



English Summer project

Working from the belief that no text exists in isolation but is the product of the time in which it was produced, the A-level English Literature course will encourage you to explore the relationships that exist between **texts and the contexts** within which they are written, received and understood. A historicist approach.

Read the novels *Jane Eyre* by Charlotte Bronte (no, watching the film will not be enough!), research the play *Othello* by Shakespeare and read the first act.

Text 1 - *Jane Eyre* set in 19th century England, *Jane Eyre* is the story of young Jane mistreated by her aunt in her childhood, sent to boarding school and later on goes to Thornfield to work as a governess. Jane finds true love there but also a secret that haunts Thornfield.

Text 2 – *Othello* is a Shakespearean tragedy set in Italy and Cyprus. It deals with gender, love, race and honesty through following the story of an interracial couple navigating prejudice attitudes in the society around them.

- **Research the biography of the writers** and create a fact file on each.
- **Historical context notes** – research women’s rights and position in the 19th century Britain. Make a list of 5 events or issues that might have had an impact on each author’s writing.



If you're feeling really keen and eager!
Have a look at the syllabus and the poetry you will study later on in the year.

<http://www.aqa.org.uk/subjects/english/as-and-a-level/english-literature-a-7711-7712>