



Ringwood School



Dream Big
Be Curious
Be Determined
Make No Excuses
Embrace Opportunities

English Literature GCSE

The main message here is that a lot of the revision in English Literature is acquiring knowledge. To do this, students should learn a set of core quotations, which they will be able to use most of for most essay questions. These 'high value' quotations can be mind-mapped to effectively plan paragraphs they'd use in essay questions. The prompts for the mind-mapping activity will necessarily feed into the assessment objectives they get marks for:

AO1 (12 marks) - 'WHAT' does the writer present and 'WHERE' (quotations)

AO2 (12 marks) - 'HOW' does the writer present their ideas? (methods and their effects)

AO3 (6 marks) - 'WHY' does the writer present these things in this way? (context for the presentation of characters etc.)

Example

Core quotation: The lighting should go from being 'pink and intimate' to 'brighter and harder' when the Inspector arrives

AO1

Who says it? **Stage direction** To whom? **Director of the play** When? **Before Act 1 begins** Why? **To signal the change in mood when the Inspector arrives.**

AO2

Methods and effect? **Visual metaphor - 'pink' lighting symbolises the fantasy lifestyle the family live in ignorance of the 'harder' reality faced by the working classes whom they exploit. Adjective 'intimate' could connote the insular and 'closed off' existence of the family who are very inward looking as part of their mindset towards social responsibility.**

AO3

Why does Priestley present the lighting this way?

1. Foreshadows the impact disruptive impact the Inspector will have on the Birlings through the intensity of the light of the 'reality' he shines on them. Prepares audience for the later message.
2. Symbolises the social message of the play that challenges the privileged and sheltered lives of the middle/upper classes while many others in 1912 are struggling due to their exploitation by these privileged few.
3. Supports the understanding that Priestley himself was a radical socialist and wanted to prevent Britain returning to the Edwardian class system of 1912.

Obviously, the more able the student, the more the mind-maps can be developed.

A paragraph might look something like this:

Priestley uses the change of lighting from 'pink and intimate' to 'brighter and harder' to symbolise the impact of the Inspector on the Birling family. Prior to his arrival the 'pink' could metaphorically represent the fantasy lifestyle the Birlings are able to enjoy due to the way they shelter themselves from the harder reality faced by many in 1912. The adjective 'harder' represents the scrutiny that the inspector brings with him and indicates the family are being interrogated. However, this is more of a moral rather than a criminal investigation. Priestley uses the lighting to allude to his social challenge, reinforcing his opposition to Capitalism as well as his promotion of greater social responsibility.



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The Other Set Texts

For each set text, students should be given similar canons of quotations like the one I shared with you in the attached PPT.

Please do explore this with class teachers when each unit comes along.

Thank you for taking the time to read this and for your continued support.

One more favour that I would ask is that you start to have conversations with your children about considering one of the Englishes for A Level. I am more than happy to outline what the two courses involve and students need to know that they - particularly English Language - might be different to what they had thought, and might be even more enjoyable for that, too!