

*“A reader lives a thousand lives before he dies...
The man who never reads lives only one.” –
George R.R. Martin*

*“Reading is essential for those who seek to rise
above the ordinary.” – Jim Rohn*

*“The man who does not read is no better than
the man who can’t.” – Mark Twain*



A-Level English Literature

“Today a reader, tomorrow a leader.” – Margaret Fuller

*“The more that you read, the more things you will know. The more that you
learn, the more places you’ll go.” – Dr. Seuss*

*“These books gave Matilda a hopeful and comforting message: You
are not alone.” – Roald Dahl*



Do you...

- ...enjoy reading?
- ...expressing your opinion about characters and authors?
- ...like debating with others?
- ...find it interesting to learn about a writer's life and what inspired their stories?
- ...want to be a skilled orator, someone who can present their ideas coherently and confidently?

If you answered 'yes' to one or all the above, then English Literature could be the subject for you!

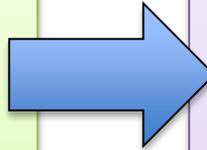
Keep scrolling to find out more.



English Literature – what’s the deal?

Riverside Sixth Form – entry requirements for English Literature

- At least a Grade 5 in GCSE English – both Language and Literature.
- Have an interest in reading, and in reading different *types* of literature (novels, plays, poetry, non-fiction).
- Confident in contributing to class discussion.
- Good command of written, academic English.
- Did you know? Last year, the A-Level pass rate was 100% A*-C!

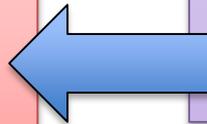


Why should I choose A-Level English Literature?

- A ‘traditionally’ academic subject – one that Russell Group universities love AND that will open you up to more degree options.
- Improves your written and spoken communication – important for **any** degree choice and future career.
- Sharpens your analytical and evaluative skills – important for **any** degree choice and future job interview.
- A-level English is an essential subject if you wish to study English at university.
- Some Drama, Media Studies, American Studies and Law degree courses will also ask for an English A-Level.
- Fun discussions in lesson!
- The beauty of English is that it is open to interpretation - no answer is wrong (provided it is justified using the text) and everyone’s opinion is heard and valued.

Why should I choose A-Level English Literature at Riverside?

- 5 hours a week – material is taught and explored thoroughly.
- You begin covering ALL the course content right from the start of the year.
- Dedicated coursework and exam preparation sessions.
- Milestone assessments with follow-up learning conversations to track your progress.
- Interesting and thought-provoking literature on offer!
- Theatre trips and external workshops to consolidate your understanding of the texts you study.



Think English is a 'useless' subject?

Think again...

1. John Legend studied English and African-American Literature

He may have been the recipient of an Oscar, a Golden Globe, and almost a dozen Grammys, but Mr. Legend was offered a place at Harvard and a scholarship to Georgetown University. He eventually attended the University of Pennsylvania before turning into one of the planet's biggest singer-songwriters.

He was talking about English when he wrote that song...

*'Cause all of me
Loves all of you
Love your curves
and all your edges*



Think English is a 'useless' subject? Think again...

2. Bake Off's Sue Perkins was an English student

Sue graduated with an English qualification in 1991 from New Hall at prestigious Cambridge, before TV came calling for the quirky cake-admirer.

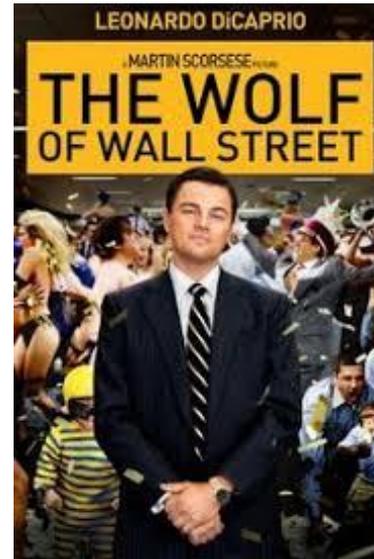


Think English is a 'useless' subject?

Think again...

3. World-famous film director Martin Scorsese has a degree in English

Scorsese enrolled in NYU's Washington Square College (now known as the College of Arts and Science), where he earned a B.A. in English in 1964.



