

Penwortham Girls' High School English Department Stretch and Challenge – Year 10



Give your
brain a
workout!

The activities in this document are suggestions only. If you feel that you have enough on your plate keeping on top of Romeo and Juliet, then that's fine – that is your number one priority and the first thing we'll look at when we all return to school.

However, I know some of you are aiming high and considering English at A level (and hopefully beyond). No doubt all the colleges will bear in mind the disruption you have faced in Year 10 and will put measures in place to support you. But, if you have the headspace and motivation, this is a great time to take your study of the favourite lessons that bit further.

Within this document, there are lots of suggestions to develop English Language and Literature. There is no way that you can complete them all unless you are a superhuman English student. The idea is to dip in and out; ignore the ones that don't float your boat, stick with the ones that take your fancy.

REMEMBER – there is no expectation for you to complete any of these tasks. These are those added extras because I'm sure that some of you, like me, just really, really enjoy doing English!

Please follow the English Department on Twitter for a little bit of silliness to celebrate our love of all things literary and to keep in touch with the lovely English department!

PGHS_English



English Language

Improve your general knowledge of the origins, spoken elements, and grammar and punctuation of the English Language.

Look at the following websites, and think about the areas you would like to know more about. Watch/read the information. Make some flashcards about what you have learnt.

- [Lexico](#) Look at the contents under the 'GRAMMAR' and 'EXPLORE' tabs at the top of the screen.
- [Miss Hannah Does Grammar](#) Look at [Word Hacks](#), and parts of speech starting with [1. Nouns](#) working your way through to [21. Hyphens](#).
- [BBC Skillswise](#) Look through each of the sections: reading, writing, sentences etc.
- [University of Bristol](#) Improving Your Writing (grammar and punctuation exercises).
- [Seneca Spelling Course FREE](#): KS3 Spelling, Punctuation and Grammar
- [Word origins](#)
- [Accents and dialects](#)
- [Language and Literature Timeline](#) & [Eduqas: Language in the Twenty-first Century](#)

Regularly read a quality newspaper such as *The Guardian*, *The Independent*, *The Telegraph*, *The Times* etc. The 'Comment Is Free' section of the Guardian can provide food for thought. Also, watch the news daily. Maybe *Newsnight* and *Question Time* too.

Particularly read articles about the English Language on sites such as these (make notes about anything of interest):

<https://www.theguardian.com/media/mind-your-language>

<https://www.independent.co.uk/topic/EnglishLanguage>

Listen to relevant podcasts/talks such as:

- [Radio 4's 'Word of Mouth'](#) programme on the BBC iPlayer. In this half hourly programme, Michael Rosen discusses various sorts of language from broad areas, such as the use of slang and language linked to gender identity, to more niche areas such as the naming of diseases and clichés in football commentary.
- [TED TALKS – ENGLISH LANGUAGE](#)
Including:
 - How did English evolve?
 - Where did English come from?
 - What makes a word real?
 - Go ahead, make up new words!

- A brief history of plural word..s
- **TED TALKS - [HOW LANGUAGE CHANGES OVER TIME](#)**
Including:
 - Txting is killing language
 - How language transformed humanity
 - What our language habits reveal
 - What's a snollygoster? A short lesson in political speak.
- **David Crystal lectures on YouTube**

Write 500 word articles on the following topics :

1. **Accent and dialect:** *'Is having a strong accent a disadvantage in today's society?'*
The [BRITISH LIBRARY](#) has a wealth of interesting articles about this topic - have a look at what is under the 'themes', 'articles' and 'sound recordings' tabs.
 2. **Social Media:** *'Is social media having a detrimental effect on the quality of everyday language?'*
- **Write. Write. Write.** Use this time to experiment as a creative writer. Build up a writing notebook. Why not have a go at writing your own scripts, short stories and poems?

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/writersroom/>
[Future Learn - Writing courses](#)

Fancy a challenge? Maybe have a go at one of the free Language courses here: [Future Learn - Linguistics courses](#) or listen to this podcast: [Language and the Mind](#). This series of language investigations on the [Cambridge University site](#) also offer a real challenge for enthusiasts.

