



Woolwich Polytechnic
Sixth Form

English Literature

Home Learning Pack Challenges

Please find attached a pack of work to help prepare you for Sixth Form.

I am delighted that you have shown an interest in English Literature. In order to get you thinking about the subject, I have drawn up a **challenge pack** to help you prepare for studies in the 6th form such as literature research activities, books to read, films to watch on a rainy afternoon, useful websites to browse when Snapchat, Instagram gets dull.

For a look at the syllabus:

- Edexcel specification - <https://qualifications.pearson.com/en/qualifications/edexcel-a-levels/english-literature-2015.html>

Useful websites/apps- register now:

- <https://revisionworld.com/a2-level-level-revision/english-literature-gcse-level/english-literature-level-past-papers/edexcel-level-english-literature-past-papers>
- <https://studywise.co.uk/a-level-revision/english-literature/>

Please email me khargreaves@woolwichpoly.co.uk if you have any queries or questions.

In the meantime, I want to say a big thank you for your hard work and I am so very sorry you have lost your opportunity to complete the exams. During these unprecedented times it's important to keep going and know we will be back to normal soon.

Kind regards

Ms Hargreaves

KS5 Coordinator English Literature and Language

Woolwich Polytechnic Sixth Form

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Home Activities

It would be advisable to complete the suggested reading before attempting these tasks. Your answers will then be informed by critical reading relevant to these two exam texts.

A Street Car Named Desire

- 1. Research each character within the play and create a mind map of key characteristics**
- 2. Write down 5 key quotes for each character**
- 3. Create a biography for the playwright Tennessee Williams**
- 4. Find 5 images from the play that capture the key themes of: relationships, violence, gender, fragility and suffering**
- 5. Write a 200-word synopsis (summary) of the play**



Frankenstein

- 1. Research each character within the novel and create a mind map of key characteristics**
- 2. Write down 5 key quotes for Walton, Victor Frankenstein and the Creature**
- 3. Create a biography for the writer Mary Shelley**
- 6. Find 5 images from the novel that capture the key themes of: relationships, violence, science, nature and isolation**
- 7. Write a 200-word synopsis (summary) of the novel**

Please use this pack if you are interested in continuing studying *English Literature*



Research Activity

Present your information as a report, PowerPoint presentation or poster.

It would be advisable to complete the suggested reading before attempting this research task. Your answers will then be informed by critical reading relevant to *A Street Car Named Desire*.

Researching the American Dream



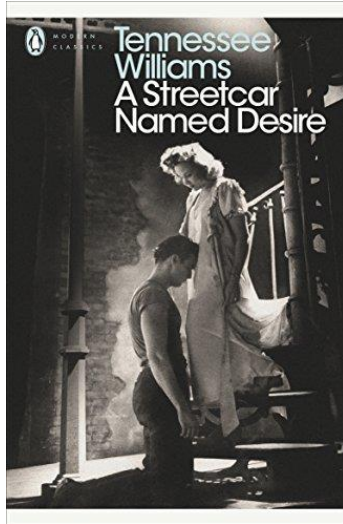
1. Research and define what is meant by the American Dream
2. What was life in America like during 1900-1930 leading up to the emergence of the American Dream?
3. Find 3 images that symbolise the American Dream
4. Why did Tennessee Williams write a critique of the American Dream?
5. What themes are explored in *A Street Car Named Desire* that link to the American Dream?



READING

Set exam texts:

A Street Car Named Desire



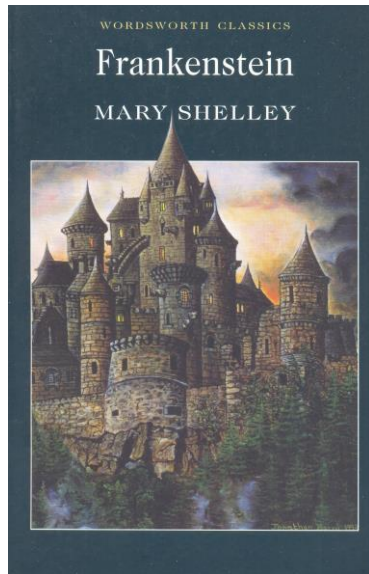
To buy:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Streetcar-Desire-Modern-Classics-Penguin/dp/0141190272/ref=sr_1_1?crd=1FT22O6P1SBDP&dchild=1&keywords=a+streetcar+named+desire&qid=1587636188&srefix=a+street+car+%2Caps%2C338&sr=8-1

Read online:

