

AQA English Literature B



John Hampden Grammar
School English Department

What is Literature?



Writing and drama that is valued for its aesthetic qualities – that inspires, challenges and provokes.

Why Study English Literature?

“You develop the insight of an artist, the analytical precision of a scientist, and the persuasiveness of a lawyer.”

– Prof. Maureen Moran, Brunel University

Why Study English Literature?

- Rigorous and intellectually challenging
- Perceived as a strong subject by employers and universities
- Transferable skills, e.g. research, reading for detail, constructing an argument
- Rewarding!



2009 results

75% A – B grades

90% A – C grades



Unit 1: Aspects of Narrative

- 2 hour **exam** (open-book)
- 60% total AS marks (30% total A Level)
- Two novels (at least one post-1900)
- Two poetry texts (1800-1945)

Unit 2: Dramatic Genres (Aspects of Tragedy)

- Two **coursework** essays
- 40% of AS marks (20% of total A Level)
- Minimum of two texts including Shakespeare

AS set texts

Unit 1

- Samuel Taylor Coleridge – ‘The Rime of the Ancient Mariner’
- Robert Browning – various poems
- F. Scott Fitzgerald – *The Great Gatsby*
- Andrea Levy – *Small Island*

Unit 2

- William Shakespeare – *Hamlet*
- Arthur Miller – *A View from the Bridge*
- Tennessee Williams – *A Streetcar Named Desire*

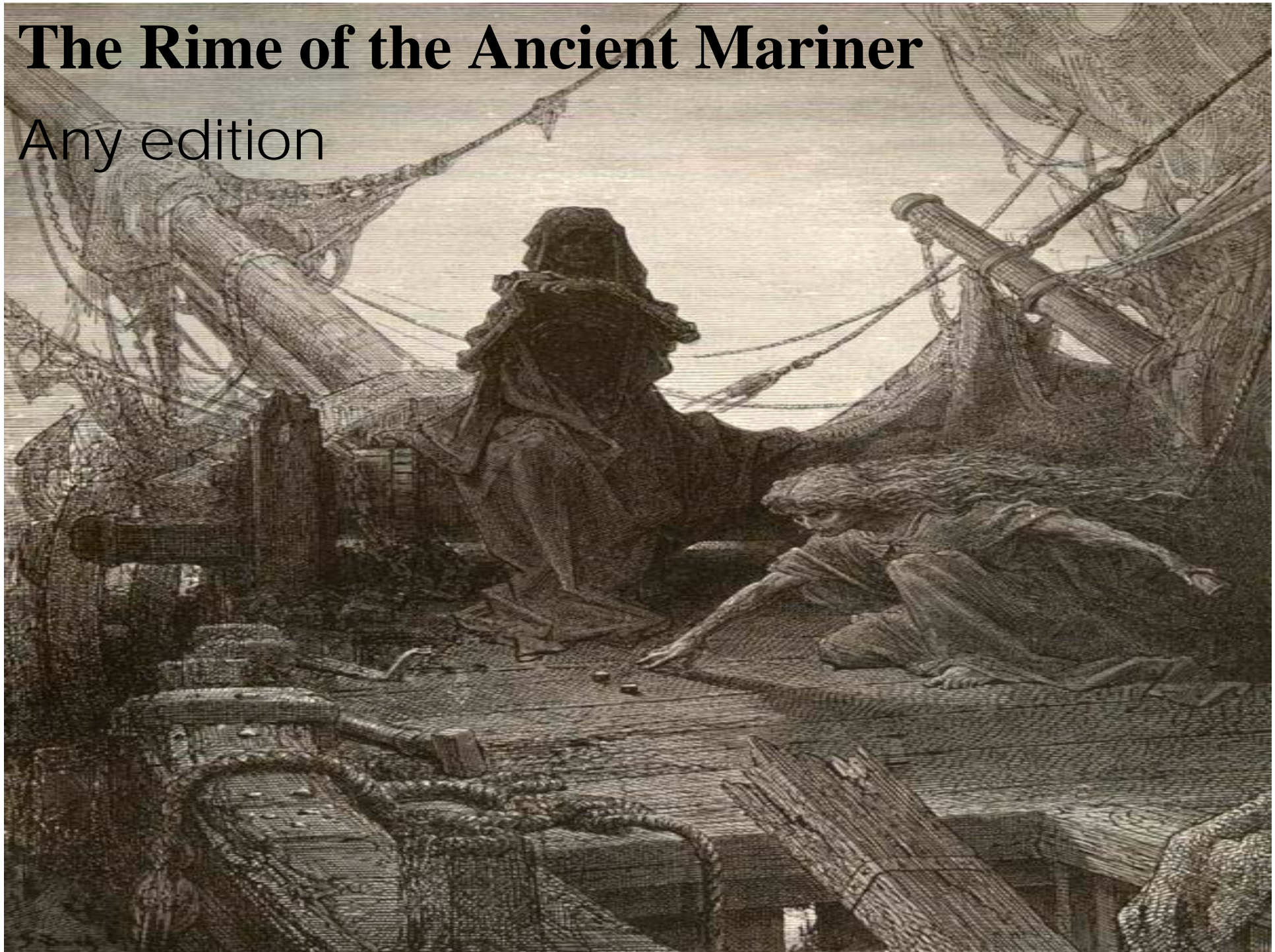
Unit 1: Aspects of Narrative

- Open book exam
- Study four texts
- Section A: write in detail on one text – two short answers
- Section B: give an overview of the other three texts – one longer essay

