

Welcome to A-Level English Literature!

List the first 5 words you would associate with the subject – English Literature

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

Course Outline

Edexcel A Level Literature

Drama Paper (Shakespeare and a play)

Prose (two novels)

Poetry Paper (named poet and post-2000)

NEA (coursework)

The aims and objectives of the Pearson Edexcel Level 3 Advanced GCE in English Literature are to enable students to:

- read widely and independently set texts and others that they have selected for themselves
- engage critically and creatively with a substantial body of texts and ways of responding to them
- develop and effectively apply their knowledge of literary analysis and evaluation
- explore the contexts of the texts they are reading and others' interpretations of them
- undertake independent and sustained studies to deepen their appreciation and understanding of English literature, including its changing traditions.



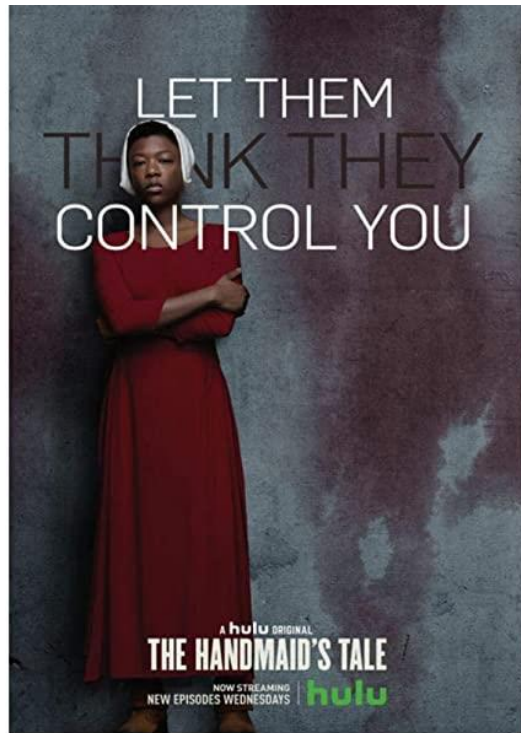
Facts

What is privilege?

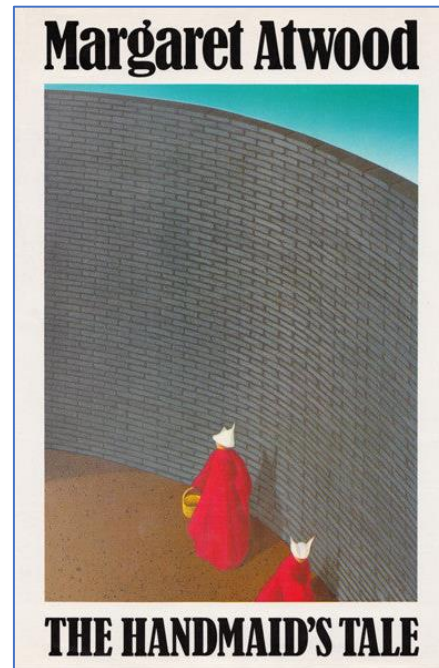


What themes do you think will be presented in 'The Handmaid's Tale' based on the images and quotations below?

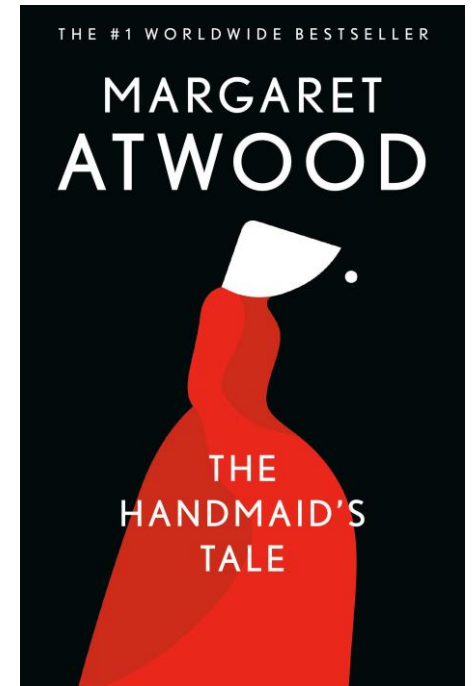
You can't help what you feel, but you can help how you behave



Knowing was a temptation. What you don't know won't tempt you



We thought we had such problems. How were we to know we were happy?



Better never means better for everyone... It always means worse, for some

Watch 'The Handmaid's Tale' trailer – what are your initial thoughts about the time in which it is set?

- [Option 1](#)
- [Option 2](#)



Read the following extract. In what ways is power and marginalisation shown?

CHAPTER 1

We slept in what had once been the gymnasium. The floor was of varnished wood, with stripes and circles painted on it, for the games that were formerly played there; the hoops for the basketball nets were still in place, though the nets were gone. A balcony ran around the room, for the spectators, and I thought I could smell, faintly like an afterimage, the pungent scent of sweat, shot through with the sweet taint of chewing gum and perfume from the watching girls, felt-skirted as I knew from pictures, later in miniskirts, then pants, then in one earring, spiky green-streaked hair.

We yearned for the future. How did we learn it, that talent for insatiability? It was in the air; and it was still in the air, an afterthought, as we tried to sleep, in the army cots that had been set up in rows, with spaces between so we could not talk. We had flannelette sheets, like children's, and army-issue blankets, old ones that still said U.S. We folded our clothes neatly and laid them on the stools at the ends of the beds. The lights were turned down but not out. Aunt Sara and Aunt Elizabeth patrolled; they had electric cattle prods slung on thongs from their leather belts.

No guns though, even they could not be trusted with guns. Guns were for the guards, specially picked from the Angels. The guards weren't allowed inside the building except when called, and we weren't allowed out, except for our walks, twice daily, two by two around the football field, which was enclosed now by a chain-link fence topped with barbed wire. The Angels stood outside it with their backs to us. They were objects of fear to us, but of something else as well. If only they would look. If only we could talk to them. Something could be exchanged, we thought, some deal made, some tradeoff, we still had our bodies. That was our fantasy.

We learned to whisper almost without sound. In the semidarkness we could stretch out our arms, when the Aunts weren't looking, and touch each other's hands across space. We learned to lip-read, our heads flat on the beds, turned sideways, watching each other's mouths. In this way we exchanged names, from bed to bed:

Alma. Janine. Dolores. Moira. June.

Group work

In pairs/threes respond to the following questions based on the extract

- What are your first impressions of the world?
- What do you think is meant by 'We slept in what had once been the gymnasium'?
- What impression do you get of Aunt Sara and Aunt Elizabeth? No guns?
- What can we infer about the guards and their role?
- Why do you think 'We learned to whisper almost without sound'?

Include quotations from the extract within your answers

Any Questions?

One question I have about A-Level English Literature...