English A Level Literature Summer Assignment

(1) You must obtain the following texts for this course. Your editions must be these exact ones:

o *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley, Penguin Classics. ISBN-13: 978-0141439471

o *Hamlet* by William Shakespeare, The New Cambridge Shakespeare. ISBN-10: 0521532523

o *The Bloody Chamber and Other Stories* by Angela Carter, Vintage Classics. ISBN-10: 0099588110

o *Jerusalem* by Jez Butterworth, NHB Modern Plays. ISBN-10: 1848420501

(2) You must do an initial real of all of the texts before we study them in lessons. You should start with *Frankenstein* and *Hamlet* as these are the first texts we will study.

(3) Furthermore, A Level students will be doing an in depth study of the Gothic genre throughout Year 12 and 13. The more wider reader you have done in this genre, the more prepared you will be to discuss and write about the Gothic in lessons and on the exam. Choose 1-2 texts from the following list to supplement your reading of the Gothic. Your Sixth Form Teachers have also weighed in with their recommendations!

* *Dracula*  by Bram Stoker **recommended by Mr Silitto: “Any book set in Yorkshire is going to be superior.”**
* *Wuthering Heights* by Emily Brontë **recommended by Mr Davies: “I think it explores the human condition really well, especially obsession and also, it was Bella’s favourite book in *Twilight*” and Ms Wild: “Obviously for its bleak Yorkshire moor setting which I could see out my window when reading it for the first time as a teenager. For Heathcliff, who is the best ever anti-hero. And also for all the weird, ghostly, window tapping, life-death boundary crossing, necrophilia freakiness.”**
* *Rebecca* by Daphne du Maurier
* *The Picture of Dorian Gray* by Oscar Wilde
* *The Magic Toyshop* by Angela Carter **recommended by Ms Bassett: “Fairy tale mixed with beautiful description and exploration of power and sexuality.”**
* *The Complete Stories and Poems* by Edgar Allan Poe
* *Beloved* by Toni Morrison
* *The Shining* by Stephen King
* Titus Groan by Mervin Peake **recommended by Mr Carpenter: “It’s not classically Gothic but it’s more labyrinthian. It’s incredible.”**
* *The Strange Case of Dr. Jekyll and Mr. Hyde* by Robert Louis Stevenson
* *Interview with the Vampire (The Vampire Chronicles, #1)* by Anne Rice
* *The Woman in White* by Wilkie Collins
* *Northanger Abbey* by Jane Austen
* *The Haunting of Hill House* by Shirley Jackson
* *We Have Always Lived in This Castle* by Shirley Jackson
* *Carmilla* by J. Sheridan Le Fanu
* *The Monk* by Matthew Lewis
* *The Turn of the Screw* by Henry James r**ecommended by Ms Saverino: “The best Gothic novels feature creepy children. This one has two and you get to try and work out whether the narrator is mad or if the ghosts are real.”**
* *The Castle of Otrant*o by Horace Walpole
* *The Mysteries of Udolpho* by Ann Radcliffe
* *The Hound of the Baskervilles* by Arthur Conan Doyle
* *The Woman in Black* by Susan Hill
* *The Yellow Wallpaper* by Charlotte Perkins Gilman
* *The Wasp Factory* by Iain M Banks **recommended by Mr Phoenix: “Don’t google it; just read it.”**
* *Wide Sargasso Sea* by John Reece **recommended by Mr Wasserfall: “It’s mysterious, post-colonial, and has a connection to Jane Eyre.”**