

WINDSOR SIXTH FORM SUMMER WORK



A Level English Literature

As an English Literature student, you will be expected to independently explore a range of texts from different genres, different literary periods and different writers.

To become a true expert in literature, you will be required to identify the contextual influences of the texts in front of you, making links to the literary periods in which they were written or set.

In this pack you will find three texts: two poems and an extract from a novel. Read each text carefully, and then do some research into the author/poet/playwright. Once you have done this, identify which literary period they would fit into from the Literary Period Timeline on page 2 (give this a good read, too!). Also, begin to identify any key literary techniques that you were taught at GCSE level. The first text has been started for you.

Final challenge: take two of the texts (choose the ones you feel most comfortable analysing), and answer this question:

Compare and contrast how two writers present ideas about love in two texts of your choice.

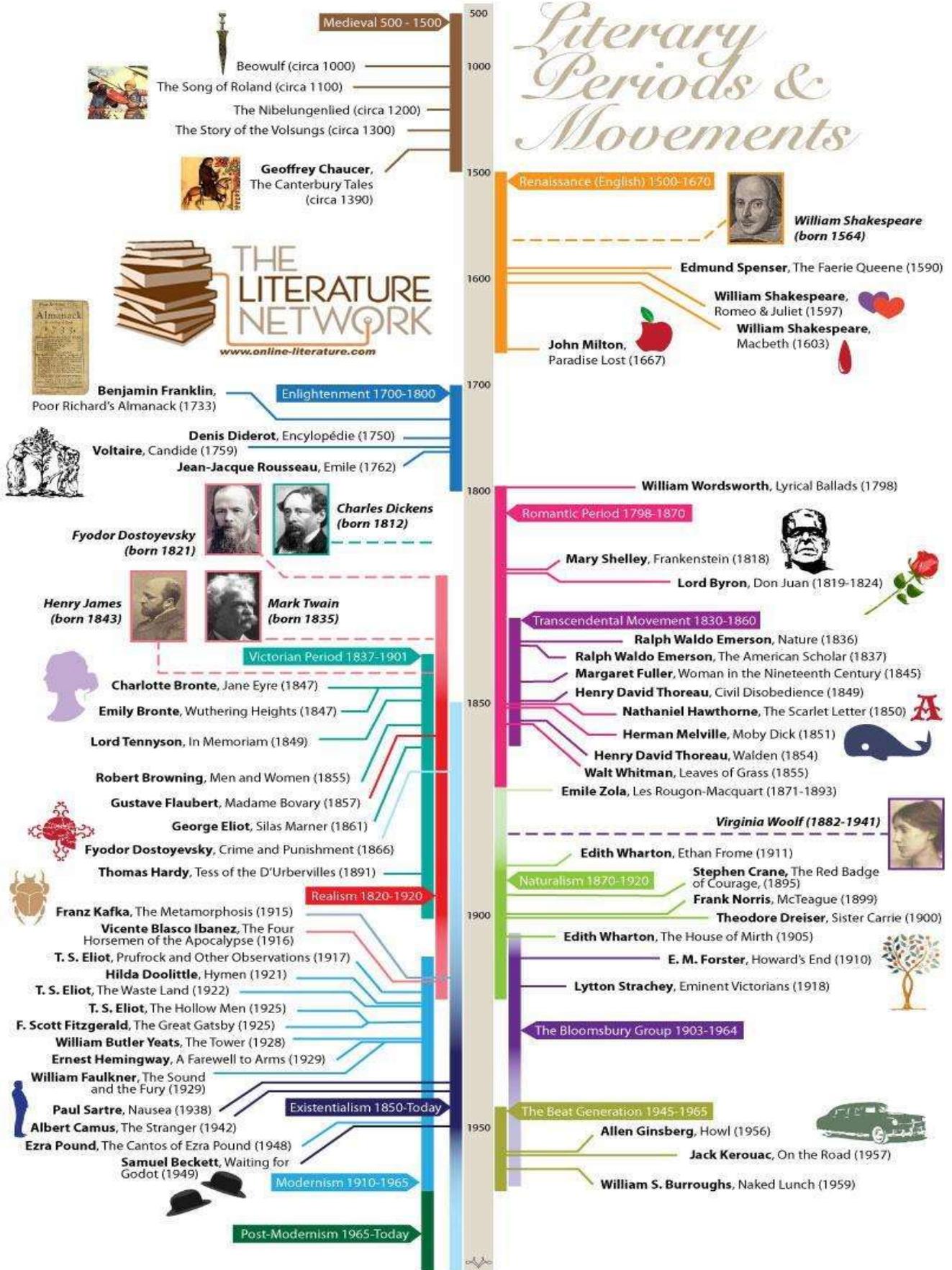
Finally, at the back of this pack you will find a reading list containing some of the texts you will be reading during the A Level course and some wider reading. Get started!

