

# **A Level English Language and Literature Summer Work**

1. Read through the student handbook to get a feel for the course content and structure.
2. Read the set text 'The Handmaid's Tale' by Margaret Atwood before the course starts in September. Use the reading reflection questions on page 33 of the handbook to respond to three different areas of the novel. If you wish to do a complementary reading task, read Mary Shelley's Frankenstein as well.
3. Use the link below to brush up on punctuation and grammar. There are lessons and tests available to do online. You could also make notes on areas of weakness as another way of improving your written expression.  
[http://www.bristol.ac.uk/arts/exercises/grammar/grammar\\_tutorial/index.htm](http://www.bristol.ac.uk/arts/exercises/grammar/grammar_tutorial/index.htm)
4. You will be studying a selection of poetry by Carol Ann Duffy, from her 'Mean Time' collection. Write a short analysis of the poem 'Close' and bring it to your first English lesson. As part of this task, revise poetic methods, using any of your GCSE resources. Consider tone, progression of ideas and the speaker's feelings. Who is speaking and to whom?

## **'Close' by Carol Ann Duffy**

Lock the door. In the dark journey of our night  
two childhoods stand in the corner of the bedroom  
watching the way we take each other to bits  
to stare at our heart. I hear a story  
told in sleep in a lost accent. You know the truth.

Undress. A suitcase crammed with secrets  
bursts in the wardrobe at the foot of the bed.  
Dress again. Undress. You have me like a drawing,  
erased, coloured in, untitled, signed by your tongue.  
The name of a country written in red on my palm,

Unreadable. I tell myself where I live now,  
but you move in close till I shake, homeless,  
further than that. A coin falls from the bedside table,  
spinning its heads and tails. How the hell  
can I win. How can I lose. Tell me again.

Love won't give in. It makes a hired room tremble  
with the pity of bells, a cigarette smoke itself  
next to a full glass of wine, time ache  
into space, space, wants no more talk. Now  
it has me where I want me, now you, you do.

Put out the light. Years stand outside on the street  
looking up to an open window, black as our mouth  
which utters its tuneless song. The ghosts of ourselves,  
behind and before us, throng in a mirror, blind,  
laughing and weeping. They know who we are.

5. Look up and revise / learn some new terminology needed for the course as follows:

- Heterodiegetic narrator
- Homodiegetic narrator
- Narrative perspective
- Authorial purpose / intention
- Imagery; figurative language
- Register
- Tone
- Spatial deixis
- Temporal deixis
- Person deixis
- Synaesthesia
- Rhetorical devices
- Graphology / graphological features in a text
- Phonology / phonological features in a text
- Ambiguity

6. Use the recommended reading list from the handbook to do further reading.