

The Nobel A level English Literature Summer Tasks:

1. Buy and read 'The Handmaid's Tale'. If you want to challenge yourself and impress your new teachers, read around the text too, e.g. see if you can find any interviews with Margaret Atwood, read reviews of the book, etc.
2. Read the poem 'Remember' by Christina Rossetti (below) and then write an essay in response to the following question: How does the poet present love in the poem 'Remember'?

Remember

(Christina Rossetti, 1830 – 1894)

Remember me when I am gone away,

Gone far away into the silent land;

When you can no more hold me by the hand,

Nor I half turn to go yet turning stay.

Remember me when no more day by day

You tell me of our future that you planned:

Only remember me; you understand

It will be late to counsel then or pray.

Yet if you should forget me for a while

And afterwards remember, do not grieve:

For if the darkness and corruption leave

A vestige of the thoughts that once I had,

Better by far you should forget and smile

Than that you should remember and be sad.

3. Finally, please choose a challenging text to read over the summer that interests you. This does not have to be a classic and can be modern but must be literature of merit. It should not be a text that you have read already or that you are required to read for any of your A level courses. It could be a collection of poetry or short stories, a play or a novel. You will be required to give a 5 minute presentation on this text in your first week back at school so please be ready to present when you return in September.

In your presentation, you should:

- introduce and summarise your chosen text without giving away any spoilers
- explain what made you choose the text
- explain what makes it literature of merit (providing evidence to support your arguments, e.g. analysis of a short extract or a series of quotations)
- explain what you learnt from reading your text (key themes/writer's message)
- conclude by rating your chosen text and justifying your rating

You should use a PPT to help you present your ideas clearly to the class, ensure that you provide the class with a copy of your extract/quotations on paper and be prepared for questions from the class.

Some suggestions of texts for Task 4

(you do not have to choose from this list if you do not want to):

Plays:

- *A Doll's House* by Henrik Ibsen
- *The Accrington Pals* by Peter Whelan
- *All My Sons* by Arthur Miller
- *The Crucible* by Arthur Miller
- *The Importance of Being Earnest* by Oscar Wilde

Poets:

- Emily Dickinson
- Sylvia Plath
- Ted Hughes
- William Blake
- Carol Ann Duffy
- Any WW1 poet
- Owen Sheers

Novels:

- *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Bronte
- *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte
- *Pride and Prejudice* by Jane Austen
- *Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier
- *1984* by George Orwell
- *Brave New World* by Aldous Huxley
- *The Bell Jar* by Sylvia Plath
- *Birdsong* by Sebastian Faulks
- *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley
- *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest* by Ken Kesey
- *The Awakening* by Kate Chopin
- *A Farewell to Arms* by Ernest Hemingway
- *The Yellow Wallpaper* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman
- *All Quiet on the Western Front* by Erich Maria Remarque

Please bring all summer work and your copy of 'The Handmaid's Tale' with you to your first English literature lesson in September.