

# Super Curricular Activities (English)

## What are Super Curricular Activities?

**Super Curricular Activities** describe extra-curricular activities that help students to expand their general knowledge and subject knowledge. The list below has been compiled using advice given from Oxford and Cambridge universities about the resources young people could use to enhance their knowledge about the world. *The new GCSE and A Level courses are much more focused on knowledge than in previous years: students who 'read widely' will undoubtedly have an advantage because they will have a deeper understanding of topics and will have nurtured their love of learning.*

## Advice on how to use the Super Curricular Activities

**Simple: follow your interests and dip in and out of whatever catches your eye!** Learning is a life-long commitment and you should relish opportunities to explore new topics and expand your knowledge. The best way to do this is to follow your interests and to stretch yourself to find out more about new topics and ideas: the suggestions below are sources of information you could use to help you to explore any topic that interests you... *keep in mind that although Google and Wikipedia can be useful tools, they don't always have accurate information so cannot be entirely trusted!*

## Super Curricular Activities:

### ENGLISH LITERATURE

- **Key Stage 4: Useful websites to develop for the 19<sup>th</sup> century novel in general**
  - Contextual information: <http://www.victorianweb.org/>
  - Author information: <http://www.victorianweb.org/authors/index.html>
  
- **Key periods in English Literature:**
  - Romanticism (to be used with poetry- Blake and Shelley etc)  
<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/features/what-is-romanticism>
  
- **Text specific: Poetry anthology**
  - Poetry ww1 context: <https://www.bl.uk/world-war-one/articles>
  - Power and conflict video- which poems compare well:  
[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K\\_PtFsOPBg4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=K_PtFsOPBg4)
  
- **Text specific: 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde'**
  - The British Library: <https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/articles/duality-in-robert-louis-stevensons-strange-case-of-dr-jekyll-and-mr-hyde>
  - Oxford University Press Journals: <https://academic.oup.com/jvc/article-abstract/11/2/207/4159555?redirectedFrom=fulltext>
  - Online newspaper articles: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2008/dec/13/dr-jekyll-mr-hyde-stevenson>
  - <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/9135680/The-strange-case-of-Robert-Louis-Stevenson.html>
  - Jekyll and Hyde documentary (Ian Rankin):  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/b007qyzv>
  - when gothic was born- various documentaries:  
<https://www.bbc.co.uk/programmes/p028l9bk>

- **Text specific: 'Jane Eyre'**
  - <http://www.victorianweb.org/authors/bronte/cbronte/genderov.html>
- **Text specific: The History Boys**
  - Newspapers- <https://www.telegraph.co.uk/culture/theatre/drama/3619379/The-truth-behind-the-History-Boys.html>
  - <https://www.theguardian.com/stage/2006/oct/17/theatre.schools>
  - Interview with Alan Bennett [https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wAl74KQ\\_IzI](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wAl74KQ_IzI)
- **Key Stage 4: Shakespeare**
  - Oxford University Lectures podcast <https://podcasts.ox.ac.uk/series/approaching-shakespeare>
  - Shakespeare context: <https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare>

## ENGLISH LANGUAGE:

- Some persuasive writing articles: <https://www.independent.co.uk/voices/energy-drinks-obesity-ban-sugar-tax-addiction-alcohol-red-bull-aggressive-teens-a8516511.html>
- Some creative writing articles: <https://www.theguardian.com/travel/2018/aug/02/sailing-trip-scotland-hebrides-islands-adam-nicolson-wainwright-prize-2018>
- Suggested non-fiction reading: <https://www.theguardian.com/books/2017/dec/31/the-100-best-nonfiction-books-of-all-time-the-full-list>

