

Units 3 & 4 Literature

Literature is an ideal subject for students who like to read, listen to and watch a range of texts

Scope of study

VCE Literature focuses on the meanings derived from texts, the relationships between texts, the contexts in which texts are produced, and how readers' experiences shape their responses to texts.

In VCE Literature students develop and refine four key abilities through their engagement with texts. These are:

- an ability to offer an interpretation of a whole text (or a collection of texts)
- an ability to demonstrate a close analysis of passages or extracts from a text, in consideration of the whole text
- an ability to understand and explore multiple interpretations of a text
- an ability to respond creatively to a text.

Students are provided with opportunities to read deeply, widely and critically; to appreciate the aesthetic qualities of texts; and to write creatively and analytically.

VCE Literature enables students to examine the historical, social and cultural contexts within which both readers and texts are situated. Accordingly, the texts selected for study should be drawn from a wide range of eras, a variety of forms and diverse social and cultural contexts.

Rationale

The study of VCE Literature fosters students' enjoyment and appreciation of the artistic and aesthetic merits of stories and storytelling, and enables students to participate more fully in the cultural conversations that take place around them. By reading and exploring a diverse range of established and emerging literary works, students become increasingly empowered to discuss texts. As both readers and writers, students extend their creativity and high-order thinking to express and develop their critical and creative voices.

Throughout this study, students deepen their awareness of the historical, social and cultural influences that shape texts and their understanding of themselves as readers. Students expand their frameworks for exploring literature by considering literary forms and features, engaging with language, and refining their insight into authorial choices. Students immerse themselves in challenging fiction and non-fiction texts, discovering and experimenting with a variety of interpretations in order to develop their own responses.

Aims

This study enables students to:

- enjoy reading a range of challenging literary texts
- approach unfamiliar texts and negotiate diverse literary territories with confidence
- explore the ways in which authors craft their writing
- recognise there are many possible ways of interpreting literary texts
- develop their own responses to texts, recognising the impact of form, features and language in the creation of meaning
- write creatively and critically, and develop their individual voice
- consider the views of others, including when developing interpretations
- express their ideas, through all language modes, with insight and flair.

Units 3 & 4 Literature

2023 Text List

Joan Lindsay, Picnic at Hanging Rock

Joan Lindsay's *Picnic at Hanging Rock* is an Australian classic. It tells the story of a school excursion that turned into a disaster and the spiralling aftermath of disappearance and escalating tragedy. As the aftereffects of the doomed picnic continue to reverberate through the school, and outwards into the wider community, we are left to wonder at the mysterious cause of the girls' disappearance. The horror deepens as we are faced with the incapacity of any of the organs of power to halt, deflect or resist the devolving crisis. This makes the story compelling, and the unresolved nature of the conclusion serves to increase its menacing fascination.

Bram Stoker, Dracula

Bram Stoker's classic Gothic tale Dracula is an exciting read. This late Victorian novel stands the test of time, delivering both excitement and terror, even to 21st-century readers, as young Jonathan Harker and his friends pit their wits against the forces of darkness, tracking the seductive yet sinister Count Dracula from Transylvania to London, at no small cost to themselves. The story of the first vampire will be familiar to students, and this text allows them the opportunity to learn exactly where the legend began. Although the novel is quite long, readers are swept through the text, engaged by changing narrative styles, transported to exotic locales and always intrigued by the ominous presence of the count, who both compels and repels characters and readers.

Euripides, Hippolytus

Winner of the dramatic competition at the festival of Dionysus in 428 BCE and celebrated in the classical past as one of Euripides' best plays, Hippolytus is a compelling drama of love and betrayal, speech and silence, divinity and mortality. Grene and Lattimore's updated verse translation beautifully realises Euripides' poetry, revelling in the stylised horror of inescapable tragedy. Framed by divine prologue and epilogue, the human drama of Phaedra (scorned and vengeful), of Hippolytus (accused and betrayed) and of Theseus (angry and remorseful) remains compelling, and offers much to students both new to classical tragedy and those more familiar with this form.

Elizabeth Tan, Smart Ovens for Lonely People

Elizabeth Tan's quirky collection of short stories received much praise upon release, as evidenced by its selection for the Stella Prize Longlist in 2021 and winning the 2020 Readings Prize for New Australian Fiction. There is much to savour in the often surreal universe Tan constructs, transforming ordinary mundane actions into mystifying and marvellous opportunities for self-reflection. From these unpredictable, enchanting situations emerge profound observations on contemporary human fallibilities and idiosyncrasies.