You do not need to know everything about the four books – we will focus on the issue of narrative.

The Rime of the Ancient Mariner

Any edition



The Great Gatsby



WINNER

Whitbread Book of the Year
and
Orange Prize for Fiction



'Entrancing and disturbing at the same
time; the literary equivalent of a switch-back ride'
THE SUNDAY TIMES

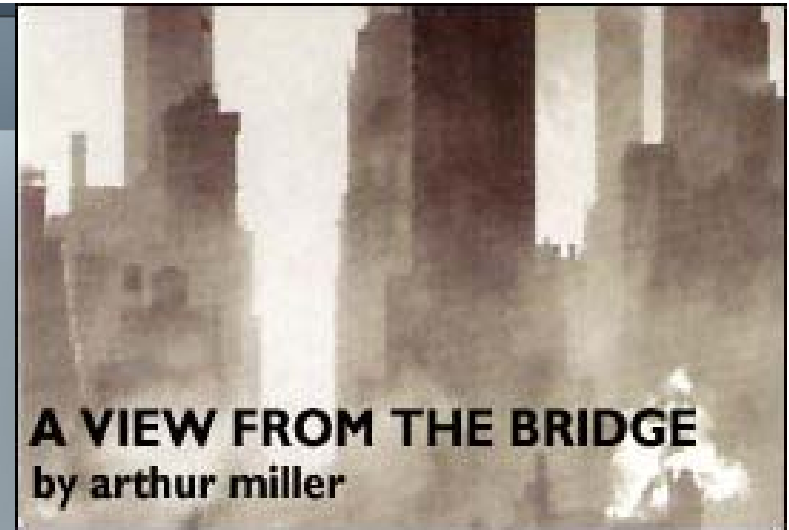
Andrea Levy

SMALL
ISLAND

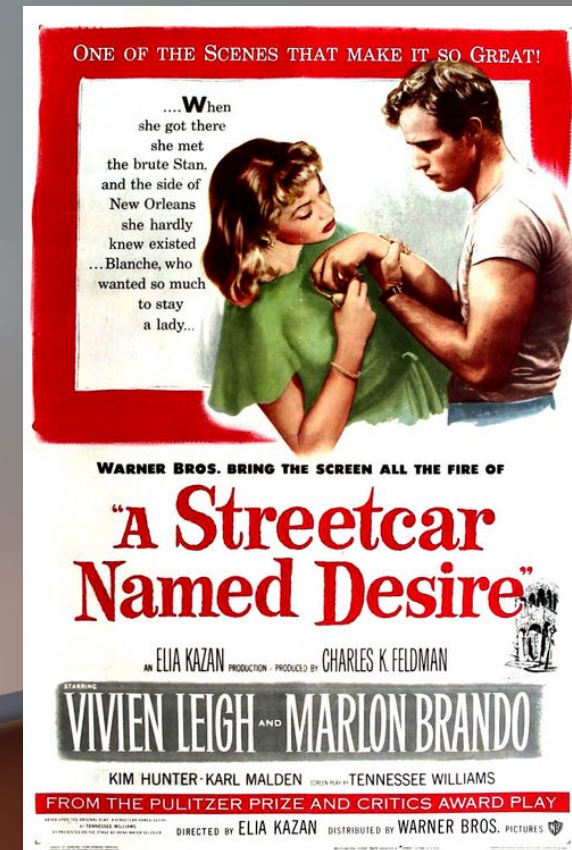
Unit 2: Dramatic Genres - Tragedy



Hamlet:



Coursework
: 2 pieces



Unit 2: Dramatic Genres - Tragedy

- Coursework
- 1,500 word essay on each of three plays
- Best two essays (one Shakespeare) submitted

A selection of plays is studied and discussed in relation to classical and modern conceptions of tragedy.