<http://www.metropolitancollege.com/Streetcar.pdf>

Frankenstein



To buy:

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Frankenstein-Modern-Prometheus-Wordsworth-Classics/dp/1853260231/ref=sr_1_2?crid=1602RDKCP544H&dchild=1&keywords=frankenstein+mary+shelley&qid=1587636648&srefix=frankenstein%2Caps%2C184&sr=8-2

Read online:

<https://www.gutenberg.org/files/84/84-h/84-h.htm>

Journals and critical articles

A Street Car Named Desire:

<https://newrepublic.com/article/131954/brutal-beauty-streetcar-named-desire>

<https://www.nytimes.com/1973/04/15/archives/the-world-still-desires-a-streetcar-we-still-desire-a-streetcar.html>

<https://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=87859194&t=1587636955567>

Frankenstein:

<https://www.theatlantic.com/science/archive/2017/04/frankenstein-science/523560/>

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2018/02/12/the-strange-and-twisted-life-of-frankenstein>

<http://www.bbc.com/culture/story/20180611-why-frankenstein-is-the-story-that-defined-our-fears>

Websites

https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/media/Documents/English/Study_and_Revise-A-Street-Car-Named-Desire-Streetcar_sample_material.pdf

<https://www.tes.com/teaching-resource/-frankenstein-revision-guide-6332213>

Additional Reading

Additional exam texts:

Margaret Atwood's 'The Handmaids Tale'

William Shakespeare's 'Othello'

The Forward Arts Foundation 'Poems of the Decade'

FILMS

Street Car Named Desire

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V6TrgQxf3lk>

Frankenstein

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Sw1l4NfXmw&list=PLWed1BIUebqOICWftFMaufmEe5BoPVHMC>

More modern versions of both films can be found on Netflix

TV

The following television programmes are recommended for extending your knowledge of the exam texts and the historical periods that are relevant to these texts.

The Handmaids Tale TV Series



American History

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PL8dPuualjXtMwmepBjTSG593eG7ObzO7s>

Revision Notes

AQA – KEY Terminology for exam texts **You could create your own revision cards to get started!**

A Street Car Named Desire

amiability

friendly, social

antiquity

from ancient times, a relic

attenuate

to weaken or reduce in force or intensity

bobby-soxer

an adolescent girl, especially in the 1940s

colloquy

a conversational exchange, dialog

coquettish

flirtatious

degenerate

One who has declined in morals and behavior from an acceptable level - in the context of Streetcar, a homosexual

effeminate

having traits generally considered feminine

Elysian Fields

In Greek mythology, the afterworld. Similar in concept to heaven.

gallantry

heroic, courtly attention to women

gossamer

something extremely light, flimsy, or delicate

heterogenous

consisting of dissimilar parts,

hoity toity

assuming airs, pretentious, haughty

hypocritical

pretending to have virtues, morals or principles that one does not actually possess

incongruous

out of place, inconsistent

kibitz

to look on and offer advice

neurasthenic

a person suffering from a psychological disorder characterized by chronic fatigue and weakness, loss of memory, and generalized aches and pains, formerly thought to result from exhaustion of the nervous system. No longer in scientific use.

pinion

to restrain or immobilize a person by holding their arms

portieres

heavy curtains hung across a doorway

Raffish

Gaudily vulgar, cheap, tawdry

redolence

Having a suggestive or reminiscent odor

reproach

blame, censure, disgrace

seven card stud

a variety of poker in which each player is dealt one card face down in each of the first two rounds, one card face up in each of the next four rounds, and one card face down in the last round, each of the last five rounds being followed by a betting interval.

sinuous

having many curves, bends, and turns

sotto voce

without the voice, whispered

swindle

to cheat out of money or other assets

transitory

fleeting, short-lived, non-permanent

vivacity

liveliness, animation, sprightliness

Frankenstein

Abhorrence

Definition: the feeling of hatred or disgust

Example: "I wished to see him again, that I might wreak the utmost extent of **abhorrence** on his head and avenge the deaths of William and Justine." (Chapter 9)

Alchemist

Definition: someone who transforms matter, usually in the attempt to change various metals into gold

Example: "With a confusion of ideas only to be accounted for by my extreme youth and my want of a guide on such matters, I had retraced the steps of knowledge along the paths of time and exchanged the discoveries of recent inquirers for the dreams of forgotten **alchemists**." (Chapter 3)

