. corpus analysis in stylistics.
17. Other subjects may study 'what' you are: English is about 'who' you are.
18. Learning from the past, in the present, for the future

ENGLISH DEPARTMENT READING LIST

General books on critical approaches:

Beginning Theory: An Introduction to Literary and Cultural Theory, Peter Barry

Literary Theory: an introduction, Terry Eagleton

Literature in the Modern World, Dennis Walder

Literary Theory: A very short introduction, Jonathan Culler

Against Interpretation and Other Essays, Susan Sontag

Doing English, Robert Eagleston

Specifically on Modernism:

Modernism: A Very Short Introduction, Christopher Butler

Modernism: A guide to European Literature 1890-1930, Malcolm Bradbury and James McFarlane

The Cambridge Companion to Modernism, Michael Levenson

Loot/Orton:

Joe Orton (Modern Dramatists), Maurice Charney

Joe Orton (Contemporary Writers), Christopher Bigsby

Prick up your Ears (Joe Orton biography), John Lahr

Milton/Paradise Lost:

The Connell Guide to John Milton's Paradise Lost, Caroline Moore

The Cambridge Companion to Milton, Dennis Danielson

Restoration, Rose Tremain

Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath:

The Silent Woman, Janet Malcolm

The Bell Jar, Sylvia Plath

The Unauthorised Life (Biography of Hughes), Jonathan Bate

The Unabridged Journals of Sylvia Plath

Her Husband: Ted Hughes and Sylvia Plath – A Marriage, Diane Middlebrook

Grief is the thing with feathers, Max Porter

Tragedy (Revenge Tragedy and Hamlet):

Revenge Tragedy: Aeschylus to Armageddon, John Kerrigan

1599: A Year in the Life of Shakespeare, James Shapiro

The Subject of Tragedy, Catherine Belsey

Still Harping on Daughters: Women and Drama in the Age of Shakespeare, Lisa Jardine

Revenge Tragedies of the Renaissance, Janet Clare