



Subject: English A-level (Enrichment Material)

Read	Do	Stretch
Research the life of Christina Rossetti. Including her beliefs, her family, her two engagements, her charity work at St. Magdelene's House for Fallen Women, her illness and mental health.	Write an essay entitled <i>Christina Rossetti: a woman of her time</i> .	Try to complete some of the Cambridge Pre-U papers: Follow Link 1 (below)
Research the following Christian beliefs in detail: life after death, sin and forgiveness/how to purify yourself from sin (look at Catholic beliefs as well as Protestant/Anglican ones here), what is God? what is heaven? what is hell? what is Judgement Day?	Write an essay showing your understanding of key Christian beliefs.	Research the literary concept of the 'unreliable narrator' and write a short essay summarising the idea.
Research the economy and culture of the 1920s in America.	Watch any filmed version of 'The Great Gatsby'. How do these films portray excessive wealth?	Write an essay entitled <i>To what extent was America in the 1920s a society addicted to wealth but one losing its original spirit and identity?</i>
Watch or read 'Othello'. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If reading, the full text is available online. • If watching, try the 1995 Lawrence Fishbourne version. 	Consider how women are presented in the play, particularly Desdemona: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why does Desdemona accept her fate? • In what ways does she embody Christian virtues? 	Shakespeare is sometimes criticised for depicting women who become victims due to their passivity. Write a comparison of Ophelia and Desdemona – are they both passive victims in their respective plays?
Read one of Fitzgerald's short stories – available online: Follow Link 2 (below)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What themes are prevalent in the story? • Contextually, what might Fitzgerald be commenting about society? Select quotations which support your findings.	How does the short story compare to 'The Great Gatsby'? Pick a theme that is evident in both the short story and 'The Great Gatsby' and write an essay exploring Fitzgerald's presentation of the theme.

Links to websites used in this A-level enrichment sheet:

Link 1: <https://www.cambridgeinternational.org/programmes-and-qualifications/cambridge-pre-u-english-9765/>

Link 2: <https://owlcation.com/humanities/F-Scott-Fitzgerald-Short-Stories-Online>