Unit 3: Aspects of the Gothic

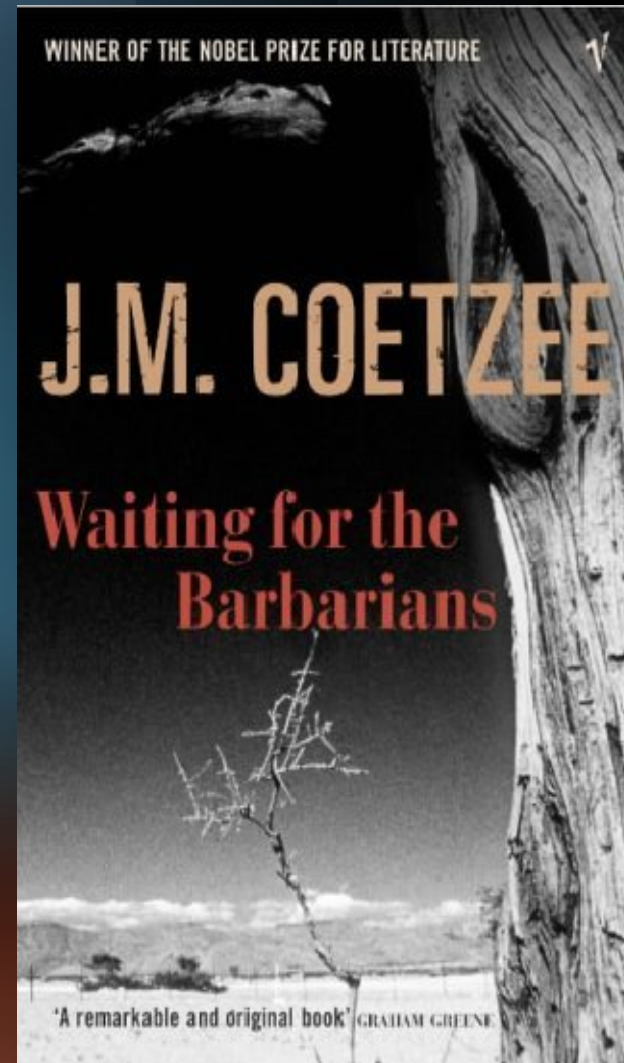
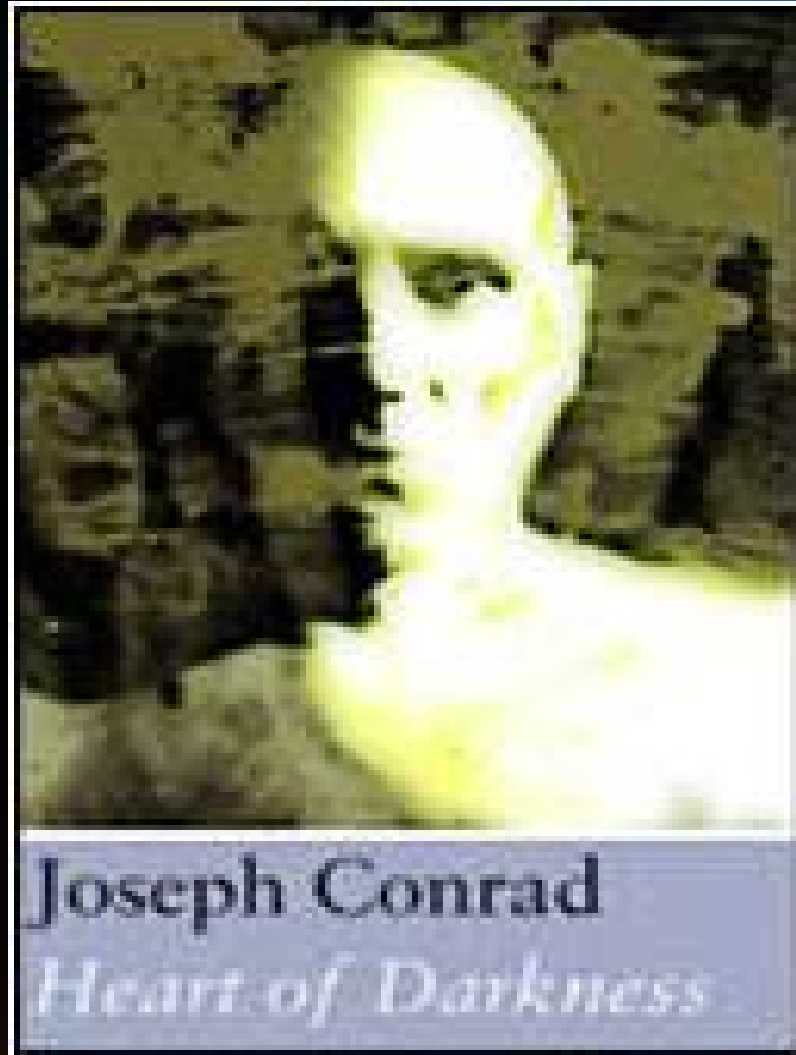
Doctor Faustus

Paradise Lost

Wuthering Heights



Unit 4: Further Independent Reading



Any questions?

Good luck with your GCSEs.

See you in September?