



Malet Lambert English Department
Making the most of Literature Revision

Literature can be a tricky GCSE to prepare for: the characters, story, quotations, themes... it can feel endless. Through organising and preparation, it is manageable.

Step One: Story and Events

Begin your revision process by **developing a strong understanding** of the **story and key plot points**.

- Know the **key plot points** in each **act/stave**.
- In what act/stave is a character introduced? In what act/stave does a character begin to change and why?

How can I revise this at home?

Re-read the texts or **plot summaries** for the texts we have covered at GCSE. Without looking, see if you can recall the key moments.

Create a quiz for yourself or friends

Mind map key events

Step Two: Characters

Now, it is time to **develop a strong understanding** of the **characters** we have covered!

- Ask yourself: *When is each character introduced? How were they initially presented? How and why do they progress and change? How many different interpretations can you offer?*

Want to strive and revise for top marks?

Don't simply look at who these **characters are**. But consider what they **symbolise** and **represent**. **This is so important!**

For example, *Tybalt is **symbolic** of the **toxic male masculinity** in the Elizabethan period. A **product of the society he was raised in**.*

How can I revise this at home?

Write down everything you know about a character on a mind map. Once you have done this, look back through your exercise books, revision books and look online. Is there anything you have missed?

Add anything you have missed to your mind map in a different coloured pen.

Quotations

*Please remember, you **do not** have to know every quotation in a text. You can remember a single word quotation/paraphrase and you will still be credited*

Now, it is time to think about quotations for these characters.

1. Write down two/three **language rich quotations** per **character** on a piece of **paper or index card**
2. Make them **visible** in your room or wherever you revise.
3. **Look over them** and **test yourself!** Can you **remember/paraphrase** the **quotation?**
4. Once you know the quotations, try to **analyse** them in **depth and detail**.

Step Three: Themes

You could be asked a thematic question in the GCSE Literature exams. You must **develop a strong understanding** of the **themes** we have covered!

- Ask yourself: *How is <theme> presented in <literature text>? Which character best represents that theme? How many different interpretations can you offer?*

Want to strive and revise for top marks?

Consider how these themes are symbolically presented through characters. **This is so important!**

How can I revise this at home?

Write down everything you know about a chosen theme on a mind map, including relevant characters and quotations. Once you have done this, look back through your exercise books, revision books and look online. Is there anything you have missed?

Add anything you have missed to your mind map in a different coloured pen.

Quotations

*Please remember, you **do not** have to know every quotation in a text. You can remember a single word quotation/paraphrase and you will still be credited*

Now, it is time to think about quotations for themes.

1. Write down two/three **language rich quotations** per **character** on a piece of **paper or index card**
2. Make them **visible** in your room or wherever you revise.
3. **Look over them** and **test yourself!** Can you **remember/paraphrase** the **quotation?**
4. Once you know the quotations, try to **analyse** them in **depth and detail.**

What next?

Finally, it is time to put all of your revision into practice and begin to **answer past paper questions!**

Initially, **do not time yourself.** Allow yourself to explore the character/theme in depth and detail.

As you get closer to the exam, begin to time yourself in order to get exam ready.

Remember, continue to go over the revision notes you have made and keep it fresh in your memory!

Some Useful Websites:

PMT – Useful for character profiles and thematic information. Simply google the website and then a character's name. E.g. PMT Ebenezer Scrooge

Mr Bruff YouTube videos – Bitesize videos on plot, characters and themes. Simply search 'Mr Bruff' on YouTube.