



SUMMER BRIDGING WORK 2026

Summer Bridging Work is an important part of your transition to Wilberforce Sixth Form College. This piece of work will count towards your effort grade. Please complete your summer bridging work in time for the start of term.

You are required to bring evidence in paper format and hand this to your subject teacher, Lisa Davies, during your first lesson.

ENGLISH LITERATURE

OVERVIEW OF SUBJECT

On the English Literature course you will analyse texts and apply literary criticism to expand your insights into issues such as gender, race, class and the workings of the human mind. You will analyse how meaning is created within texts, using knowledge of language, form and structure along with the evaluation of the contextual factors. You will also have the opportunity for in the coursework element of the course. You will study a range of classic and contemporary texts:

DRAMA: You will study Shakespeare's *A Midsummer Night's Dream*, explored in the context of dramatic comedy. You will also study Tennessee Williams' domestic tragedy *A Streetcar Named Desire*.

PROSE: A comparison of Khaled Hosseini's *A Thousand Splendid Suns* with Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*, explored in the context of Women and Society.

POETRY: You will compare an unseen poem with a named poem from a collection of modern poems from *Poems Of The Decade: An Anthology Of The Forward Books Of Poetry* by The Poetry Foundation. You will also study a selection of Romantic poetry.

ENTRY CRITERIA

You will need a minimum of five GCSE grades 9-4. You will also need to have achieved a grade 5 or higher in GCSE English Language or Literature.

LITERACY TASK – Analyse 'The Lammas Hireling'

Task 1: Research task

Listen to and/or read Ian Duhig reading his poem, 'The Lammas Hireling.' (This is one of your set post-2000 poems). Make notes on what inspired Ian Duhig to write the poem.

<https://poetryarchive.org/poet/ian-duhig/>

Task 2: Online lesson

Use the link of two A Level English Literature teachers analysing and discussing 'The Lammas Hireling' to help you make notes on Duhig's techniques. These can be used in your written analysis.

[The Lammas Hireling by Ian Duhig - Making Sense of the Poem](#)

Task 3: Apply your ideas by writing a short response of 500 words on the following writing task:

What are your impressions of the narrator and the eponymous 'hireling' in 'The Lammas Hireling'?
Use quotations from the poem and literary terminology in your response.

The Lammas Hireling **by Ian Duhig**

After the fair, I'd still a light heart
and a heavy purse, he struck so cheap.
And cattle doted on him: in his time
mine only dropped heifers, fat as cream.
Yields doubled. I grew fond of company
that knew when to shut up. Then one night,

disturbed from dreams of my dear late wife,
I hunted down her torn voice to his pale form.
Stock-still in the light from the dark lantern,
stark-naked but for one bloody boot of fox-trap,
I knew him a warlock, a cow with leather horns.
To go into the hare gets you muckle sorrow,

the wisdom runs, muckle care. I levelled
and blew the small hour through his heart.
The moon came out. By its yellow witness
I saw him fur over like a stone mossaing.
His lovely head thinned. His top lip gathered.
His eyes rose like bread. I carried him

in a sack that grew lighter at every step
and dropped him from a bridge. There was no
splash. Now my herd's elf-shot. I don't dream
but spend my nights casting ball from half-crowns
and my days here. Bless me Father for I have sinned.
It has been an hour since my last confession.

PROGRESSION OPPORTUNITIES

Below we have listed four careers linked to English Literature. You are tasked to research the four careers, choose one that most appeals to you and write a 200-words on why you feel this career would be most suited to you.

Digital copywriter
Journalist
English Teacher
Web content manager
One of your own, not listed

Kind regards,
Lisa Davies

If you have any queries regarding your Summer Bridging Work, please contact us via email on kam@wilberforce.ac.uk
I will aim to respond before your enrolment appointment.