

# A-Level English Literature Transition Work

## Task 1 - Reading

Welcome to A-Level English Literature! Your first transition work project is to read the set texts that we will be studying next year. We have copies of these texts in the Sixth Form English Library, but we do recommend that you purchase your own copy so that you can make annotations. If you have any difficulties acquiring copies of the texts, get in touch with us.

### Set Texts

*Hamlet* – William Shakespeare

*A Doll's House* – Henrik Ibsen

*The Merchant's Tale* – Geoffrey Chaucer

*The Handmaid's Tale* – Margaret Atwood

As you read, make notes on key plot points (what happens in each chapter / scene) and key characters.



## Task 2 – Writing

Based on your reading, have a go at these two essay tasks. Bring your completed essays with you to the first class.

**Essay 1:** Read Act V Scene I of *Hamlet*, from 'What man dost thou dig it for?' to the end of scene.

Discuss in detail how Shakespeare presents Hamlet's psychological state, considering how this scene contributes to the play's tragic and/or comedic elements.

**(approx. 1000 words)**

**Essay 2:** "Being female in this world means having been robbed of the potential for human choice by men who love to hate us. One does not make choices in freedom. Instead, one conforms in body type and behaviour and values to become an object of male sexual desire, which requires an abandonment of a wide-ranging capacity for choice." – Andrea Dworkin



In light of this statement, compare and contrast how Margaret Atwood's *The Handmaid's Tale* and Henrik Ibsen's *A Doll's House* use language, form and structure to present female experiences of being trapped.

**(approx. 2000 words)**