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Literary Periods & Movements



Text A

Sonnet 130 My Mistress' Eyes Are Nothing Like The Sun, William Shakespeare

Juxtaposing imagery



My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun;
Coral is far more red than her lips' red;
If snow be white, why then her breasts are dun;
If hairs be wires, black wires grow on her head.

I have seen roses damask'd, red and white,
But no such roses see I in her cheeks;
And in some perfumes is there more delight
Than in the breath that from my mistress reeks.

I love to hear her speak, yet well I know
That music hath a far more pleasing sound;
I grant I never saw a goddess go;
My mistress, when she walks, treads on the ground:
And yet, by heaven, I think my love as rare
As any she belied with false compare.

Timeline position and details about this literary period (trends, key works of literature, influences):

Renaissance...

Significant details about society at the time of writing/key historical events:

Links within the text to the contextual and literary period

Text B

Of cloudless climes and starry skies;
And all that's best of dark and bright
Meet in her aspect and her eyes;
Thus mellowed to that tender light
Which heaven to gaudy day denies.

One shade the more, one ray the less,
Had half impaired the nameless grace
Which waves in every raven tress,
Or softly lightens o'er her face;
Where thoughts serenely sweet express,
How pure, how dear their dwelling-place.

And on that cheek, and o'er that brow,
So soft, so calm, yet eloquent,
The smiles that win, the tints that glow,
But tell of days in goodness spent,
A mind at peace with all below,
A heart whose love is innocent!

Timeline position and details about this literary period (trends, key works of literature, influences):

Significant details about society at the time of writing/key historical events:

Links within the text to the contextual and literary period:

The Great Gatsby, F. Scott Fitzgerald

She was the first "nice" girl he had ever known. In various unrevealed capacities he had come in contact with such people but always with indiscernible barbed wire between. He found her excitingly desirable. He went to her house, at first with other officers from Camp Taylor, then alone. It amazed him—he had never been in such a beautiful house before. But what gave it an air of breathless intensity was that Daisy lived there—it was as casual a thing to her as his tent out at camp was to him. There was a ripe mystery about it, a hint of bedrooms upstairs more beautiful and cool than other bedrooms, of gay and radiant activities taking place through its corridors and of romances that were not musty and laid away already in lavender but fresh and breathing and redolent of this year's shining motor cars and of dances whose flowers were scarcely withered. It excited him too that many men had already loved Daisy—it increased her value in his eyes. He felt their presence all about the house, pervading the air with the shades and echoes of still vibrant emotions.

Timeline position and details about this literary period (trends, key works of literature, influences):

Significant details about society at the time of writing/key historical events:

Links within the text to the contextual and literary period:

Reading List

Love Through the Ages

The Great Gatsby by F. Scott Fitzgerald

Othello by William Shakespeare

Extra: A Room with A View by E. M. Forster

World War One

Regeneration by Pat Barker

My Boy Jack by David Haig (play text)

Extra: All Quiet on the Western Front by Erich Maria Remarque