

## Independent Study for A Level L6 English Literature –Summer 2020

<b>Component 1: Drama :</b> 2 Sections A Hamlet and a Critical anthology B Drama – Tragedy: A Streetcar named Desire by Tennessee Williams	1 Exam Paper: 2 Hours 15 mins	Worth 30% of course
<b>Component 2: Prose</b> The Picture of Dorian Gray by Oscar Wilde and Beloved by Toni Morrison	1 Exam Paper 1 Hour 15 mins	Worth 20% of course
<b>Component 3 Poetry</b> The Wife of Bath's Prologue and Tale	1 Exam Paper 2 Hours 15 mins	Worth 30% of course
<b>Component 4 Coursework</b> Comparing two texts chosen by the student. Most students compare novels. They must be highly regarded texts must not be books on this exam course and not teen or children's fiction.		Worth 20% of course

**Main Activities** In preparation for the course induction, I would like you to complete the following activities:

1. **\*\*\*Write an analysis of 'To My Nine-Year-Old Self' by Helen Dunmore.** Examine Themes, Perspective, Lexis(choice of words) imagery, phonology (rhyme, alliteration etc if any) structure (stanza shape, sentence structure, enjambment, Caesura etc) TPLIPS. See the poem on the last page.

2. **A Streetcar named Desire by Tennessee Williams-**

Find a two page passage from Tennessee Williams' play **A Streetcar named Desire** (see link below for electronic copy).

**\*\*\*Write about how Williams presents characterisation and drama in a two page passage you find interesting.**

You could cover these aspects:

Tragedy, Expressionistic theatre, stage directions and dialogue that represents class. You could also write about the historical contextual background of the play and including post WW2 US New Orleans life, French Quarter New Orleans, Jazz, Greek Elysian Fields and relationships and marriage at this time. Use suitable quotes from the play and analyse the style.

Add any other contexts related to Williams's life. Websites to help your research. The first is an electronic version of the play.

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

<http://www.pbs.org/wnet/americanmasters/episodes/tennessee-williams/about-tennessee-williams/737/>

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/tennessee-williams>

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### Extension Activities

If you want an extra challenge, try the tasks below:

1. Research Toni Morrison Beloved and the end of the slave era in the US.

Present your independent study in a folder. This could be the start of your A Level English Literature folder of class notes, homework and assessments. You will need pens, pencils and margined lined paper. Please come prepared. If you have any questions and/or require further advice please email Adrian Price, Head of English and Languages: [Adrian.price@coulsdon.ac.uk](mailto:Adrian.price@coulsdon.ac.uk).

**Helen Dunmore**

**TO MY NINE YEAR OLD SELF**

You must forgive me. Don't look so surprised,  
perplexed, and eager to be gone,  
balancing on your hands or on the tightrope.  
You would rather run than walk, rather climb than run  
rather leap from a height than anything.

I have spoiled this body we once shared.  
Look at the scars, and watch the way I move,  
careful of a bad back or a bruised foot.  
Do you remember how, three minutes after waking  
we'd jump straight out of the ground floor window  
into the summer morning?

That dream we had, no doubt it's a fresh in your mind  
as the white paper to write it on.  
We made a start, but something else came up –  
a baby vole, or a bag of sherbet lemons –  
and besides that summer of ambition  
created an ice-lolly factory, a wasp trap  
and a den by the cesspit.

I'd like to say that we could be friends  
but the truth is we have nothing in common  
beyond a few shared years. I won't keep you then.  
Time to pick rosehips for tuppence a pound,  
time to hide down scared lanes  
from men in cars after girl-children,

or to lunge out over the water  
on a rope that swings from that tree  
long buried in housing –  
but no, I shan't cloud your morning. God knows  
I have fears enough for us both –  
I leave you in an ecstasy of concentration  
slowly peeling a ripe scab from your knee  
to taste it on your tongue.