

A Level English Literature

Transition Tasks



Summary

1. One Flesh essay (bring to your first lesson)
2. Read one of the novels from the reading list
3. Order a copy of The Great Gatsby



Love Through the Ages: Aging Love – analytical essay

You should bring a printed copy of this essay to your first Literature lesson in September.

Task: Read the poem below. How does Jennings present aging love in “One Flesh”?

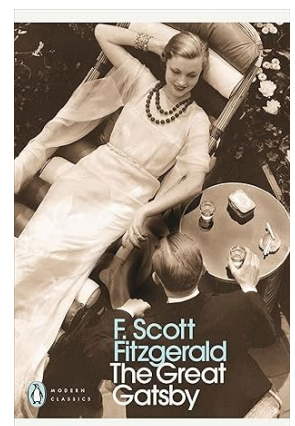
You should write an essay of around 500 words exploring Jennings’ use of language, sound and structure. You should proof-read your work carefully and type up your answer. You might wish to start by thinking about the underlined sections.

One Flesh by Elizabeth Jennings

Lying apart now, each in a separate bed,
He with a book, keeping the light on late,
She like a girl dreaming of childhood,
All men elsewhere - it is as if they wait
Some new event: the book he holds unread,
Her eyes fixed on the shadows overhead.

Tossed up like flotsam from a former passion,
How cool they lie. They hardly ever touch,
Or if they do, it is like a confession
Of having little feeling - or too much.
Chastity faces them, a destination
For which their whole lives were a preparation.

Strangely apart, yet strangely close together,
Silence between them like a thread to hold
And not wind in. And time itself's a feather
Touching them gently. Do they know they're old,
These two who are my father and my mother
Whose fire from which I came, has now grown cold?



Order a copy of *The Great Gatsby* for you to use in lessons from September. This is the version that will match the page numbers in lessons. At the start of the text, Carraway describes going to his cousin Daisy’s house and meeting her husband Tom and her friend Jordan.



This summer, read at least one of these novels from the lists on the next pages and create a brief summary in the box below:

Chosen text:	
Key Events and Characters <i>What happens in the novel and to whom?</i>	
Themes and Big Ideas <i>What did you learn from the novel?</i> <i>What does it teach us about life?</i>	

It might be that you end up choosing this text for your coursework! Be prepared to talk about your summer reading at the start of the course in September.

A Level Literature Reading List

Students should read one text from the relevant list during each school holiday

Texts suitable for comparison with A Doll's House

Early Twentieth Century (October half term Y12)

Capote, Truman: *Breakfast at Tiffany's*
 Du Maurier, Daphne: *My Cousin Rachel*
 Fitzgerald, F Scott: *Tender is the Night*
 Forster, EM: *Where Angels Fear to Tread*
 Hurston, Zora Neale: *Their Eyes Were Watching God*
 Lawrence, DH: *Lady Chatterley's Lover*
 Mitchell, Margaret: *Gone With the Wind*
 Waugh, Evelyn: *Brideshead Revisited*
 Woolf, Virginia: *Mrs Dalloway*
 Wharton, Edith: *The Age of Innocence*

Victorian/Gothic (Christmas Y12)

Austen, Jane: *Northanger Abbey*
 Bronte, Anne: *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall*
 Collins, Wilkie: *The Woman in White*
 Dickens, Charles: *Bleak House*
 Elliot, George: *Silas Marner*
 Gaskell, Elizabeth: *North and South*
 Hardy, Thomas: *Jude the Obscure*
 Maryatt, Florence: *The Blood of the Vampire*
 Radcliffe, Ann: *The Mysteries of Udolpho*
 Stoker, Bram: *Dracula*
 Wilde, Oscar: *The Picture of Dorian Gray*
 Carter, Angela: *The Bloody Chamber**
 Faber, Michel: *The Crimson Petal and the White**
 Forster, Margaret: *Lady's Maid**
 Waters, Sarah: *Fingersmith**

(*contemporary novels set in the Victorian era)

Post 1945 Fiction (February half term Y12)