Stories for study: 'Night of the Fish', 'Our Sleeping Lungs Opened to the Cold', 'A Girl Is Sitting on a Unicorn in the Middle of a Shopping Centre', 'Eighteen Bells Karaoke Castle (Sing Your Heart Out)', '.pptx', 'Ron Swanson's Stencilled 'Stache', 'Washing Day', 'Yes! Yes! Yes You Are! Yes You Are!', 'Would You Rather', 'Excision in F-Sharp Minor', 'Disobeying', 'This Is Not a Treehouse', 'Shirt Dresses that Look a Little Too Much Like Shirts so that It Looks Like You Forgot to Put on Pants (Love Will Save the Day)', 'The Meal Channel', 'Lola Metronome and Calliope St Laurent Having a Picnic at the End of Civilisation as We Know It'

WB Yeats, Poems Selected by Seamus Heaney

William Butler Yeats (1865–1939) is one of Ireland's most revered poets and a significant voice in 20th-century literature. While Yeats was clearly committed to Irish nationalism, his poetry resists the temptations of propaganda. Yeats draws from Irish folklore and Celtic landscapes in many of his poems, but students will also perceive his interest in many other non-Christian sources of spiritualism.

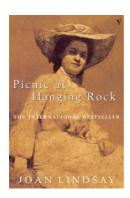
Poems for study: 'Adam's Curse', 'To a Shade', 'The Wild Swans at Coole', 'Easter 1916', 'The Second Coming', 'Sailing to Byzantium', 'Meditations in Time of Civil War', 'Leda and the Swan', 'Among School Children', 'In Memory of Eva Gore-Booth and Con Markiewicz', 'Coole Park and Ballylee, 1931', 'Byzantium', 'A Last Confession', 'The Curse of Cromwell', 'The Man and the Echo'

| Week | Learning Goals | Content & Skills | Coursework & Assessment |
|-----------------------------------|---|---|--|
| 10rientation | Selected Poems, W.B. Yeats | 2-3 poems | |
| Jan 30 – Feb 3 | Selected Poems, W.B. Yeats | 2-3 poems | Passage Analysis of 2-3 Poems |
| Feb 6 – Feb 10 | | Study of novel | |
| Feb 13 – Feb 17 4 | PICNIC AT HANGING ROCK | Study of novel | |
| Feb 20 – Feb 24 5 Feb 27 – Mar 3 | | Study of novel | |
| 6 | Outcome 1: The student should be able to analyse aspects of a | Study of novel | Monday/Tuesday |
| Mar 6 – Mar 10 | text, drawing on close analysis of textual detail, and then discuss | View Film (Thursday/Friday) Excursion on Wednesday | SAC 1 – Picnic Passage Analysis |
| 7 Labour Day | the extent to which meaning changes when that text is adapted | Comparison of novel and film | |
| Mar 13 – Mar 17 | to a different form. | Comparison of novel and film | |
| Mar 20 – Mar 24 | | Comparison of novel and film | Tuesday/Thursday |
| Mar 27 – Mar 31 10 Good Friday | | Comparison of novel and film | Prac SAC - Adaptation Tuesday/Thursday |
| Apr 3 – Apr 6 | | | SAC 2 – Adaptation |
| | | HOLIDAYS | |
| 11 ANZAC Day April 24 – Apr 28 | | Study of novel | |
| 12 May 1 – May 5 | DRACULA | Study of novel | |
| 13 | Outcome 2: The student should be able to develop interpretations | Study of novel | |
| May 8 – May 12 | of a set text informed by the ideas, views and values of the set | Study of novel | |
| May 15 – May 19 | text and a supplementary reading. | | |
| 15 May 22 – May 26 | | Study of novel | Thursday/Friday SAC 3 – Part A Extended Interpretation |
| 16 May 29 – June 2 | | Study of novel | Thursday/Friday SAC 3 – Part B Extended Interpretation |
| 17 Jun 5 – Jun 9 | | | |

