

**EnGlish**

Summer 2022

Dear English student

We’re really looking forward to teaching you English Literature A level here at Godalming College. We hope it will prove to be your favourite subject and will provide you with a set of skills that will last you a lifetime.

Success in studying English Literature relies upon being a keen reader and we would like you to use the summer holiday to read some challenging novels. Two of these need to be our set novels - *Frankenstein,* by Mary Shelley and *Never Let Me Go,* by Kazuo Ishiguro. Please could you get hold of the editions featured here.

In addition, we would like you to read at least two other books, chosen from the list that comes with this letter.

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In order to prepare for this, please make some notes on each book including the two set texts above, using the following pointers:-

1. Narrator: is the story narrated in the first person (‘I’)? Is the narrator a character in the story? Is it told in the third person (he, she), by an unnamed storyteller?
2. Time: does the narrator start at the beginning of the story and move forward from there? Is the narrator looking back on events which have already happened? Is the story already underway from the first page? Does the narrator tell you, at the beginning, what will happen later?
3. Setting: where is the opening of the story set? What is interesting about the culture of this place? What time of day is it? What’s the weather like? What mood does the setting put you in?
4. Message: decide what you think the book is mainly about and see if you can find evidence of this from the opening
5. Genre: what kind of story is it? Crime thriller? Love story? War drama? What evidence for this do you have from the first few pages?
6. Please create a simple table of notes comparing *Frankenstein* and *Never Let Me Go,* looking at similarities and differences in terms of characters, themes and ways the story is told.

When you arrive, we will ask you to talk about your reading with other students in your new class. Please bring along the notes you have made to help with this activity. We will set you some writing to do, as a follow up, after the first couple of lessons.

Happy reading and we look forward to meeting you properly soon.

David Kinder and the English Department

(The English Department is: Jacqui Dearden, David Deeming, Adam Duce, Juliet Harrison, Jenny Hunter-Phillips, Jenny Kennedy, David Kinder)