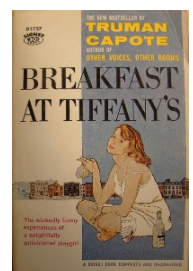
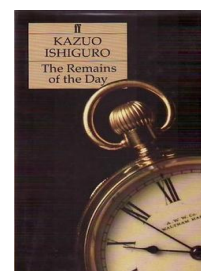
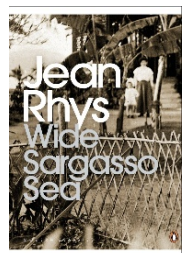
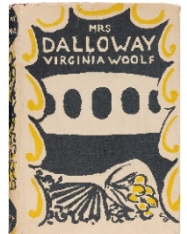
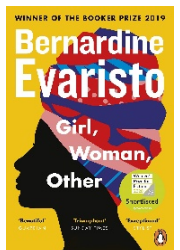
Adichie, Chmimanda Ngozi: *Americanah*
 Alderman, Naomi: *The Power*
 Angelou, Maya: *I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings*
 Banks, Ian: *The Wasp Factory*
 Burton, Jessie: *The Miniaturist*
 Crace, Jim: *Harvest*
 Evaristo, Bernadine: *Girl, Woman, Other*
 Highsmith, Patricia: *The Talented Mr. Ripley*
 Ishiguro, Kazuo: *The Remains of the Day*
 Jackson, Shirley: *We Have Always Lived in the Castle*
 Kay, Jackie: *Trumpet*
 McEwan, Ian: *Enduring Love*
 Morrison, Toni: *Beloved*
 Morrison, Toni: *Song of Solomon*
 Plath, Sylvia: *The Bell Jar*
 Rhys, Jean: *Wide Sargasso Sea*
 Rooney, Sally: *Normal People*
 Smith, Ali: *Hotel World*
 Smith, Zadie: *Swing Time*
 Smith, Zadie: *White Teeth*
 Shamsie, Kamila: *Homefire*
 Spark, Muriel: *The Prime of Miss Jean Brodie*

Recommended general reading

(Summer Y11 into 12; summer Y12 into 13)

Achebe, Chinua: *Things Fall Apart*
 Adichie, Chimamanda Ngozi: *Half of a Yellow Sun*
 Austen, Jane: *Persuasion***
 Barker, Pat: *Life Class***
 Barker, Pat: *Regeneration***
 Barry, Sebastian: *A Long, Long Way***
 Brontë, Charlotte: *Jane Eyre***
 Brontë, Emily: *Wuthering Heights***
 Bulawayo, NoViolet: *We Need New Names*
 Burgess, Anthony: *A Clockwork Orange*
 Chopin, Kate: *The Awakening***
 Du Maurier, Daphne: *Rebecca***
 Faulks, Sebastian: *Birdsong***
 Forster, EM: *A Room with a View***
 Frayn, Michael: *Spies***
 Gaiman, Neil: *Neverwhere*
 Graves, Robert: *Goodbye to All That***
 Hardy, Thomas: *Tess of the D'Urbervilles***
 Hartley, LP: *The Go-Between***
 Heller, Joseph: *Catch 22*
 Hemingway, Ernest: *A Farewell to Arms***
 Hosseni, Khaled: *A Thousand Splendid Suns*
 Huxley, Aldous: *Brave New World*
 Ishiguro, Kazuo: *Never Let Me Go*
 Kerouac, Jack: *On The Road*
 Kesey, Ken: *One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest***
 Kureishi, Hanif: *The Buddha of Suburbia*
 Levy, Andrea: *Small Island*
 Lewycka, Marina: *A Short History of Tractors in Ukrainian*
 McEwan, Ian: *Atonement***
 Morgenstern, Erin: *The Night Circus*
 Orwell, George: *Nineteen Eighty-Four*
 Pierre, DBC: *Vernon God Little*
 Roy, Arundhati: *The God of Small Things***
 Rushdie, Salman: *Midnight's Children*
 Salinger, JD: *The Catcher in the Rye*
 Shelley, Mary: *Frankenstein*
 Steinbeck, John: *The Grapes of Wrath*
 Stockett, Kathryn: *The Help***
 Swift, Graham: *Waterland***
 Walker, Alice: *The Color Purple***
 Winterson, Jeanette: *Oranges are not the Only Fruit***
 Yates, Richard: *Revolutionary Road***

(**texts may not be used for an NEA but will support your understanding of literature in context)





Meadowhead School and Sixth Form Summer Read:

'There Are Rivers In The Sky'

By Elif Shafak

Looking for your beach or sofa read for this summer holiday?

- Why not give our 'Summer Read' a try?
- Once you've given it a go, we'd love to invite you to come along for a 'book club' style informal discussion about it on **Tuesday 14th October** at 4pm in the Meadowhead school library.

Suitable
for 16
and
above

"There Are Rivers in the Sky" is a sweeping novel by Elif Shafak that explores interconnected lives across time and continents, united by a single drop of water and a shared connection to the Epic of Gilgamesh. The story follows three main characters: Arthur, born in Victorian London; Narin, a young Yazidi girl in 2014 Turkey; and Zaleekhah, a hydrologist living in London in 2018. Their lives, linked by the themes of love, loss, memory, and the power of water, intertwine as they navigate challenging circumstances and face the consequences of their choices.

