

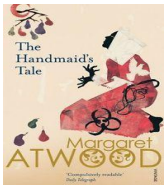
English Literature 'A' Level – Transition Work

Welcome to John Port Spencer Sixth Form English Literature course. We are thrilled that you have chosen this A Level option and look forward to working with you over the next two years.

There are several things that you can be doing to prepare yourself for the challenging and exciting year ahead. We ask that you bring all your transition work to your first lesson in September.

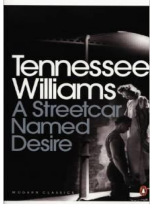
Transition Reading List:

Please **read** the following texts prior to starting the course. You will need to buy these texts yourself. We have included links to the copies that your teacher will be using in class. You need these particular editions please:



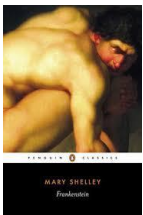
The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood.

[The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood | Waterstones](#)



A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams.

[A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams, E. Browne | Waterstones](#)



Frankenstein by Mary Shelley

[Frankenstein by Mary Shelley, Maurice Hindle | Waterstones](#)

Transition Tasks:

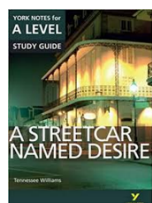
- Purchase and read closely 'The Handmaid's Tale' by Margaret Atwood, 'Frankenstein' by Mary Shelley and 'A Streetcar Named Desire' by Tennessee Williams. These texts are available at Student Services.
- Purchase study guides to help with your analysis:



'The Handmaid's Tale': York Notes Advanced



'Frankenstein': York Notes Advanced



'A Street Car Named Desire': York Notes Advanced

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- Prepare a page long summary of each text and make note of any ideas and thoughts they raised for you.
- Investigate the contexts and author's lives. Produce a detailed A3 overview, ready to share with your class and teacher.
- If you can, start to read other works by the author or texts that are linked to the topic:

Suggested reading for 'Frankenstein' and 'The Handmaid's Tale':

Jeanette Winterson: *Frankenstein*

Margaret Atwood: *Oryx and Crake*

N. Alderman: *The Power*

C. Dalcher: *Vox*

Louise O'Neill: *Only Ever Yours*

George Orwell: *Nineteen Eighty-Four*

O.EI Akkad: *American War*

K. Ishiguro: *Never Let Me Go*

Suggested reading for 'A Street Car Named Desire':

T. Williams *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof* and *The Glass Menagerie*

F. Scott Fitzgerald *The Great Gatsby*

Truman Capote *In Cold Blood*

Suggested reading Poetry: In order to ready yourself for our contemporary poetry unit you should start reading some of the works from the poets below:

Simon Armitage

Carol Ann Duffy

Seamus Heaney

Philip Larkin

Sylvia Plath

C. O'Driscoll

Ros Barber

Eavan Boland

John Burnside

Ciaran Carson

Julia Copus

Tishani Doshi

Helen Dunmore

UA Fanthorpe

Vicki Feaver

Alongside this you could also watch TV or film adaptations of *The Handmaid's Tale*, *Frankenstein* and *A Street Car Named Desire*. You might want to also watch *Sylvia* (Gwyneth Paltrow 2004) and *Blue Jasmine* (Cate Blanchett 2013).

We look forward to seeing you in September.

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