



**Subject: English Pre-A-level**

Read	Do	Stretch
<p>Do some deep, background research into the lives and works of some of our course authors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• William Shakespeare</li> <li>• Toni Morrison</li> <li>• Oscar Wilde</li> <li>• Tennessee Williams</li> <li>• Christina Rossetti</li> </ul>	<p>Write a short review of any filmed version that you can find online of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Hamlet</li> <li>• A Streetcar Named Desire</li> <li>• Beloved</li> <li>• Picture of Dorian Gray (there is one entitled simply 'Dorian Gray')</li> </ul>	<p>Write a short essay on the 'Southern Gothic' literary movement.</p>
<p>You can find online texts of 'The Great Gatsby'. Read the novel, summarising the events of each chapter in a paragraph. Follow <b>Link 1</b> (below)</p>	<p>Research the history of slavery in America. Write a short essay on how slaves were viewed at the time and consider how the views of white owners differed to abolitionist views.</p>	<p>Research the Renaissance/ Shakespearean era's cultural and religious views of ghosts. Write a short essay on how ghosts and the supernatural were viewed.</p>
<p>Research Victorian attitudes to sex eg homosexuality (Wilde), female sexuality (Rossetti).</p>	<p>Write an essay where you explore the literature in your life. What have been the books that have stayed with you? How have they influenced you? How have your reading habits changed over the years?</p>	<p>A project: what was the Renaissance in terms of art, thought and especially literature in England (1500-1650). In what sense is Hamlet considered a Renaissance text?</p>
<p>Research the differences in belief and practice between Protestantism and Catholicism in Shakespeare's time.</p>	<p>Write an essay that summarises the events of the English Reformation.</p>	<p>Research and then write an essay entitled: What is the state of British poetry in the 21st Century?</p>
	<p>Watch examples of films or TV series that explore slavery or are set during the same time in America such as: 'Roots' (TV series 1980s version is best but there is a newer one too), '12 Years a Slave', 'Gone with the Wind', 'Beloved', 'North and South'. (Gone with the Wind/North and South are great for Civil War context)</p>	
<p><b>Tennessee Williams</b> Read Scene 1 of 'The Glass Menagerie' a play by Tennessee Williams. Follow <b>Link 2</b> (below)</p>	<p>Make a list of the themes that Williams may be addressing.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What cultural contexts influence the play?</li> </ul> <p>This may help: The Glass Menagerie by Tennessee Williams   Scene 1</p>	<p>How does this scene compare to your study of 'A Taste of Honey?'</p> <p>Write an essay comparing how mothers are presented in both of these plays. Think about whether they are well suited for this role and why.</p>

**Links to websites used in this Pre-A Activities sheet:**

Link 1: <https://www.planetebook.com/free-ebooks/the-great-gatsby.pdf>

Link 2: [http://debbiejlee.com/the\\_glass\\_menagerie.pdf](http://debbiejlee.com/the_glass_menagerie.pdf)