



CIE Cambridge Assessment International Education  
9695 English Literature A Level – L6 Texts 2023-24

## **L6 A Level English Literature**

*Seven texts studied over two years for examination series May/June 2024*

### **Suggested Summer 2023 reading:**

William Shakespeare – ‘Hamlet,’

Shelagh Stephenson – ‘An Experiment with an Air Pump.’ Tom Stoppard  
‘Arcadia.’

John Donne -Poetry. ‘Metaphysical Poetry’ ed. By Colin Burrow.

Toni Morrison – ‘Beloved,’ ‘The Bluest Eye.’

### **Further reading and ideas:**

William Shakespeare – ‘King Lear,’ ‘Julius Caesar.’

E.M.W. Tillyard ‘The Elizabethan World Picture’

Study Guides such as Oxford Literature Companions ‘Hamlet’

Shelagh Stephenson – ‘The Memory of Water.’

Andrew Marvell – Poetry.

Angela Walker ‘The Color Purple.’ Zora Neale Hurston ‘Their Eyes Were  
Watching God.’

### **General Skills:**

Jonathan Cutler

Stephen Fry

Jennifer Wallace

Tragedy

Simon Palfrey

Robert Eaglestone

Literature

Rex Gibson

Literary Theory: A Short Introduction

The Ode Less Travelled Unlocking The  
Poet Within

The Cambridge Introduction to

doing Shakespeare

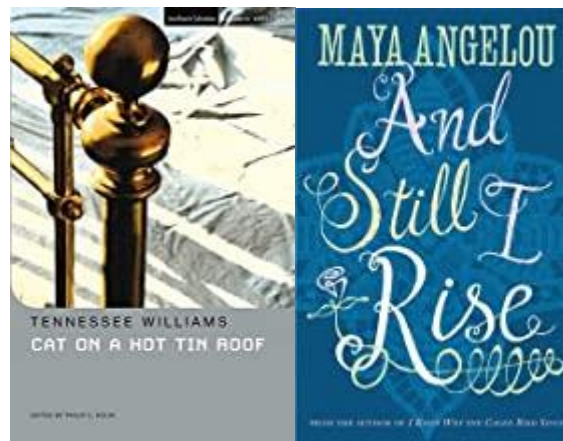
doing English: A Guide For  
Students

Shakespearean and Jacobean Tragedy

The first three texts are carried over from L5:

One) Tennessee Williams, Cat on a Hot Tin Roof

"What is the victory of a cat on a hot tin roof?—I wish I knew... Just staying on it, I guess, as long as she can..."  
Methuen Drama.



Two) Maya Angelou, 'And Still I Rise'

The following selection of poems:

Title:

A Kind of Love, Some Say  
Country Lover  
Remembrance  
Where We Belong, A Duet  
Phenomenal Woman

Men  
Refusal  
Just For A Time  
Junkie Monkey Reel  
The Lesson  
California Prodigal  
My Arkansas  
Through the Inner City to the  
Suburbs

First Line:

Is it true the ribs can tell  
Funky blues  
Your hands easy  
In every town and village,  
Pretty women wonder where my secret  
lies.

When I was young, I used to  
Beloved, / In what other lives or lands  
Oh how you used to walk  
Shoulders sag,  
I keep on dying again.  
The eye follows, the land  
There is a deep brooding

Secured by sooted windows

Lady Luncheon Club

Momma Welfare Roll

The Singer Will Not Sing

Willie

To Beat the Child Was Bad Enough

Woman Work

One More Round

The Traveler

Kin

The Memory

Still I Rise

Ain't That Bad?

Life Doesn't Frighten Me

Bump d'Bump

On Aging

In Retrospect

Just Like Job

Call Letters: Mrs. V.B.

Thank You, Lord

Her counsel was accepted: the times are grave.

Her arms semaphore fat triangles,

A benison given. Unused,

Willie was a man without fame

A young body, light

I've got the children to tend

There ain't no pay beneath the sun

Byways and bygone

We were entwined in red rings

Cotton rows crisscross the world

You may write me down in history

Dancin' the funky chicken

Shadows on the wall

Play me a game like Blind Man's dance

When you see me sitting quietly,

Last year changed its seasons

My Lord, My Lord,

Ships? / Sure I'll sail them.