Think English is a 'useless' subject? Think again...

4. Christine Ohuruogu

Despite becoming one of Team GB's most decorated Olympic athletes in recent years, Ohuruogu was not always destined for the sporting world. In 2005 she graduated from UCL with a degree in Linguistics, where she also represented the university at netball. It was athletics where she was always going to shine however. She won gold in the 400m at the 2008 Olympics in Beijing, but couldn't quite repeat the feat four years later at her home games in London, winning silver.



Think English is a 'useless' subject? Think again...

5. Renee Zellweger

Renee Zellweger's status as one of the biggest Hollywood stars at the turn of the millenium was formed while studying for a BA in English at the University of Texas, Austin, in 1991. She has gone on to become a critically acclaimed actress in films such as Cold Mountain, Chicago, and of course in the title role of the Bridget Jones movies. A five year break from acting is set to end with a return to the silver screen at the end of 2015.



Think English is a ‘useless’ subject? Think again...

6. Justin Trudeau

The next time your parents ask you, “What are you going to do with English?”, reply “Become the next prime minister”.

Trudeau has, among other degrees, a bachelor’s in English Literature from McGill.



“I love English because the teachers are incredibly friendly and group discussions are engaging and informative. We get to explore multiple interpretations through debates.”

“I love learning about hidden meanings in the texts I read. The atmosphere in the classroom is great: we discuss with one another and everybody gets involved.”

“I love the freedom to express my views and engage with my peers. And the bonus is that there are no wrong answers.”

What our students say about studying English Literature...

“English allows me the freedom and creativity to have weird ideas.”

“We learn lots of transferable skills in English, especially analytical skills which I’ve used in Spanish and EPQ. Watching an interpretation of ‘A Doll’s House’ set in colonial India was one of the highlights of the course.”

“A year ago, I never thought I’d be sat in an English classroom. But now, it is one of my favourite subjects.”

“English literature really helps you to push your limits and think outside the box. Texts can be interpreted in so many different ways.”

“The discussions and debates we have allows everyone’s opinions to be heard; these can then be included in your written answers.”

“I want to be a lawyer in the future so English is an extremely beneficial subject!”

What our students say about studying English Literature...

“English is a subject that poses a lot of thought-provoking questions.”

“I have always found it fascinating to explore why writers choose to write about what they do. English is also an important subject for many careers in the future.”

“I love poetry. I enjoy reading poems and coming up with my own interpretations as well as hearing how my peers have understood the poem.”

COURSE OVERVIEW

- 2 exams, sat at the end of Year 13
- 1 coursework portfolio, consisting of 2 essays

YEAR 13

YEAR 12

2 The specification overview

2a. Overview of A Level in English Literature (H472)

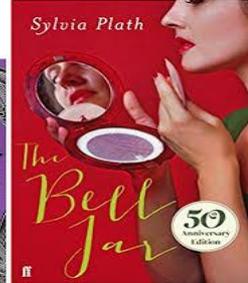
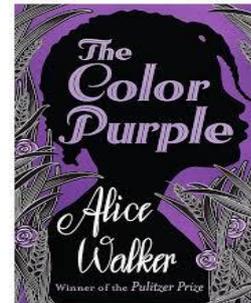
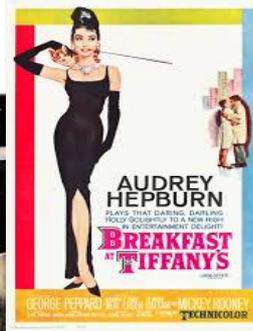
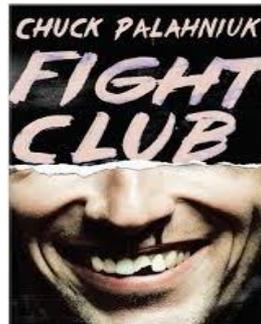
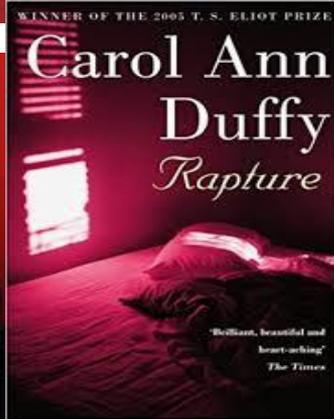
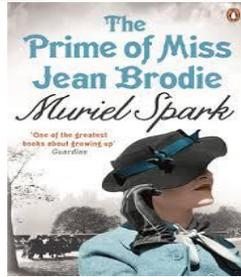
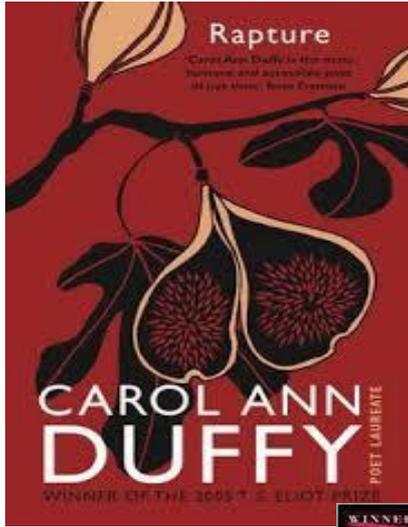
Learners must complete all components (01, 02 and 03) to be awarded the A Level in English Literature.

