



Year 11 Preparation for Study at Loreto College

SUBJECT

English Language and Literature



QUALIFICATION

A Level



PREPARATION TASKS



RESEARCH



A Streetcar Named Desire by Tennessee Williams

- Watch the 1951 film version of the play. This is available on some paid streaming site, and clips are available on YouTube.
- Read the play - available free online.

Use a reading journal or any lined paper and complete the following:

1. Read and make notes on the playwright Tennessee Williams.
2. Answer these questions with evidence from the play (quotes or details from the action): a) How far do you sympathise with Blanche Dubois in the play? Why/Why not? b) How far do you sympathise with Stanley Kowalski? Why/Why not? c) What do you think are the messages Williams wanted to put across through the play?

- Find out about life in America after the second world war - the play is set just after this and was first performed in 1947. Focus on attitudes to immigrants; life in New Orleans; attitudes towards roles within the family; the status of women; attitudes to homosexuality.
- Find out what is meant by The Southern Belle (used to identify Blanche Dubois). How had the deep south of America changed in terms of slavery and life on former plantations?
- Find out what Tennessee Williams meant by Plastic Theatre - another name for this is Expressionist Theatre. How does Williams use this?
- The play is a tragedy - find out what these terms mean: tragic hero, nemesis, hamartia, tragic inevitability.

RECOMMENDED READING



RECOMMENDED WEBSITES



Read lots of novels - choose any that you have been meaning to read, get recommendations from family and friends. Keep a reading journal to make a note of key events, which characters you sympathise or don't sympathise with, what you think are the main messages of the novels, quotes you really like, and anything else! **The Great Gatsby** by F Scott Fitzgerald is set text. The following suggestions are ones that are options as part of your creative writing coursework: **The Handmaid's Tale** by Margaret Atwood / **1984** by George Orwell / **Fahrenheit 451** by Raymond Bradbury / **Brave New World** by Aldous Huxley / **Never Let Me Go** by Kazuo Ishiguro.

Over the two year course you will also develop your skills of writing about non-fiction.

Read famous speeches, travel writing and newspapers (print or online versions). Some online newspapers require a subscription, but the following are free to read (just click on the titles to be directed to their websites): [The i](#)

[The Guardian](#)

Have a read of texts from the exam board. click on 'Prose Non-Fiction Texts'.

This research work is really useful to do, as it will help you to explore your options for college study. Please be aware that agreed courses will be finalised at enrolment after students have been awarded their GCSE results.