

St Aidan's and St John Fisher Associated Sixth Form

Y11 to Y12 Transition Work

Subject: English Literature

Topic(s):

'The Great Gatsby' and tracking a character or idea connected to Tragedy.

Independent Learning Task(s) to Complete:

Buy/Borrow a copy of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby* and read it. This short novel fits in with the Tragedy genre that you will study in Year 12 for Paper 1 but is not actually a set text.

1. Pick a character or theme that interests you and prepare a short presentation on it. Your presentation should include:
 - How the author presents the character or theme.
 - Key episodes of the text that interest you.
 - Analysis of language and structure to support this.

Your presentation could take the form of a Powerpoint Presentation, flashcards or a handout – be creative but please make sure it is your own work (we want your interpretations not AI!) You will have the opportunity to share this in small groups in your class in September.

2. Re-write a short episode from the text from the perspective of your chosen character. Consider what their opinion would be on events and how they might use language to express this. Aim for about two sides of A4.

There's also a superb film adaptation by Baz Luhrmann we'd recommend!

How it links to the Specification:

This is not a text you will be examined on but wider reading to enhance understanding of the genres you study is an essential part of the course. Reading texts within the genre but outside of the exam paper is essential for any successful student of A Level Literature.

You will already have an understanding of Shakespearean Tragedy from GCSE; applying the tragic features to a novel will prepare you for looking at a wider range of texts in Year 12. You are also familiar with tracking a character or theme throughout a whole text and are ready for more challenging texts! Furthermore, the specific historical context of 'The Great Gatsby' allows you to understand the drama text we look at in Year 12, 'Death of a Salesman' by Arthur Miller.

Making a presentation will allow you to make choices about the text and develop your own interpretations (a useful talking point for university applications). You will get to know other students and begin to discuss your ideas when we share the presentations in September.

Doing a piece of creative writing will help you deepen your understanding of a text and support you making choices for your Non-Examined Assessment, for which you can choose to do a traditional essay or a recreative task.

Resources:

A Copy of F. Scott Fitzgerald's *The Great Gatsby*

Deadline: Friday 12th September 2025