I see You

Three) Stories of Ourselves Vol. 1, published by the Cambridge University Press



The Yellow Wallpaper

The Son's Veto

The Door in the Wall

An Englishman's Home

The Prison

Billennium

The People Before

Five-Twenty

Report on the Threatened City

Games at Twilight

My Greatest Ambition

To Da-duh, in Memoriam

Of White Hairs and Cricket

Tyres

Real Time

Charlotte Perkins Gilman

Thomas Hardy

H G Wells

Evelyn Waugh

Bernard Malamud

J G Ballard

Maurice Shadbolt

Patrick White

Doris Lessing

Anita Desai

Morris Lurie

Paule Marshall

Rohinton Mistry

Adam Thorpe

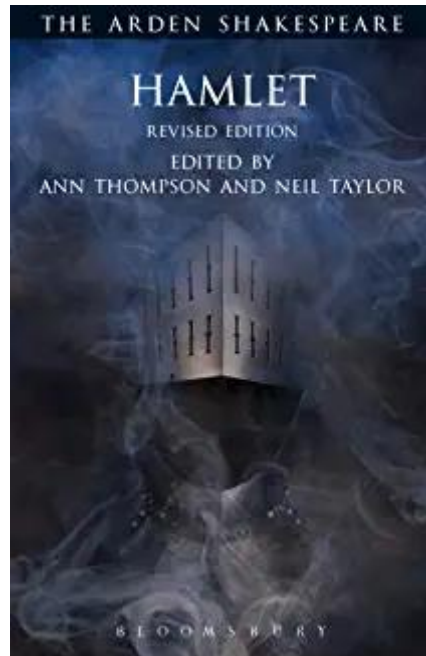
Amit Chaudhuri

#### Four) Unseen Literature

Teacher and students make their own choice of prose and poetry! Yesss!  
The idea here is that we read and analyse a variety of texts and develop the critical skills that enable us to address any text that is put in front of us. And the exam in 2024 does exactly that, giving you a choice between a poem or a fiction extract.

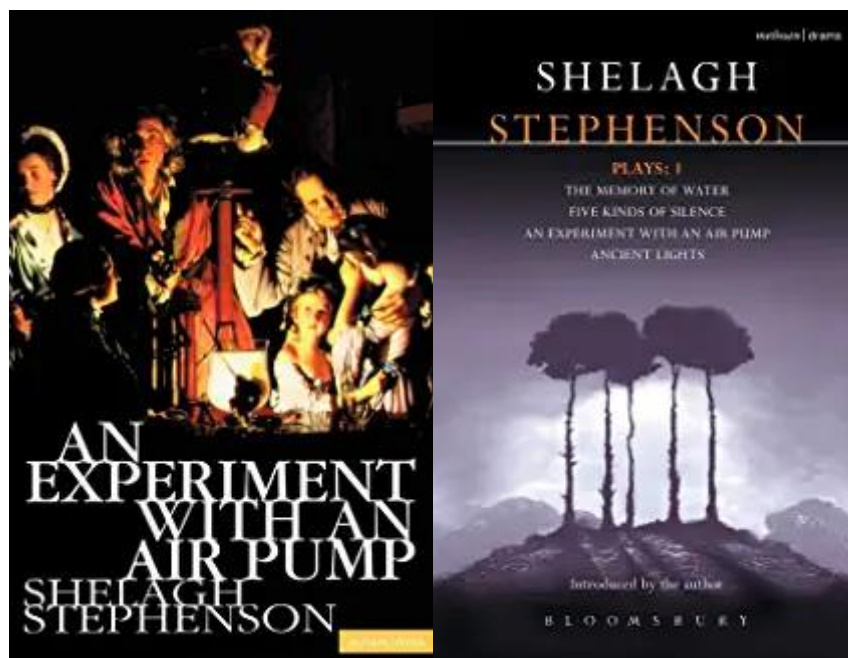
These are the L6 texts:

Five) William Shakespeare, Hamlet



Recommended edition: the Arden Shakespeare.

Six) Shelagh Stephenson, 'Experiments with an air pump'



I am very excited by the inclusion of this 1998 drama, which I think will blow our collective socks off. There are two editions, both published by Bloomsbury. Plays 1 is more expensive, but offers four of her plays - giving us the opportunity to understand more of her work - and I bought my copy 2<sup>nd</sup> hand for a 'steal;' the single edition has introductory notes.

### Seven.) John Donne: a Cambridge selection of his work

Recommend: the Norton Critical Editions 'John Donne's Poetry.'

*The following poems are selected (different editions number the Meditations and Sonnets differently, so first lines provided where appropriate):*

Title:

A Nocturnal upon S. Lucy's Day, being the shortest day

A Valediction: forbidding Mourning

Air and Angels

Break of Day

Elegy 5: His Picture

Elegy 7

Elegy 9: The Autumnal

Elegy 19: To his Mistress Going to Bed

Holy Sonnets: Divine Meditations 2

Holy Sonnets: Divine Meditations 4

Holy Sonnets: Divine Meditations 6

Holy Sonnets: Divine Meditations 7

Holy Sonnets: Divine Meditations 9

Holy Sonnets: Divine Meditations 10

Holy Sonnets: Divine Meditations 14

Holy Sonnets: Divine Meditations 17

Love's Growth

Song

Song

The Anniversary

The Apparition

The Bait

Here take my picture

Nature's lay idiot,

No spring, nor summer beauty

Come, Madam, come,

As due by many titles I resign

Oh my black soul!

This is my play's last scene,

At the round earth's imagined corner

If poisonous minerals,

Death be not proud

Batter my heart, three-personed God;

Since she whom I loved hath paid

Go, and catch a falling star,

Sweetest love, I do not go

The Canonization  
The Dream  
The Ecstasy  
The Expiration  
The Flea  
The Good Morrow  
The Relic  
The Sun Rising  
The Undertaking  
Twickenham Garden



### Eight) Toni Morrison, Beloved

In my humble opinion, one of the greatest authors ever to have put words on a page, and this is regarded as one of her greatest novels. To say, I cannot wait to look at this with you is simply an understatement.  
Recommended edition: Vintage Classics.