



Summer Tasks July 2024

So, you think you would like to study: A-level English Literature

Summer Task Title / Instructions:

Task 1: Essay: close reading of a selected short story (c. 500-750 words)

Short Story: *Harrison Bergeron* (Kurt Vonnegut Jr.: 1961)

'Harrison Bergeron' presents a complete loss of individualism.
How far do you agree with this statement?

In your answer you should:

- Show that you have engaged with both the text and the question by offering a coherent argument. Your argument should be outlined in the introduction, in which you establish your viewpoint; supported with specific examples from the text; and ended with a conclusion that reinforces your viewpoint and offers a 'final thought': for example: by speculating what the writer was seeking to achieve through the text;
- Where it develops the point you're making, comment on the writer's methods: this might include the form of the text, or the writer's language and structural choices. You should demonstrate that you are thinking particularly about how these methods create meaning;
- Show awareness of the possibility that different readings and interpretations of the text exist;
- Adopt an appropriate tone for an English literature essay.

We will be looking for a high level of accurate written expression in your response.

Task 2: Read one novel from the attached reading list.

1. Research the generic conventions of dystopia.
2. Create a presentation detailing why the text you have read is a dystopia, giving specific examples from the text that clearly exemplify the genre. Be prepared to deliver this presentation in a lesson early in the course.

Attachments:

- ***Harrison Bergeron* (Kurt Vonnegut Jr.)**
- **Dystopia Reading List**

Please submit the task to your teacher on the first lesson in September. Feel free to do multiple summer tasks if you are unsure about which subjects to study.