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
Component 01 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shakespeare • Drama and poetry pre-1900 <p><i>Measure for Measure</i> <i>Henrik Ibsen 'A Doll's House'</i> <i>Christina Rossetti Selected Poems</i></p>	Drama and poetry pre-1900 (01)* Written paper 60 marks Closed text 2 hours 30 minutes	40% of total A level
Component 02 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close reading in chosen topic area • Comparative and contextual study from chosen topic area <p><i>The Gothic</i> <i>Bram Stoker 'Dracula'</i> <i>Angela Carter 'The Bloody Chamber'</i></p>	Comparative and contextual study (02)* Written paper 60 marks Closed text 2 hours 30 minutes	40% of total A level
Component 03 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Close reading OR re-creative writing piece with commentary. • Comparative essay* <p><i>Carol Ann Duffy 'Rapture'</i> <i>Tennessee Williams 'A Streetcar Named Desire'</i> A second novel of your choice</p>	Literature post-1900 (03)* 40 marks Non-exam assessment	20% of total A level

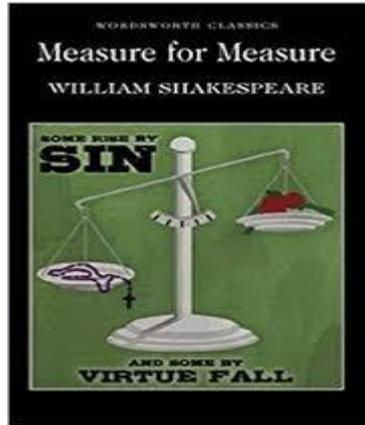
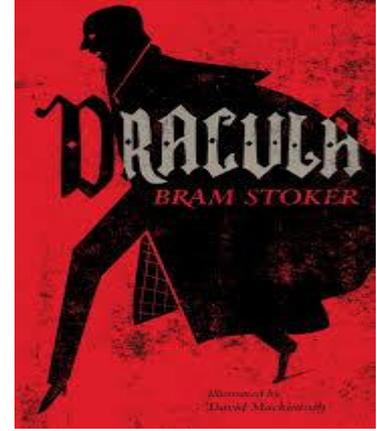
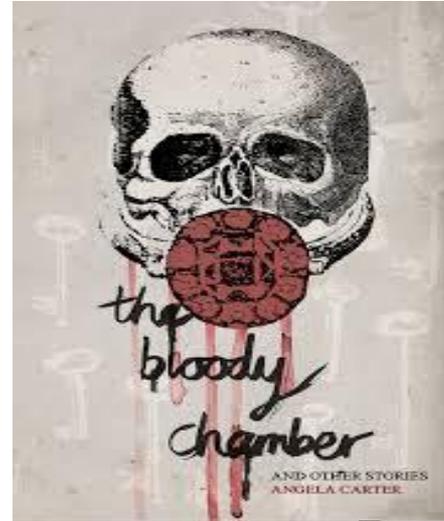
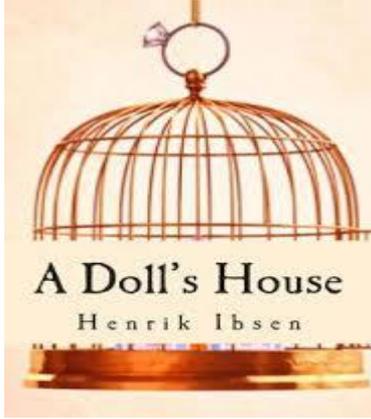
* Indicates synoptic assessment.