 **Godalming College English Department Summer Reading List**

**EnGlish**

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| ***The Kite Runner*** Khaled Hosseini 2003*‘…it’s wrong what they say about the past, I’ve learned, about how you can bury it…’* | http://t2.gstatic.com/images?q=tbn:5UIa0qb_yfWRmM:http://bibliojunkie.files.wordpress.com/2010/03/rebecca.jpg***Rebecca***Daphne du Maurier*Rebecca may be physically dead, but she is still a force to contend with…*  | ***The Accidental***Ali Smith 2005**Product Details***Norfolk, one hot summer, the home of the Smart family, and what happens when a beguiling stranger called Amber appears at the door…* | ***Pride and Prejudice***Jane Austen 1816*In a world where wealth and manners matter, can Elizabeth Bennett and Mr Darcy overcome their pride and prejudice and find love?* |
| http://photo.goodreads.com/books/1233201807l/6065182.jpg**Little Stranger**Sarah Waters 2009*`A gripping story, with beguiling characters . . . As well as being a supernatural tale, it is a meditation on the nature of the British and class, and how things are rarely what they seem. Chilling' - SundayTimes* | ***The Colour Purple*** *1985*Alice Walker**Product Details***‘Dear God, I am fourteen years old. I have always been a good girl. Maybe you can give me a sign letting me know what is happening to me.’* | Product Details***The God of Small Things***Arundhati Roy 1997 *An epic story of an eclectic modern Indian family.* | ***Jane Eyre***Charlotte Bronte 1847**Product Details** *Is it possible for orphan Jane to find independence and love as a governess for the rich and powerful Mr Richardson? And who is that mad woman in the attic?* |
| **http://4.bp.blogspot.com/-8Y11nwDbjhc/TbfQu2l05OI/AAAAAAAAAik/JiGacOe8HmY/s400/Life_of_Pi.jpg*The Life of Pi***Yann Martel, 2001*Pi Patel tells us the story of what happened when he was left on a lifeboat with a 450-pound Bengal tiger. It seems impossible. Is it?* | ***Captain Corelli’s Mandolin***Louis de Berniere ‘94Product Details*It’s WW2. The Italian army invade a small greek island. Pelagia has a dilemma: what happens if you fall in love with an enemy soldier?* | ***Cold Mountain***Charles Frazier 1997Cold Mountain *Inman, a soldier wounded in the American Civil War, makes a treacherous journey home to Cold Mountain, and to Ada the woman he loved before…* | ***A Room With a View***E M Forster 1908Product Details*Young and unaffected Lucy Honeychurch’s experiences in Venice stay with her. Back in England they threaten to destabilise marriage plans to the wealthy and cultured Cecil.* |
| ***Half of a Yellow Sun***Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche 2006**Product Details***Nigeria, 1960s, during the civil war: how does love complicate a story about race, class, the death of colonial power?*  | http://ecx.images-amazon.com/images/I/5114803QD2L._SS500_.jpg***The Remains of the Day***Kazuo Ishiguro 1989*Summer, 1956: Stevens, the ageing butler of Darlington Hall, embarks on a road trip that will take him deep into the countryside and into his past . .*  | **Product Details*1984***George Orwell 1948*‘Big Brother is watching you…’* *The original nightmare vision of the future.* | ***Portrait of a Lady***Henry James 1881Product Details*Beautiful, spirited American Isabel Archer, visiting Europe and expected to find a suitable husband, has other ideas…*  |
| ***Engleby***Sebastian Faulkes 2007Product Details*Why doesn’t Engleby remember parts of his relationship with murdered fellow Cambridge student, Jennifer?*  | ***Small Island****Andrea Levy**2004**'Small Island is a brilliant picture of the dented dreams of Jamaicans in post-war Britain'* | ***Room***Emma Donaghue 2011 *Written from the point of view of 5 year old Jack, held captive along with his mother…*  | ***Great Expectations***Charles Dickens 1854*The story of orphaned boy Pip and his efforts to make something out of his life. Why is Miss Haversham forever reliving her wedding day? And why will her charge, Estella, never be good enough for Pip?*  |
| ***The Catcher in the Rye***J D Sallinger 1951Product Details*‘I’m not going to tell you my whole goddam autobiography or anything. I’ll just tell you about this madman stuff that happened to me around last Christmas…’* | ***The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time\****Mark HaddonCurious Incident*A murder mystery novel like no other. The detective and narrator is Christopher Boone, a fifteen year old with Asperger’s Syndrome.*  | ***Enduring Love***Ian McEwan 1998*What has happened to rational Joe Rose? Will his obsession with a stalker ruin his relationship with Clarissa? And why does he need to get hold of a gun?* | ***The Picture of Dorian Gray***Oscar Wilde Product Details*Why does Dorian’s frivolous lifestyle leave no traces on him? Look in the attic and you will see why…* |
| ***Pigeon English*** Stephen KelmanPigeon English*Eleven-year-old Harrison Opoku, the second best runner in Year 7, races through life in England in his personalised trainers – the stripes drawn on with marker pen. But his life changes forever when one of his friends is murdered.* | ***Birdsong***Sebastian Faulkes 1993Product Details*Part erotic love affair in pre-WW1 France, part horrific war story, part modern quest into this devastating war* | http://ecx.images-amazon.com/images/I/51HJHY1XZWL._SL500_AA300_.jpg***Snow Falling on Cedars***David Guterson 1995*Fighting the distrust and prejudice of his neighbors on a remote American island, a Japanese-American man finds himself on trial for murder. Newspaperman Ishmael Chambers embarks on a quest for the truth* | Dr Jeckyll and Mr Hyde***The Strange Case of Dr Jeckyll and Mr Hyde***Rober Louis Stevenson*Published as a 'shilling shocker', this dark fantasy gave birth to the idea of the split personality. What is our capacity for evil?* |

\* We have new copies of *‘Curious Incident, The Kite Runner, Small Island* and *Enduring Love* for £2 from college reception. Contact college@godalming.ac.uk