English Literature

1. **Broaden your knowledge of literary texts.** Read as many of 'the classics' as possible (maybe slot in some audio books for variety). Ask for a reading list from your teacher or college/school, or use the attached lists to sample some of the suggested texts – **you do not need to read them all!** Try to read **one substantial text a week** (some will take longer!) and a selection of poetry (**a couple of poems a week**) as well as novels and plays. Remember most classics can be downloaded for free online, and one of the benefits of an eBook is that you can look up words you are unfamiliar with. Remember, if you do not want to carry on reading a particular book, try a new one. You do not have to persevere with a book you are not enjoying.

Look on book recommendation websites such as <https://www.goodreads.com/> to help you decide what to read first/next based on what you have enjoyed in the past.

If your college or school has given you a list of texts you will be studying at A Level, prioritise those texts, and maybe try to read a few more books/poems/plays by the authors/poets/playwrights you will be studying rather than use the attached reading lists.

2. Watch free online theatrical performances

National Theatre at Home

Available from **7pm on YouTube on Thursdays for one week.**

Globe productions

YouTube Premieres every two weeks (**Monday at 7.00pm**) on the following dates:

- *Romeo and Juliet* - April 20th
- *A Midsummer Night's Dream* - May 4th
- *Two Noble Kinsmen* - May 18th
- *The Winter's Tale* - June 1st
- *The Merry Wives of Windsor* - June 15th

Films are available for two weeks following their premiere.

RSC

In partnership with the BBC, the following RSC productions will be made available for free viewing over the next few weeks:

- *Macbeth* (2018), directed by Polly Findlay with Christopher Eccleston and Niamh Cusack
- *Hamlet* (2016), directed by Simon Godwin with Paapa Essiedu
- *Romeo and Juliet* (2018), directed by our Deputy Artistic Director Erica Whyman
- *Much Ado About Nothing* (2014), directed by Christopher Luscombe
- *Othello* (2015), directed by Iqbal Khan with Hugh Quarshie and Lucian Msamati
- *The Merchant of Venice* (2015), directed by Polly Findlay

In addition, other RSC shows can be accessed through Marquee TV with their 30 days free trial.

3. Regularly read a quality newspaper such as *The Guardian*, *The Independent*, *The Telegraph*, *The Times* etc. The 'Comment Is Free' section of the Guardian can

provide food for thought. Also, watch the news daily. Maybe *Newsnight* and *Question Time* too.

4. **Listen to radio programmes that will broaden your knowledge of texts** - Regularly listen to a literary radio programme on Radio 4 (through BBC Sounds). Find one you like from the list below. You do not have to listen to them all. Remember to click on the tabs at the top of the page, and listen to archived podcasts as well as live programmes.

These programmes might give you some ideas about what to read next.

<i>A Good Read</i>	Famous people talk about their favourite books.	http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006v8jn
<i>Bookclub</i>	James Naughtie talks to acclaimed authors about their best-known novels.	http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06f54rs
<i>World Book Club</i>	Monthly programme that focuses on great world authors past and present.	http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p0338wlh http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p02vzyc4
<i>Poetry Please</i>	Famous Liverpudlian poet Roger McGough reads and discuss modern greats and classic poems and poets.	http://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b06f54rv
<i>Open Book</i>	Programme looking at new fiction and non-fiction with Mariella Frostrup	https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qp6p
<i>With Great Pleasure</i>	Famous people read favourite texts aloud, particularly poems.	https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006grx7
<i>Book of the Week/ Book at bedtime</i>	Daily/ nightly reading of a chosen book	https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b006qftk
Listen to afternoon radio plays – on every day.		https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b04xxp0g

Read some of the books on the shortlist for international and national book prizes such as:

- [National Short Story Award](#)
- [Man Booker Prize](#)
- [Women's Prize for Literature](#)
- [The Costa Book Awards](#)

See if you can get hold of anything that sounds interesting, and have a read!
These books will be very current and might be future classics.

**Time is very slow
for those who
wait, Very fast for
those who are
scared, Very long
for those who
lament, Very short
for those who
celebrate, But for
those who love,
time is eternal.**

-William Shakespeare

Please, please remember, there is no expectation for you to complete all or any of these suggestions. This has been provided as an opportunity for you broaden your English study in ways that we don't get chance to in the classroom. A global pandemic is an exceptionally unusual event, so in a spirit of positivity this is a chance to do something a little different.

See you soon everyone and hang on in there! This too will pass...