Asseveration

Definition: a solemn, serious statement of something

Example: "His tale is connected and told with an appearance of the simplest truth, yet I own to you that the letters of Felix and Safie, which he showed me, and the apparition of the monster seen from our ship, brought to me a greater conviction of the truth of his narrative than his **asseverations**, however earnest and connected." (Chapter 24)

Aver

Definition: to state to be true

Example: "I took their word for all that they **averred**, and I became their disciple." (Chapter 2)

Benevolence

Definition: the trait of kindness

Example: "If any being felt emotions of **benevolence** towards me, I should return them a hundred and a hundredfold; for that one creature's sake I would make peace with the whole kind!" (Chapter 17)

Despondence

Definition: the state of being hopeless or in despair

Example: "As she walked along, seemingly incommoded by the burden, a young man met her, whose countenance expressed a deeper **despondence**." (Chapter 11)

Dilatoriness

Definition: the fact of being late or delayed

Example: "The winter, however, was spent cheerfully, and although the spring was uncommonly late, when it came its beauty compensated for its **dilatoriness**." (Chapter 6)

Disquisition

Definition: an essay or dissertation on a specific topic

Example: "The **disquisitions** upon death and suicide were calculated to fill me with wonder." (Chapter 15)

Dogmatism

Definition: laying out ideas as undeniably true without considering other opinions or facts

Example: "His gentleness was never tinged by **dogmatism**, and his instructions were given with an air of frankness and good nature that banished every idea of pedantry." (Chapter 4)

Ennui

Definition: a feeling of boredom or melancholy

Example: "I was ever overcome by **ennui**, the sight of what is beautiful in nature or the study of what is excellent and sublime in the productions of man could always interest my heart and communicate elasticity to my spirits." (Chapter 19)

Fetter

Definition: a restriction on someone's freedom; a chain

Example: "He looks upon study as an odious **fetter**; his time is spent in the open air, climbing the hills or rowing on the lake." (Chapter 6)

Ignominious

Definition: worthy of shame, or causing shame or embarrassment

Example: "Justine also was a girl of merit and possessed qualities which promised to render her life happy; now all was to be obliterated in an **ignominious** grave, and I the cause!" (Chapter 8)

Imprecate

Definition: to cast a curse or call evil upon someone or something

Example: "Oh, earth! How often did I **imprecate** curses on the cause of my being! The mildness of my nature had fled, and all within me was turned to gall and bitterness." (Chapter 16)

Indefatigable

Definition: untiring or persistent

Example: "He said that 'These were men to whose **indefatigable** zeal modern philosophers were indebted for most of the foundations of their knowledge..." (Chapter 3)

Panegyric

Definition: a public lecture or written work praising someone or something

Example: "After having made a few preparatory experiments, he concluded with a **panegyric** upon modern chemistry, the terms of which I shall never forget..." (Chapter 3)

Physiognomy

Definition: the features on a person's face; or, the practice of judging someone's character based on their outward appearance

Example: "I attended the lectures and cultivated the acquaintance of the men of science of the university, and I found even in M. Krempe a great deal of sound sense and real information, combined, it is true, with a repulsive **physiognomy** and manners, but not on that account the less valuable." (Chapter 4)

Prognosticate

Definition: to predict or foresee a future event

Example: "Dear mountains! my own beautiful lake! how do you welcome your wanderer? Your summits are clear; the sky and lake are blue and placid. Is this to **prognosticate** peace, or to mock at my unhappiness?" (Chapter 7)

Slake

Definition: to quench (a thirst)

Example: "I **slaked** my thirst at the brook, and then lying down, was overcome by sleep." (Chapter 11)

Sublime

Definition: so beautiful as to cause immense wonder

Example: "These **sublime** and magnificent scenes afforded me the greatest consolation that I was capable of receiving." (Chapter 10)

Timorous

Definition: timid, lacking confidence

Example: "Several witnesses were called who had known her for many years, and they spoke well of her; but fear and hatred of the crime of which they supposed her guilty rendered them **timorous** and unwilling to come forward." (Chapter 8)

Torpor

Definition: a state of laziness or lifelessness

Example: "Elizabeth alone had the power to draw me from these fits; her gentle voice would soothe me when transported by passion and inspire me with human feelings when sunk in **torpor**." (Chapter 22)

Uncouth

Definition: uncivilized, lacking manners or politeness

Example: "Over him hung a form which I cannot find words to describe—gigantic in stature, yet **uncouth** and distorted in its proportions." (Chapter 24)

Verdure

Definition: green vegetation

Example: "It surprised me that what before was desert and gloomy should now bloom with the most beautiful flowers and **verdure**." (Chapter 13)