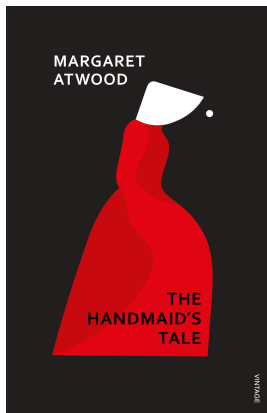


# *A Level English Literature summer work*

Welcome to A Level English Literature. The first thing to consider between the end of Year 11 and the start of A Levels is which books you plan to read over the summer! It could be that you pick to re-read an old favourite or you might prefer to peruse the shelves of the latest releases. The best preparation for studying English is reading widely and often.

The second thing to consider is the bridging work below. If you have any questions, please email me, Mrs Teal [eteal@presdales.herts.sch.uk](mailto:eteal@presdales.herts.sch.uk)



## *The Handmaid's Tale by Margaret Atwood*

We will be studying novels during the A Level Literature course.

Please read *The Handmaid's Tale* by Margaret Atwood. This iconic novel is available in all good bookshops and libraries. Then answer the questions:

1. What are the different roles for people in Gilead? How are these roles defined?
2. Offred is the first person narrator and protagonist. What difference would it make if the story was told from another point of view? Give examples to add detail to your explanation.
3. A feature of the narrative structure of the novel is the named sections spanning all the short chapters.
  - a) List the titles for the sections. Do you notice anything unusual about the titles for the 15 sections?
  - b) To what extent do these titles help you interpret the novel?
4. Atwood begins her novel with two dedications: 'For Mary Webster and Perry Miller'. Who are these people and why did Atwood dedicate her novel to them?
5. Is the novel best described as speculative fiction, science fiction, fantasy fiction or dystopian fiction? Explain your answer.

Please email Mrs Teal [eteal@presdales.herts.sch.uk](mailto:eteal@presdales.herts.sch.uk) with the answers to the questions above.

## *Optional extras*

- Watch a production of the play *A Streetcar Named Desire* by Tennessee Williams.
- Read other novels by Margaret Atwood.
- Read *Frankenstein* by Mary Shelley.