



A LEVEL ENGLISH LITERATURE
BRIDGING WORK 2021



Task 1

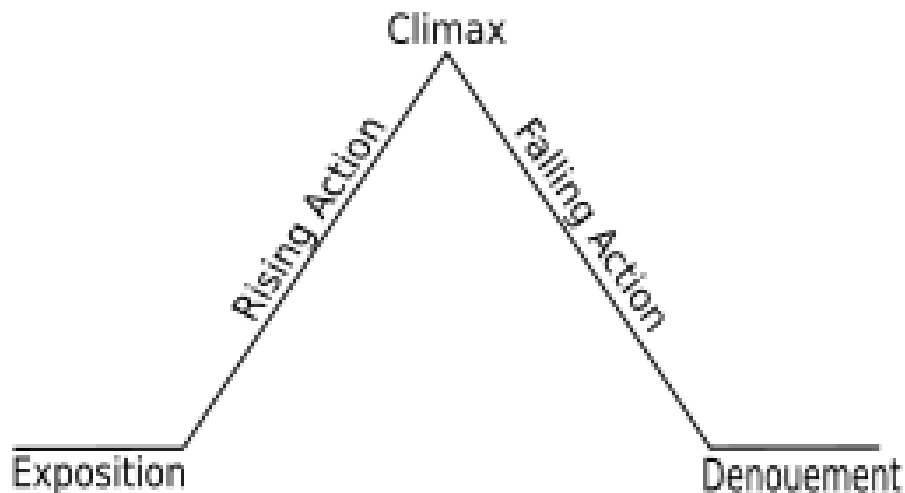
Read your set texts:

- A Handmaid's Tale
- Death of a Salesman

You will want to watch Death of a Salesman as a play first:

Death of a Salesman Play - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RMqiCtq5VLs>

Create a plot overview for each text.



Create a character chart for each of the major characters in the text.

Task 2: Aspects of Tragedy

Watch:

Aristotelian Tragedy - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=nGlQkaolfBI>

Tragic Hero - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=eVRU5MVYNiw>

Tragic Hero - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z9mWKhcaQ6M>

What is a Tragedy - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=OBvVD08_0hU

Death of a Salesman Summary -

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UVXCwJ8G0mE>

Death of a Salesman Play - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RMqiCtq5VLs>

Task: Create a presentation that explains the following ideas:

1. What are Aristotle's ideas about tragedy?
2. How do Modern tragedies differ from Aristotelian tragedies?
3. What are the elements of a Tragic Hero?
4. What are the key events of Death of a Salesman?
5. Why is Death of a Salesman considered a tragedy?

Task 3: Elements of Social and Political Protest Writing

Watch: How to recognise a Dystopia:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6a6kbU88wu0>

Read 1984 by George Orwell:

<https://archive.org/details/Orwell1984preywo/mode/2up>

For further support watch:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oe64p-QzhNE> and
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GQxOKXEff4I>

Task: create a presentation that explains the following ideas:

1. What are the conventions of a dystopian novel?
2. How does 1984 conform to the conventions of a dystopian novel?
3. How has George Orwell used 1984 as a form of political protest?
 - a. What is Orwell protesting against?
 - b. How is this protest exposed through the novel (e.g. characters/ themes/ specific moments)

Suggested Reading list

Try and read at least one text from each of the following sections:

Marxist

Kazuo Ishiguro's haunting comment on friendship, love and cloning, *Never Let Me Go*

George Orwell's dystopian masterpiece, *1984*

Aldous Huxley's ingenious fantasy of the future, *Brave New World*

Anthony Burgess' dystopian horror, black comedy and exploration of choice, *A Clockwork Orange*

Ursula K Le. Guin's, enthralling story of magic, *The Wizard of Earthsea*

Lewis Grassic Gibbon's *Spartacus*, which catches the process by which exploited people come to political consciousness.

Feminist

Carol Ann Duffy's ground-breaking female construction of the feminine, *The World's Wife*

Sylvia Plath's poignant semi-autobiographical story about mental health, identity and patriarchy, *The Bell Jar*

Virginia Woolfe's justification of the need for women to possess intellectual freedom and financial independence, *A Room of One's Own*

Doris Lessing's brilliant examination of sex in a science-fiction setting, *The Marriages Between Zones Three, Four and Five*

Alice Walker's genuinely mind-expanding story of segregation, poverty and destiny, *The Colour Purple*

Ira Levin's satirical thriller *The Stepford Wives* is a savage commentary on a media driven society

Post-Colonial

Jean Rhys' classic retelling of Jane Eyre's 'madwoman in the attic', a seminal work of postcolonial literature, *Wide Sargasso Sea*

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie's richly told story of love and expectation, *Americanah*

VS Naipaul's absorbing recreation of a world, *A House for Mr Biswas*

Chinua Achebe's unsentimental yet thought-provoking, *Things Fall Apart*

Arundhati Roy's enthralling literary sensation, *The God of Small Things*

Ya Gyas's hugely empathic, unflinching portrayal of west Africa's role in the transatlantic slave trade, *Homegoing*

Ecocriticism

Margaret Atwood's dive into the posthuman condition, *Oryx and Crake*

Cormac McCarthy's mesmerising masterpiece for the globally warmed generation, *The Road*

John Brunner's prophetic look at the destruction of the Earth, *The Sheep Look Up*

Maggie Gee's fantasy account of how technology superseded nature, *The Ice People*

P.D. James' chilling exploration of humanity facing almost certain extinction, *Children of Men*

C.A. Fletcher's unforgettable quest set amongst the remnants of our fragile civilisation, *The Boy and the Dog at the End of the World*

Additional

Anne Michaels' profound meditation of the resilience of the human spirit, *Fugitive Pieces*

Sebastian Faulks' thought-provoking drama, set to the background of WW1, *Birdsong*

GK Chesterton's uproarious and profound, *The Man Who Was Thursday*

Roddy Lumsden's eclectic, diverse and vibrant collection of modern English and Irish Poetry poetry, *Identity Parade*

Andrew Marr's story of Britain from the inside, *We British: The Poetry of a People*
Christopher Marlowe's notorious tale of vanity, greed and damnation, *Doctor Faustus*