

## **TRANSITION TASKS: ENGLISH LITERATURE (2018)**

### **PART ONE: 'Nineteen Eighty-Four' Dystopian Literature**

**(1) Buy a copy of George Orwell's 'Nineteen Eighty-Four' and read it.**

**Publisher:** Penguin Classics; 01 edition (3 Jan. 2013)

**Language:** English

**ISBN-10:** 0141393041

**ISBN-13:** 978-0141393049

**(2) Complete the research questions on George Orwell. Use the website links to help.**

**(3) Extension: Read one of the other dystopian novels on the list below.**

1. What was George Orwell's real name?
2. When was he born?
3. When did he die?
4. Find the title of two books that he wrote during the 1930s, what were they about?
5. What war did George Orwell fight in during the 1930s? What happened to him?
6. What did George Orwell do during WW2?
7. What events inspired him when writing 1984?
8. Where did he write 1984 and what was happening to him when he wrote it?
9. How important is George Orwell's life in understanding the inspiration behind 1984?  
Explain your answer in detail.

#### **Websites:**

Basic biography: <http://www.biography.com/people/george-orwell-9429833>

Short Biography – BBC historic figures

[http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic\\_figures/orwell\\_george.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/history/historic_figures/orwell_george.shtml)

Guardian Articles

The Masterpiece that Killed George Orwell

<http://www.theguardian.com/books/2009/may/10/1984-george-orwell>

### **Dystopian texts you will need to read for the A-level examination:**

#### **Main texts**

George Orwell, *1984*

Margaret Atwood, *The Handmaid's Tale*

#### **Other texts**

H.G. Wells, *The Time Machine*

Aldous Huxley, *Brave New World*

Ray Bradbury, *Fahrenheit 451*

Anthony Burgess, *A Clockwork Orange*

J G Ballard, *A Drowned World*

Doris Lessing, *Memoirs of a Survivor*  
PD James, *Children of Men*  
Cormac McCarthy, *The Road*

## **PART TWO: 'Richard III': Shakespeare**

### **Buy a copy of 'Richard III' by William Shakespeare**

Recommended edition:

King Richard III (Cambridge School Shakespeare)

- **Publisher:** Cambridge University Press; 3 edition (22 Jan. 2015)
- **Language:** English
- **ISBN-10:** 1107615577
- **ISBN-13:** 978-1107615571

Note: Do not buy the cheapest edition! This will be a disadvantage when we are studying the play in detail.

It is also a very good idea to buy a copy of York Notes at the same time.

### **Complete the following tasks:**

1. Research the historical facts about Richard III, including all that we have learnt about him in very recent times.
2. Find, and copy out so that you can understand it(!) a copy of the family tree as it relates to characters in the play. Make sure that you can identify who is related to whom.
3. Make detailed notes on the following contextual ideas which will be important in the play:
  - The War of the Roses
  - The Chain of Being
  - The Machiavel
  - The concept of tragedy – Aristotle; Boethius
  - Holinshed on the historical figure of Richard III
4. Read the first soliloquy. What has just happened? What is Richard's reaction to this? Why?
5. **Extension:** Find out how many famous actors have played the part of Richard over time. If possible, find and print out pictures of them and details of how they interpreted the role.

