



## English Literature – AQA English Literature B

### Congratulations on choosing A-Level English Literature.

You will be following the English Literature syllabus offered by the AQA exam board: English Literature B.

You will be starting the course studying the literary genre of tragedy. You will be studying four texts: One compulsory Shakespeare play (Othello or King Lear), one further drama text (Richard II - Shakespeare), one poetry text (Keats) and one prose text (The Great Gatsby).

To get yourself off to a good start there is some research you should do over the summer holidays:

1. Read the chosen prose text: The Great Gatsby by S Fitzgerald and make chapter summaries.
2. Complete research notes on the following, for aspects of tragedy:
  - Who was Aristotle? What did he say about what tragedy was? What sections did he break a tragic plot into?
  - Look up the meaning of the following key terms: Tragic hero, hamartia, hubris, catharsis and anagnorisis.
  - Who was Seneca? What did he say about? What did he include in his tragedies?
  - What can you discover about medieval concepts of tragedy? Who or what had control over tragedy? (The individual or something/one else?)
  - What can you discover about Shakespearian tragedies? What elements did Shakespeare make use of from earlier tragedies? Outline the plot of two of his tragedies explaining what 'tragic' elements he his making use of.
  - What is a Jacobean revenge tragedy? What happens in one of these plays? Outline the plot of one Jacobean revenge tragedy, highlighting the 'tragic' elements.
  - What is a modern tragedy? Find two examples and outline why they are modern and what 'classical' elements they make use of,
3. Who were the Plantagenet family? What did they believe about power, society and religion?
4. Who was Richard II? What happened to him and why?
5. Find out the plot for Richard II and the tragic elements in the play.

Good Luck. See you in September.