



RIDGEWOOD
SCHOOL

AQA ENGLISH LITERATURE



Pre Induction Task 2026/2027

English Literature Induction Task

A key aspect of the A Level English Literature course is the study and comparison of prose texts.

In order to prepare effectively for the A Level English Literature course, we would like you to complete the task below and you must arrive with it completed in your first lesson. You are answering the question:

“Why should we consider *[insert title and author]* part of our classes’ cannon?”

What is your task?

Choose a novel, poetry collect, poem or play that has really impacted you and prepare a 500-600 word essay answering the question above. You may want to read a new text and that is also ok to do! This should include:

- Overview of what the text is about
- Why the writer is important
- A method that they use within the text and the meaning it creates and why you have chosen this specific part
- Quotations
- Summary of why it is an impactful piece of literature and why you think it should be included as part of our classes’ cannon.

What is a cannon?

A cannon is a list of literature texts that are considered to be essential reading for a group. This can be for a number of reasons including:

- It has political or social influence or has made an impact on either of these things (such as *The Handmaid’s Tale*).
- The author is popular and has had an impact of literature as a whole (such as *Shakespeare*).
- They write about important topics for a certain group of people (such as *The Color Purple*)
- Books that have been praised for the way they have been written (such as *Girl, Woman, Other*)

How should you present your ideas?

You can either do this as a PowerPoint or as a Word Document which will need handing in at the beginning of your first lesson. Please ensure this is printed and not emailed to your teachers. This should take you no more than 4 hours.

What text should I pick?

Pick a text that has significance to you and that you could write about in detail and with passion. Try not to use simple books such as the *Harry Potter*.

Why are we doing this?

Any group of people can have a cannon of texts that they have deemed as important – major institutes, countries and groups all have them but they are usually dictated to that group instead of allowing the group to decide for themselves what is important. Through doing this yourselves you are able to create a “library” of texts in which you think everyone should read to broaden their reading, broaden their mind or broaden their understanding of the world.