

Sixth Form Y11-12 Transition Work Subject – English Literature

Due to be handed in first lesson in September. This work should take you approximately 6 hours to complete to a high standard.

Learning Objectives:

1. To develop a deeper contextual understanding of Shakespearean drama; to explore contexts of production and reception of Shakespearean plays at the time of writing.
2. To develop an understanding of tragedy as a genre in preparation for the study of two tragic plays.

Success Criteria:

Task 1 - A detailed, informative and salient presentation with imagery to support key ideas. Evidence of detailed research from a variety of websites or alternative sources of information. A clear, well structured presentation displaying evidence of independent research throughout. (Spend 3 hours on this task in total).

Task 2 – Full and detailed responses to each question as outlined below, demonstrating strong independent research skills in every area specified. Examples to support ideas, ready to feedback to others in September. (Spend 3 hours on this task in total).

Explanation of task:

Task 1 - Research then create a presentation about Shakespeare ready to present in September. You may use images or PowerPoint to support your presentation. Include details about Shakespeare's life, different genres of plays, common plot and structural features, Elizabethan theatre, The Globe theatre, costumes, Elizabethan theatre audiences, life during the Elizabethan era (consider the role of women, religion and race) and how this influenced the content of Shakespeare's plays etc. Find out as much about this topic as you can!

Task 2 – Develop your understanding of tragedy as a genre by researching then answering the following questions in as much depth as you can.

1. What is tragedy? Research at least three different definitions then formulate your own definition from this.
2. What are the key characteristics of tragedy?
3. What examples of tragic plays can you find? Research and write about the plot of at least three different tragedies. Explain what happens in each play, and which parts of the plot are to be considered 'tragic' according to your definition.
4. How are tragedies typically structured? How do the plays you have researched fit with this structure?
5. How has the tragedy genre changed over time? (Consider what tragic plays were like in Ancient Greece, Elizabethan times and Modern times.
6. Find out as much as you can about Tennessee Williams' life and work. Stretch and challenge: how is he connected to tragedy both personally and through his work? Explore in depth.

Resources to support your work:

BBC Bitesize

www.Shakespeare.org.uk

www.shakespearesglobe.com

<https://interestingliterature.com/2013/05/a-brief-history-of-tragedy/>

[Tennessee Williams | American playwright | Britannica](http://Tennessee-Williams | American playwright | Britannica)

www.britannica.com > biography > Tennessee-Williams

Other websites demonstrating independent research.

This work is important because it leads to a developed understanding of the context and production of Shakespearean texts. This addresses assessment objective 3 of the course; demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written and received.

If you do this you will then be able to link texts to their context in more depth and explore how context influences the writer's craft in a detailed way.