

# Transition to A Level English Literature – Additional Tasks

To be a successful English Literature A Level Student, nothing is more important than reading widely – a range of genres, written by authors from different countries and from different periods of History.

**Task 1** – Select any three books from the list below to read. You should create a 5-10-minute presentation on one of the novels providing a personal response, commentary on interesting character or theme and the significance of context.

- Ian McEwen ***Atonement***
- George Orwell ***1984***
- Ray Bradbury ***Fahrenheit 451***
- Sylvia Plath ***The Bell Jar***
- Vera Brittain ***Testament of Youth***
- Sebastian Faulks ***Birdsong***
- Khaled Hosseini ***A Thousand Splendid Suns***
- Cormac McCarthy ***The Road***
- Emily Bronte ***Wuthering Heights***
- Oscar Wilde ***The Picture of Dorian Grey***
- Alice Walker ***The Colour Purple***
- Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie ***Purple Hibiscus***
- Chinua Achebe ***Things Fall Apart***
- Thomas Hardy ***Tess of the D'Urbervilles***
- Louis de Bernières ***Captain Corelli's Mandolin***
- Jane Austen ***Persuasion***
- Evelyn Waugh ***Brideshead Revisited***
- Arundhati Roy ***God of Small Things***
- Angela Carter ***The Bloody Chamber***
- L.P. Hartley ***The Go-Between***
- Khaled Hosseini ***A Thousand Splendid Suns***
- Aldous Huxley ***Brave New World***
- Kazuo Ishiguro ***Never Let Me Go***
- Andrea Levy ***Small Island***
- Toni Morrison ***Beloved***
- Sarah Waters ***The Little Stranger***
- Jeanette Winterson ***Oranges are not the only Fruit***

**Task 2** – Read the poem ‘Grief’ by Elizabeth Barrett Browning below.

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/47646/grief-56d2283e927df>

Write a short essay (roughly 500-750 words) responding to the following question: Explore how Barrett Browning presents strong emotions in ‘Grief’.

Success Criteria:

- *Be a relevant response to the question*
- *Explore how Barrett Browning creates meanings through her choice of language, form and structure*
- *Make links between the poem and its context*

## Additional Tasks

**Listen**

- Choose an episode of *The Good Read* (perhaps based on the celebrity guest) and listen to the novels that they discuss. From this, you could choose one of the three novels to read yourself.  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006v8jn/episodes/player?page=1>

**Visit**

- The Globe Theatre – see a play or take a tour of the amazing theatre
- British Library – visit the Treasures of the British Library, a free exhibition of the library’s most prized objects

**Do**

- Start a book club with your friends
- Look at the list of recommended books from Emma Watson’s reading group, Our Shared Shelf:  
<https://www.goodreads.com/group/show/179584-our-shared-shelf>
- Read a range of books from the Man Booker shortlist: <https://thebookerprizes.com/fiction/2020>
- Watch the TV series *Novels that Shaped Our World* for an overview of key literary movements:  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m000b8mh/novels-that-shaped-our-world>