



New A level Literature Students' Summer Homework

In preparation for your new course you must be familiar with the set texts. We will not read them in their entirety in class. Therefore, between now and September you must read the following texts:

The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood

Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

The Poems of the Decade: An Anthology of the Forward Books of Poetry.

- 1) Read the following texts ready for a plot quiz when we come back.
- 2) Answer the following questions on each text.

The Importance of Being Earnest by Oscar Wilde

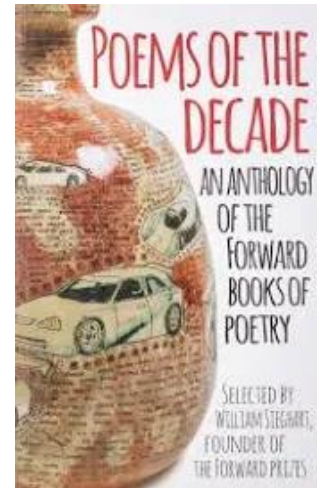
- Who was Oscar Wilde? Produce a short biography of his life
- What is satire?
- What are the central preoccupations of the play?
- Why might he have been tempted to write it?

The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood

- Who was Margaret Atwood? Produce a short biography of her life
- Why might the novel be classed as 'speculative fiction'?
- What does Puritism mean and how does it apply to the text?

Frankenstein or The Modern Prometheus by Mary Shelley

- When did The French Revolution take place?
- What is 'galvanism'? How is it applicable to Frankenstein?
- What is the Age of Enlightenment?
- What is Romanticism?
- What is Physiognomy?
- Who wrote Paradise Lost and what is it about?
- What is the story of Prometheus?
- What loss had Mary Shelley experienced in her life?



Unseen Poetry

Question: Explore how the writer presents ideas of love in the poem below

Valentine by Carol Ann Duffy

Not a red rose or a satin heart.

I give you an onion.
It is a moon wrapped in brown paper.
It promises light
like the careful undressing of love.

Here.
It will blind you with tears
like a lover.
It will make your reflection
a wobbling photo of grief.

I am trying to be truthful.

Not a cute card or a kissogram.
I give you an onion.
Its fierce kiss will stay on your lips,
possessive and faithful
as we are,
for as long as we are.

Take it.
Its platinum loops shrink to a wedding ring,
if you like.
Lethal.
Its scent will cling to your fingers,
cling to your knife.