

## Beyond English - 2021

### What is Beyond English?

Beyond English is a new stretch and challenge programme at Abingdon designed to inspire and stimulate your studies in English beyond the classroom.

### Why should I take part?

Aside from the prizes, these activities are designed to be fun as well as to develop your understanding and appreciation of literature beyond the classroom. And if that wasn't enough, it's widely accepted that reading for pleasure enhances your academic success across all subjects, not just English.

### How does it work?

All you have to do is pick a task from the relevant list, and complete it to the best of your ability, and then submit it to your English teacher via email. You can do as many tasks as you wish.

### What if I want to do a task in another age category?

That's fine; in fact, go for it. We've selected the tasks based on what we think would be suitable for each age category, but if you want to push yourself further, or you like the look of another task, you should feel free to attempt it. You can always ask your English teacher for advice if you're unsure if a task is right for you.

### What do I get for submitting a task?

For every entry you submit, you will be given a prize. The prize will be in line with the quality and effort of your work, and be decided by Mr Coolin, Head of English.

### How do I submit a task?

Submit tasks to your English teacher via email.

## Lower School

Read a classic novel from the nineteenth century ([recommended list here](#)) and write a poem in response, inspired by a favourite scene.

Give a presentation to the rest of your English class on another novel written by the author you're studying in your lessons e.g. if you're studying *Animal Farm* by George Orwell in lessons, you could read *1984*.

Start a book group with your friends, read the same book, and record yourselves discussing it, or write a 750 word review of this book.

Read a newspaper article or journal article about a topic that interests you and compose a speech which debates the topics within it e.g. “This house believes social media causes nothing but problems.” [This website might give you some ideas.](#)

Read some of [these animal poems](#), and then write your own about an animal of your choice. Include a 500 word explanation of why you chose this animal and how you’ve written the poem.

Watch any of [Shakespeare’s Animated Tales](#) and write a summary of the story, and explain how it might be relevant to today’s audience. You should write at least 700 words.

Visit the [British Library’s Discovering Literature](#) online exhibition and write a 500 words summary (minimum) of an article you have found there.

### **Middle School**

Read a novel on the [Man Booker Prize Shortlist](#) and write a review; should it have won the prize?

Read a 21st Century novel by [a BAME author on this list](#) and write a close analysis of your favourite passage

Create your own poetry anthology of at least ten poems, by selecting your favourite poems with at least one from each century starting from the 16th Century. You should write a short introduction to the anthology. [Use this website to help.](#)

Read a dystopian novel and create a model city inspired by it, along with a short commentary explaining it. The model could be an annotated drawing or made using craft materials. [This list of novels](#) should help to guide you.

Read a selection of poems by one of the Romantic poets, such as Wordsworth, Keats or Coleridge, and write a modern day poem with traditional Romantic themes. [Use this link to help find the poems.](#)

Create a list of the best women writers from the twentieth century, with explanatory notes on who they were and what they wrote. As a starting point, [you might use this link to help find authors.](#)

Argue for a text of your choice to be included in the literary canon. You should aim to write at least 1000 words.

Read or watch a classic play ([see this list on DramaOnline for ideas](#)) and write about how you would stage it. DramaOnline can be accessed through the [English page](#) on Firefly.

Listen to a [radioplay on this list](#) and write 1000 word \*(minimum) review of it.

Visit the [British Library's Discovering Literature](#) online exhibition and write a 1000 words summary (minimum) of an article you have found there, or a piece of creative writing in response to the article.

Write one scene of a screenplay for a novel that you've read recently.

Watch a course of lectures in the English Literature section of Massolit ([accessed through Firefly](#)), and make a presentation summarising what you've learned for the rest of your class.

(GCSE specific) Read Simon Armitage's '[Manhunt](#)' and make notes on similarities and differences between this poem and '[Remains.](#)'

(GCSE specific) Read 'A Christmas Carol' and prepare arguments as to who is the more appealing; Arthur Birling from *An Inspector Calls* or Ebenezer Scrooge?

### Upper School

Read a chapter of *Ulysses* by James Joyce, and write down your reflections on it in at least 1000 words. You might ask yourself: how is this really fiction?

Argue for a text of your choice to be included in the literary canon. You should aim to write at least 1500 words.

Memorise a section of [T.S. Eliot's The Waste Land](#), record yourself doing it, and then write a commentary about its use of language, perhaps focusing on the imagery.

Read a 21st Century novel by [a BAME author on this list](#) and write a close analysis of your favourite passage.

Read a collection of poetry from the [Forward Poetry Prize Shortlist](#) and write a review, or a poem in the style of your chosen poet. A short commentary of around 750 words should accompany this.

Read *The History of Tom Jones* by Henry Fielding, and do some re-creative writing of this.

Read some short stories by a woman of BAME origin such as Chimamanda Ngozi Adiche's 'Zikora' and/or write an article about the importance of multiculturalism to English Literature today.

Select a text from Penguin's [The Ultimate LGBTQIA reading list](#), and write an article on the topic of whether a writer's gender or sexuality matters.

Read a selection of poems by one of the [Metaphysical poets](#), such as Donne, Herbert or Marvell and write a modern day poem with traditional metaphysical themes.

Listen to a [radioplay on this list](#) and write a speech or article debating the value of radio drama in today's largely visual society. You should refer to the radio play in the course of your argument.

Visit the [British Library's Discovering Literature](#) online exhibition and write a 1000 words summary (minimum) of an article you have found there, or a piece of creative writing in response to the article. Try and choose an article whose subject is pre-1800.

Watch a course of lectures in the English Literature section of Massolit ([accessed through Firefly](#)), and make a presentation summarising what you've learned for the rest of your class.

In response to watching a lecture series on Massolit, film yourself giving a 10 minute lecture on a book of your choice, this should be a text you have not studied in lessons.