Learners who are retaking the qualification may carry forward their result for the non-exam assessment component.

Coursework – worth 20%



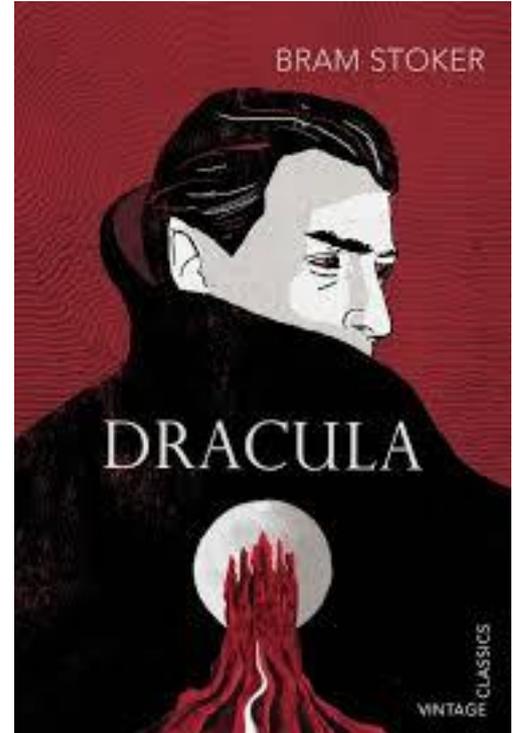
Exam – worth 80%, sat in Y13



Dracula

The Victorians were thinking about Brexit well before we were. The threat of ‘foreigners taking our jobs’ (well, they were more concerned about their women being kidnapped from under the noses of upstanding white British men) was a poignant fear at the time Stoker wrote *Dracula*.

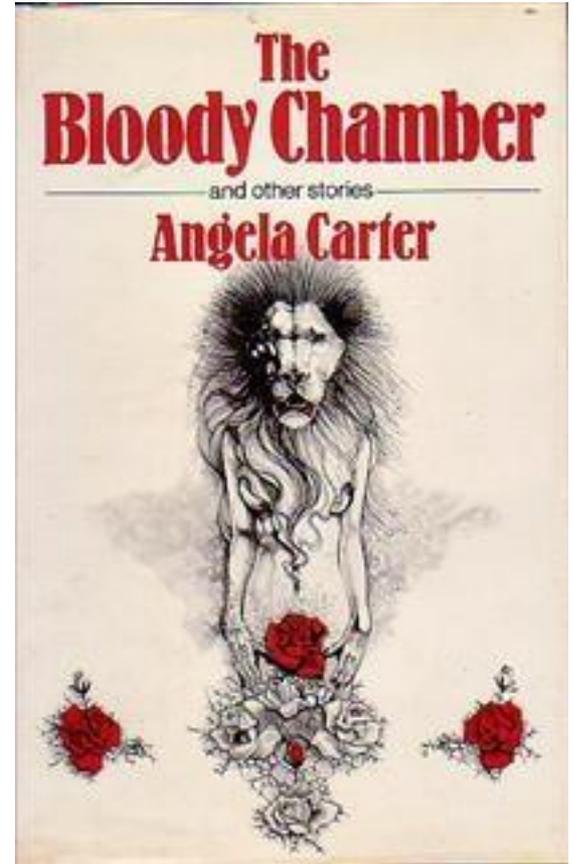
This novel is a fascinating exploration of good and evil, man and woman, modernity and tradition, as Stoker blurs the lines between these once-distinguishable concepts.



The Bloody Chamber

Most of us grew up hearing and watching fairy tales, at bedtime from our parents or courtesy of Disney. We know the moral messages behind Little Red Riding Hood and Cinderella... but what if Little Red Riding Hood was to fall in love with the wolf that kills her grandmother? Or Cinderella meets her Princess Charming?

