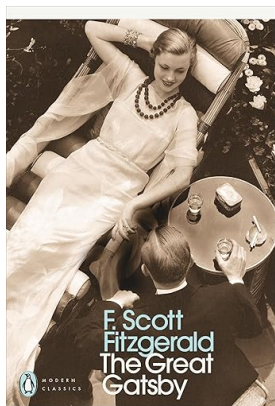


A Level English Language and Literature bridging work 2025

Welcome to A level English Language and 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



***The Great Gatsby* by F.Scott Fitzgerald**

Please read 'The Great Gatsby' over the summer - see below for information about editions.

Feel free to use a film version, plot summary or study guide to help you. Do note that the recent film made major changes to the book and is therefore not very useful as a guide to plot! We are well aware that you may not have read a novel of this type before, so do use resources to support you if necessary. The York Notes Advanced is a good study guide for A level.

Answer these questions in preparation for studying the text:

1. What are the different social classes represented in 'The Great Gatsby'? How are these roles defined and distinguished in the novel? Consider the differences between East Egg, West Egg, and the Valley of Ashes, and how Fitzgerald presents characters from each area.
2. F. Scott Fitzgerald includes an epigraph at the beginning of the novel: "Then wear the gold hat..." attributed to Thomas Parke D'Invilliers. Who is this supposed poet, and why might Fitzgerald have chosen this epigraph to frame the novel? Explore how the quote reflects key ideas in the story.
3. Is *The Great Gatsby* best described as a modernist novel, a social commentary, a romantic tragedy, or a cautionary tale? Explain your answer.

Optional extras

- Watch a production of the play *All My Sons* by Arthur Miller.