### \*Relevant books available in Harlington Library

- ➔ Read a second text by the writer

### Shakespeare

*Consider texts that are alluded to in Shakespearian plays*

\*Title: Greek Myths and Legends

Author: Claybourne, Anna

\*Title: Greek Myths

Author: Graves, Robert

\*Title: A Brief Guide to Greek Myth

Author: Kershaw, Stephen

Title: The Bible

## **Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde**

*Consider texts that focus on the scientific discoveries of the time*

Title: On the Origins of Species

Author: Charles Darwin

Title: The Water Babies

Author: Charles Kingsley

## **A Christmas Carol**

*Consider a range of Dickensian work and common themes that arise*

\*Title: Oliver Twist

Author: Charles Dickens

\*Title: Great Expectations

Author: Charles Dickens

## **An Inspector Calls**

*Publications that influenced this play*

Title: An Experiment with Time

Author: J. W. Dunne

## **Lord of the Flies**

*Publications that influenced this novel*

Title: Coral Island

Author: Robert Ballatyne

## **Key Stage 5: English Literature**

- [English Timeline - The British Library www.bl.uk/englishtimeline](http://www.bl.uk/englishtimeline)
- [Literary Periods Timeline - The Literature Network www.online-literature.com](http://www.online-literature.com) ›  
*Literary Periods*
- <https://www.britannica.com/topic/Greek-mythology>
- **The Guardian Review** <https://www.theguardian.com/theguardian/guardianreview>
  
- **Text specific: The Handmaid's Tale**
  - **A Brief History: The Four Waves of Feminism**
  - <https://www.progressivewomensleadership.com>
  - <https://literature.britishcouncil.org/writer/margaret-atwood>
  - **What is Margaret Atwood's perspective on feminism? — Writing on Glass**  
<https://www.writingonglass.com/content/margaret-atwood-feminism>
  - **Margaret Atwood: Feminism is not about believing women are always right**
  - <https://www.independent.co.uk> › *Culture* › *Books* › *News*
  - **What the Handmaid's Tale means in the age of Trump**  
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/.../margaret-atwood-handmaids-tale-age-of-trump.htm>

- <https://www.bl.uk/20th-century-literature/articles/freedom-or-oppression-the-fear-of-dystopia>
- <https://www.nytimes.com/2017/04/28/watching/handmaids-tale-best-articles.html> A range of articles that range from considering it's dramatization and how successful to the feminist interpretations of the text
- <https://journals.lib.unb.ca/index.php/scl/article/view/12383/13254> dystopian genre an angle to consider to move away from considering the feminist reading of the text

➤ **Text specific: Duffy**

- <https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poets/carol-ann-duffy> General information regarding her career and work
- [http://www.bbc.co.uk/poetryseason/poets/carol\\_ann\\_duffy.shtml](http://www.bbc.co.uk/poetryseason/poets/carol_ann_duffy.shtml) BBC interviews

➤ **Text specific: A Streetcar Named Desire**

- Consider the different interpretations and readings of the following – some example links but there are many essays out there :-
- The Psychoanalysis essays such as: -  
[http://www.academia.edu/7905305/FRAGMENTED\\_IDENTITIES\\_ON\\_THE\\_STAGE\\_A\\_PSYCHOANALYTICAL\\_ANALYSIS\\_OF\\_THE\\_CHARACTERS\\_IN\\_A\\_STREET\\_CAR\\_NAMED\\_DESIRE\\_BASED\\_ON\\_ABJECTION](http://www.academia.edu/7905305/FRAGMENTED_IDENTITIES_ON_THE_STAGE_A_PSYCHOANALYTICAL_ANALYSIS_OF_THE_CHARACTERS_IN_A_STREET_CAR_NAMED_DESIRE_BASED_ON_ABJECTION)
- The Feminist reading <https://digitalcommons.liberty.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1278&context=masters>
- <https://www.britannica.com/biography/Tennessee-Williams>

## Key Stage 5: English Language

- TED talks – looking at people like Stephen Pinker, John McWhorter, Stephen Fry. Plus a more general search of linguists and topics such as Global English, Child Language etc
- Oxford University podcasts, oxford
- British Library website – podcasts, history of language timelines
- BBC documentaries – Planet Word (Stephen Fry)
- Radio programmes – Fry's English Delight, Melvyn Bragg – In Our Time (language and literature)
- Linguistics on Twitter – Debbie Cameron, Margaret Atwood,
- EngLangBlog with a list to other blogs
- Mind your Language – The Guardian blog with links to other blogs
- The Economist –economist.com/blogs/Johnson