



THE PRIORY ACADEMY

LSST

Sixth Form Induction Day
English Literature Taster Session



Starter activity - Tragedy

How is this different from studying '*Macbeth*' or '*Romeo and Juliet*' at GCSE?

There is a much deeper approach to understanding the principles of tragedy that Aristotle laid down in his critical text '*Poetics*' in 335 BCE.

You will also learn how to explore the texts through a feminist or Marxist angle.



The bigger picture!

Plays:

'Othello' by William Shakespeare

'Death of a Salesman' by Arthur Miller

Poetry:

John Keats

Oscar Wilde (The Ballad of Reading Gaol)

Robert Browning (Porphyria's Lover, My Last Duchess, The Laboratory)

George Crabbe (Peter Grimes)

Novels:

The Murder of Roger Ackroyd by Agatha Christie

Atonement by Ian McEwan



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NEA (non examined assessment)

Here, students take a 'slant' from an anthology of critical approaches to Literature

10% - an essay on a collection of poetry – some free choice here

10% - an essay on a prose text - some free choice here

<--80% examination in Year 13 of texts
20% coursework (total)

Top tips for studying English Literature at A Level – the Greek influence...

Greek term:

Megalopsychia

Hubris

Hamartia

Peripeteia

Anagnorisis

What it means:

'Greatness of soul'

Extreme arrogance

A fatal 'flaw' that contributes to the hero's demise

Turning point/ point of no return

Moment of desperate realisation



Shakespeare's 'Othello'

Because Shakespeare didn't put in many stage directions, this has given directors and film makers carte blanche to cast and stage the play in creative ways.

Othello is set in Venice. It begins with Iago telling Roderigo about why he hates Othello, who is a General in the Venetian army. Basically, Othello has promoted another man called Cassio when Iago thought the job of 'lieutenant' should have gone to him!

Watch this

[Act 1 Scene 1 – Opening to Iago and Roderigo | Culture in Quarantine: Shakespeare \(era.org.uk\)](#)

What makes this dramatic/ interesting to watch?

Arthur Miller's 'Death of A Salesman'

This more modern drama, written in 1948 deals with domestic tragedy that is more relatable to everyday people, or as we say 'Everyman'. Here Biff and his Dad are arguing about the ideal of seeking success in the business world.

[Failure of the American Dream in Death of a Salesman - YouTube](#)



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Ian McEwan's 'Atonement'

Crime texts are complex...

This postmodern text helps us to explore the human condition and why intense human emotion and interference can lead to tragic events.

[The Atonement \(2007\) - beginning and the fountain scene - YouTube](#)



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What do I need to do to prepare before September?

If you are taking English Literature as a subject from September you will need to:

Buy and read 'The Murder of Roger Ackroyd' by Agatha Christie (any version). This is a Paper 2 set text.

Buy and read 'The Bloody Chamber' by Angela Carter (any version) – which is a potential text for NEA (coursework) study.



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