



CITY AND ISLINGTON SIXTH FORM COLLEGE

ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE

BRIDGING ASSIGNMENT (GCSE TO A LEVEL)

Exploring fiction

Re-read the opening pages of a number of novels you have read, especially any novels you have not studied at GCSE.

Choose one of these novels, preferably not one you have studied at GCSE. The book can be from any fictional genre: literary fiction, thriller, crime, romance, science fiction, horror, fantasy, teen fiction and so on. It might be a book you read some time ago, or one you have read more recently. It could be a book you are reading and enjoying at the moment.



Task 1

Write around 100 of your own words about your experience of the book. Write as if for somebody who has not read the book, helping them to understand what it is about and its impact on you.

Now look closely at the opening 1-2 pages of your chosen novel.

How has the writer chosen to open the narrative?

Task 2

Write 300 words analysing how the author engages the reader in the novel's opening. Use quotes to support your points.

You might consider any of the following that seem relevant: characterisation, setting, atmosphere, narrative point of view, tone of voice, action, dialogue, imagery, tension, humour, subtext, interesting uses of language, or any other features of the writing that engage the reader.

Exploring non-fiction

Go to the OCR exam board website and find the webpage for A-level English Language and Literature (EMC). In the 'Planning and teaching' section you will find the 'Anthology of non-fiction and spoken texts' (select the 'Anthology of texts' heading to access the document):

<https://www.ocr.org.uk/qualifications/as-and-a-level/english-language-and-literature-emc-h074-h474-from-2015/planning-and-teaching/>

Look at the contents page of the anthology and choose at least five or six texts to read.

After reading the texts, select one to look at more closely.

Task 3

Write out (or copy and paste) a 50-100 word extract from the text.

Task 4

Write 100 words (not including quotations) about the extract you have chosen, saying what you notice and find interesting about the use of language.

Be ready to hand in your answers to the four writing tasks above in your first lesson. Your work may be typed or handwritten.

For further reading, we strongly recommend I Know Why the Caged Bird Sings, an autobiography by American author, Maya Angelou.