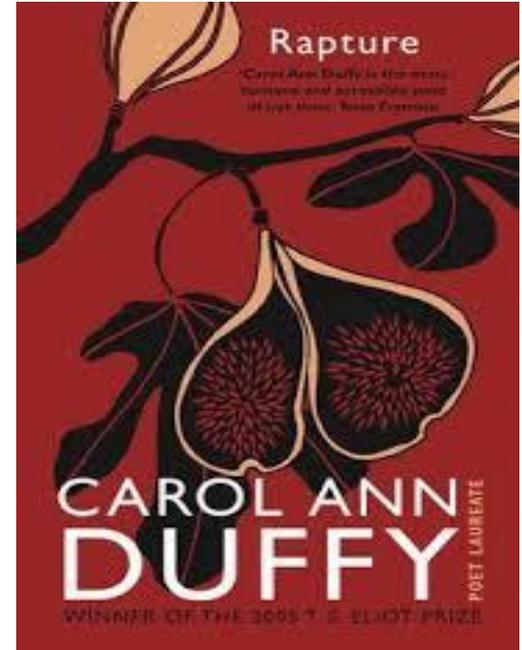
This collection of short stories will challenge the traditional fairy tales we all know so well, turning stereotypes on their head. Did someone say 'damsel in distress'?



Rapture

Often described as a 'book-length love poem', Duffy's poems in this anthology are beautiful, lyrical and up to date, whilst also drawing on literary traditions such as the Shakespearean sonnet.

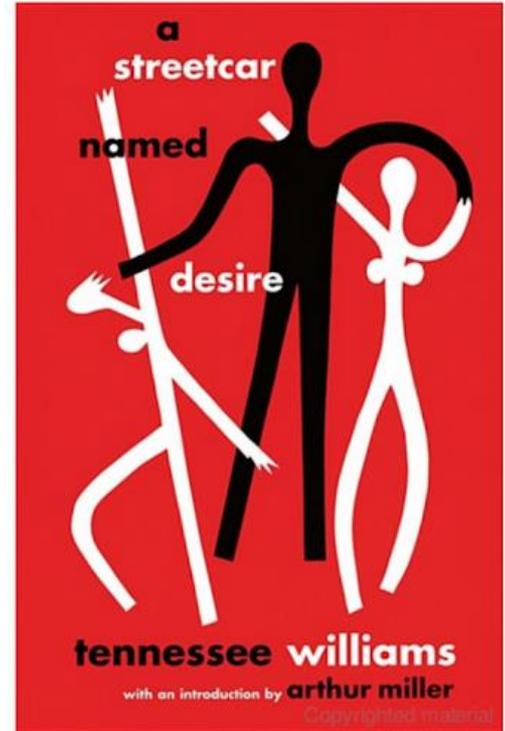
This collection reads like a story. Duffy is a poet who surprises with images that are precisely funny. In one poem, "*Text*", the speaker, anxiously looking for secret messages from her beloved, is described tending "the mobile now / like an injured bird". The image returns in "*Wintering*" where Duffy says "I clutch the small stiff body of my phone". You can select any poem that you are particularly drawn to for your analytical coursework essay.



A Streetcar Named Desire

A post-war, new age American alpha-male does not hesitate to show everyone who's boss. Read (and watch) this play for how his toxic masculinity pervades the lives of all the characters around him, and how it spells disaster for two sisters who have lost all their inheritance.

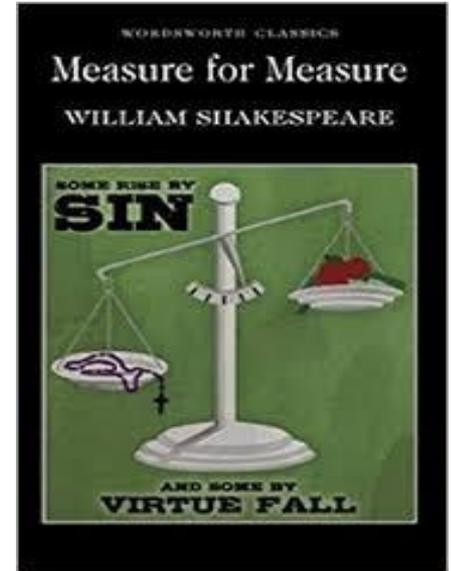
This play will get you thinking about issues to do with patriarchy, identity, sisterhood and mental illness. After all, don't we all have a little bit of Blanche in us? Don't we all want to escape reality sometimes?



