**SUMMER PREP: A Level English Literature**

In order to be well prepared for your A Level English Literature course, you will want to read as much as you can over the summer. We will talk to you about your reading in September and we will expect you to have completed the three tasks outlined below to the best of your ability.

**Make sure you have copies of the following texts for September:**

* ***The Great Gatsby,* ISBN-10:** 0141182636
* ***The Grapes of Wrath,* ISBN-10:** 9780141185064
* ***The Duchess of Malfi,* ISBN-10:** 0393923258
* ***Paradise Lost Books 9 and 10,* ISBN-10:** 0140424393
* ***Hamlet,* ISBN-10:** 1107615488
* ***Jounrey’s End,* ISBN-10:** 0141183268

**TASK 1: Contextual Preparation for American Literature**

* **Please read ‘The Diamond as Big as the Ritz’ online (approximately 26 pages-you can use the following link:** <http://www4.ncsu.edu/unity/users/m/morillo/public/fitzgeraldstories1.pdf>**)**
* **In your own words, write summary of the story (250-300 words)**
* **Find quotations relating to greed and wealth.** Write them down and try to explain how they relate to the story and/or the effects of greed.
* **Research and explain in your own words the following terms:**
	+ Prohibition and its effects in 1920s USA
	+ The American Dream
	+ The Jazz Age

**TASK 2: Close Reading (500-800 words)**

Discuss ways in which Milton presents **loss** OR **futility** OR **faith** in the following poem. In your answer explore the effects of language, structure and form.

Of Man's first disobedience, and the fruit
Of that forbidden tree whose mortal taste
Brought death into the World, and all our woe,
With loss of Eden, till one greater Man
Restore us, and regain the blissful seat,
Sing, Heavenly Muse, that, on the secret top
Of Oreb, or of Sinai, didst inspire
That shepherd who first taught the chosen seed
In the beginning how the heavens and earth
Rose out of Chaos: or, if Sion hill
Delight thee more, and Siloa's brook that flowed
Fast by the oracle of God, I thence
Invoke thy aid to my adventurous song,
That with no middle flight intends to soar
Above th' Aonian mount, while it pursues
Things unattempted yet in prose or rhyme.
And chiefly thou, O Spirit, that dost prefer
Before all temples th' upright heart and pure,
Instruct me, for thou know'st; thou from the first
Wast present, and, with mighty wings outspread,
Dove-like sat'st brooding on the vast Abyss,
And mad'st it pregnant: what in me is dark
Illumine, what is low raise and support;
That, to the height of this great argument,
I may assert Eternal Providence,
And justify the ways of God to men

**Task 3: Comparative Essay (800-1000 words)**

**Read 2-3 novels from the list below, and complete ONE of the following essay tasks:**

**Compare the ways in which the writers present life in a certain place and time**

**OR**

**Compare the ways in which the writers present hopes and dreams**

* *The Colour Purple* - Alice Walker
* *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn -* Mark Twain
* *The Catcher in the Rye -* J.D. Salinger
* *As l Lay Dying* – William Faulkner
* *Native Son* – Richard Wright
* *A Streetcar Named Desire* – Tennessee Williams
* *Death of a Salesman* – Arthur Miller

**Supplementary Texts:**

* *The Art of Writing English Literature Essays A Level and Beyond*
* *19th Century American Literature* *York Notes* - Rowland Hughes
* *20th Century American Literature York Notes* – Andrew Blades
* *Hamlet* York Notes – Jeff Wood
* *The Duchess of Malfi York Notes –*Stephen Sims
* *The Connell Guide to John Milton’s Paradise Lost*
* *The Great Gatsby York Notes for A Level*—Julian Cowley