



English Literature (Edexcel) Transition Tasks

Task 1

Read 'The Lonely Londoners' by Sam Selvon. And 'Heart of Darkness' by Joseph Conrad.

This is essential pre-reading for our Prose texts on the course.

As you read, reflect on the messages Selvon and Conrad have about society and belonging.

If you are in London over the summer please take pictures of the city – in particular focusing on the multi-cultural aspects of the city that you can see and the great contrasts that you can see in the way people live.

Task 2

Select any three books from the list below to read. You will be expected to create a 5-10 minute presentation on one of the novels providing a personal response, commentary on an interesting character or theme and the significance of context.

Jean Rhys **Voyage in the Dark**

Ralph Ellison **Invisible Man**

John B Keane **The Contractors or The Bodhran Makers**

Timothy O'Grady **I Could Read The Sky**

Ian McEwen **Atonement**

Bernardine Evaristo **Girl, Woman, Other**

Gail Honeyman **Eleanor Oliphant is Completely Fine**

Celeste Ng **Little Fires Everywhere**

Art Spiegelman **Maus**

Ray Bradbury **Fahrenheit 451**

Sylvia Plath **The Bell Jar**

Vera Brittain **Testament of Youth**

Sebastian Faulks **Birdsong**

Khaled Hosseini **A Thousand Splendid Suns**

Cormac McCarthy **The Road**

Emily Bronte **Wuthering Heights**

Oscar Wilde **The Picture of Dorian Grey** Alice Walker **The Colour Purple** Chimamanda Ngozi

Adichie **Purple Hibiscus** Chinua Achebe **Things Fall Apart**

Thomas Hardy **Tess of the D'Urbervilles**

Louis de Bernières **Captain Corelli's Mandolin**

Jane Austen **Persuasion**

Evelyn Waugh **Brideshead Revisited** Arundhati Roy **God of Small Things** Angela Carter **The Bloody Chamber**
 L.P. Hartley **The Go-Between** Aldous Huxley **Brave New World** Kazuo Ishiguro **Never Let Me Go**
 Andrea Levy **Small Island**
 Toni Morrison **Beloved**
 Sarah Waters **The Little Stranger**
 Jeanette Winterson **Oranges are not the only Fruit**
 Madeline Miller **Circe**
 Colson Whitehead **The Underground Railroad** Max Porter **Grief is the thing with feathers**
 Margaret Atwood **The Blind Assassin**
 Delia Owens **Where the Crawdads Sing**

Task 3

Read the poem 'I Want the Confidence' by Raymond Antrobus of below:

<https://www.brinkerhoffpoetry.org/poems/i-want-the-confidence-of>

Write a short essay (roughly 500-750 words) responding to the following question: *Explore how Antrobus presents identity and emotions in 'I Want the Confidence of'.*

Success Criteria:

- Be a relevant response to the question
- Explore how Antrobus creates meanings through her choice of language, form and structure
- Make links between the poem and its context

Extension – Read a work of non-fiction from the list below. Once finished, write a 300-word pitch explaining why your book should be taught on the English syllabus at school.

Tara Westover **Educated**

- A memoir that describes the struggle of a young girl who escapes from violence and an emotional prison in search of education. It is a conflicting story of fierce family loyalty as well as that of the intense sorrow that arises from the division of one's closest ties.

J. D. Vance **Hillbilly Elegy**

- When J.D. Vance was eleven, his drug-addicted mother chased him across farmland after threatening to murder him by crashing the car, with Vance taking refuge in a stranger's house until the police arrived. When he turned eighteen, Vance managed another dramatic escape, this time from his dysfunctional 'hillbilly' background, joining the marines to serve in Iraq.

Reni Eddo-Lodge **Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race**

- A charged and necessary wake-up call to pervasive, institutionalised racism, Eddo-Lodge's searing polemic reconstitutes the frame of the argument around race, removing it from the hands of those with little experience of its resonances. From ambient and lazy cultural stereotyping to open hostility, *Why I'm No Longer Talking to White People About Race* is a clarion call of understanding.

Paul Kalinithi **When Breath Becomes Air**

- This is a non-fiction autobiographical book written by American Neurosurgeon Dr. Paul Kalanithi. It is a memoir about his life and illness, battling stage IV metastatic lung cancer. It begins with the onset of his symptoms; the book then takes readers back in time to trace his development from a bookish teenager and inquisitive student to a talented and well-trained resident with a bright future in neurosurgery ahead of him.

Maya Angelou ***I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings***

- *The first of seven autobiographical works by American writer Maya Angelou, published in 1969. The book chronicles her life from age 3 through age 16, recounting an unsettled and sometimes traumatic childhood that included rape and racism. It became one of the most widely read and taught books written by an African American woman.*

Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie ***We Should All Be Feminists***

- *We Should All Be Feminists is a short book by Adichie in which she argues that being a feminist means understanding and acknowledging that sexism exists. Adichie recalls a male friend in her home country of Nigeria calling her a "feminist," clearly meaning it as an insult.*

Additional Tasks

Listen

- Choose an episode of *The Good Read* (perhaps based on the celebrity guest) and listen to the novels that they discuss. From this, you could choose one of the three novels to read yourself.
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006v8jn/episodes/player?page=1>

Visit

- The Globe Theatre – see a play or take a tour of the amazing theatre
- The [National Theatre – see a play](#)
- British Library – visit the Treasures of the British Library, a free exhibition of the library's most prized objects

Do

- Start a book club with your friends. Read for pleasure and talk about what you've read.
- Read a range of books from the Man Booker shortlist: <https://thebookerprizes.com/fiction/2022>
- Watch the TV series *Novels that Shaped Our World* for an overview of key literary movements: <https://www.bbc.co.uk/iplayer/episodes/m000b8mh/novels-that-shaped-our-world>