Measure for Measure

One of Shakespeare's shortest, but most relevant plays to our time, *Measure for Measure* does exactly what it says on the tin.

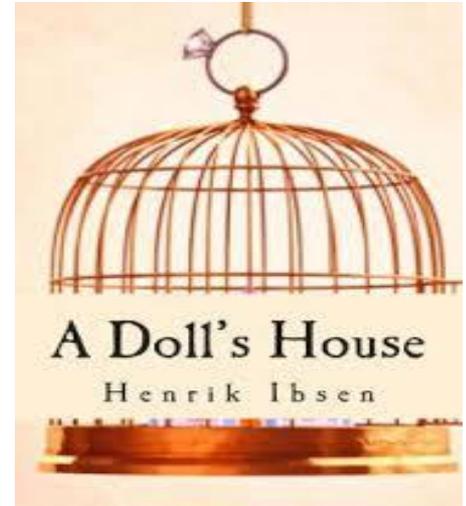
How should a leader balance justice and mercy?
Should a ruler punish those who have committed a crime of which he himself is guilty?
How far would you go to save your sibling's life?



A Doll's House

Women's equality and autonomy continues to be one of the most pervasive issues in modern times. A stay-at-home wife, loyal to her husband, a good mother to her children, has some dark secrets that threaten to ruin her perfect domestic domain. As the past comes back to haunt her, watch how Nora is caught up in a predicament of whether to break out of her 'doll's house' or not.

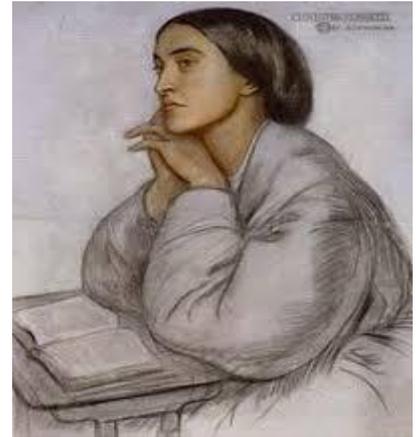
Ibsen shows his audience how one never knows what goes on behind closed doors...



Rossetti's 'Selected Poems'

Christina Rossetti was one of the most well-known female poets of the Victorian era, although she often lived in the shadow of her brother, the famous artist Dante Gabriel Rossetti. Behind her poems is a female voice seeking to be heard, a fallen woman's desire for recognition and redemption, and a devout Christian's plea for a closer relationship with God.

Rossetti's poetry is rich with meaning as she draws on tradition to question her place as a woman and as an individual in society. Must all women be blamed for Eve eating the apple?



Like what you see? Want to get a head start?

Here are some things you can do to get a flavour of what you might be learning in September...

1. How and when did the Gothic as a literary genre arise? WHY was it born in the first place? What key issues do gothic texts explore?
2. What were Victorians like? How did society expect them to behave?
3. Who was Bram Stoker? How did he come to write *Dracula*? Why did all his other novels not succeed, but *Dracula* did?
4. Gothic Reading List - choose one (or more!) of the below to read:

- ❖ The Castle of Otranto – Horace Walpole
- ❖ The Mysteries of Udolpho – Ann Radcliffe
- ❖ Wuthering Heights – Emily Bronte
- ❖ Jane Eyre – Charlotte Bronte
- ❖ Frankenstein – Mary Shelley
- ❖ The Monk – Matthew Lewis
- ❖ Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr Hyde – Robert Louis Stephenson
- ❖ Northanger Abbey – Jane Austen
- ❖ The Picture of Dorian Gray – Oscar Wilde
- ❖ Vathek – William Beckford
- ❖ The Woman in Black – Susan Hill
- ❖ Interview with the Vampire – Anne Rice
- ❖ The Raven – Edgar Allan Poe



Come and join us on an epic literary journey...



Email Mrs Kar if you have any further questions
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