| Week | Learning Goals | Content & Skills | Coursework & Assessment | |
|---------------------|---|------------------------|--|--|
| 1 Queen's birthday | SMART OVENS FOR LONELY | Study of Short Stories | | |
| Jun 12 – Jun 16 | PEOPLE | | | |
| 2 | | Study of Short Stories | | |
| Jun 19 – Jun 23 | Outcome 1: The student should | | | |
| | be able to respond creatively to a text and comment critically on | | | |
| | both the original text and the | | | |
| | creative response. | | | |
| | | HOLIDAYS | | |
| 3 | | Study of Short Stories | Thursday/Friday SAC 1 – Creative Response | |
| Jul 10 – Jul 14 | | | · · | |
| 4 | | Study of Short Stories | Monday/Tuesday/Thursday/Friday SAC 1 – Creative Response and | |
| Jul 17 – Jul 21 | | | Passage Analysis | |
| 5 | | Study of Play | | |
| Jul 24 – Jul 28 | HIPPOLYTUS | | | |
| 6 | Outcome 1: The student should | Study of Play | | |
| Jul 31 – Aug 4 | be able to analyse literary forms, | | | |
| 7 | features and language to present a coherent view of a | Study of Play | Thursday/Friday | |
| Aug 7 – Aug 11 | whole text. | | Prac SAC – Close Analysis | |
| 8 | | Study of Play | Thursday/Friday | |
| Aug 14 – Aug 18 | | | SAC 2 – Close Analysis | |
| 9 | | Study of poetry | | |
| Aug 21 – Aug 25 | W.B. YEATS | | | |
| 10 | Outcome 1: The student should | Study of poetry | | |
| Aug 28 – Sep 1 | be able to analyse literary forms, | Study of poetry | | |
| 11 | features and language to present a coherent view of a | | | |
| Sep 4 – Sep 8 12 | whole text. | Study of poetry | Thursday/Friday | |
| Sep 11 – Sep 15 | | | Prac SAC – Close Analysis | |
| | | | | |
| 13 | HOLIDAYS Thursday/Friday | | | |
| Oct 2 – Oct 6 | | | SAC 3 – Close Analysis | |
| 14 | | | | |
| Oct 9 – Oct 13 | | | | |
| 15 | | | | |
| Oct 16 – Oct 20 16 | | | | |
| Oct 23 – Oct 27 | | | | |
| JUL 23 - UU 27 | <u> </u> | <u> </u> | | |

Unit 3 Literature

Outline





Area of study 1 Adaptations and transformations

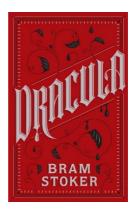
Texts for Study:

Picnic at Hanging Rock by Joan Lindsay

Picnic at Hanging Rock directed by Peter Weir

In this area of study students focus on how the form of a text contributes to its meaning. Students explore the form of a set text by constructing a close analysis of that text. They then reflect on the extent to which adapting the text to a different form, and often in a new or reimagined context, affects its meaning, comparing the original with the adaptation. By exploring an adaptation, students also consider how creators of adaptations may emphasise or minimise viewpoints, assumptions and ideas present in the original text.

Outcome 1 On completion of this unit the student should be able to analyse the extent to which meaning changes when a text is adapted to a different form.



Area of study 2 Developing interpretations

Text for Study:

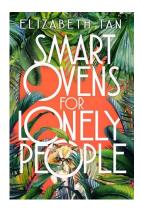
Dracula by Bram Stoker

In this area of study students explore the different ways we can read and understand a text by developing, considering and comparing interpretations of a set text. Students first develop their own interpretations of a set text, analysing how ideas, views and values are presented in a text, and the ways these are endorsed, challenged and/or marginalised through literary forms, features and language. Students then explore a supplementary reading that can enrich, challenge and/or contest the ideas and the views, values and assumptions of the set text to further enhance the students' understanding. Informed by the supplementary reading, students develop a second interpretation of the same text, reflecting an enhanced appreciation and understanding of the text. They then apply this understanding to key moments from the text, supporting their work with considered textual evidence.

Outcome 2 On completion of this unit the student should be able to develop interpretations of a set text informed by the ideas, views and values of the set text and a supplementary reading.

Unit 4 Literature

Outline



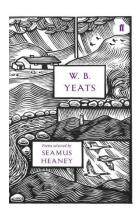
Area of study 1 Creative responses to texts

Text for Study:

Smart Ovens for Lonely people by Elizabeth Tan

In this area of study students focus on the imaginative techniques used for creating and recreating a literary work. Students use their knowledge of how the meaning of texts can change as context and form change to construct their own creative transformations of texts. They learn how authors develop representations of people and places, and they develop an understanding of language, voice, form and structure. Students draw inferences from the original text in order to create their own writing. In their adaptation of the tone and the style of the original text, students develop an understanding of the views and values explored.

Outcome 1 On completion of this unit the student should be able to respond creatively to a text and comment critically on both the original text and the creative response.





Area of study 2 Close analysis of texts

Texts for Study:

Selected Poems by WB Yeats

Hippolytus by Euripides

In this area of study students focus on a detailed scrutiny of the language, style, concerns and construction of texts. Students attend closely to textual details to examine the ways specific passages in a text contribute to their overall understanding of the whole text. Students consider literary forms, features and language, and the views and values of the text. They write expressively to develop a close analysis, using detailed references to the text.

Outcome 2 On completion of this unit the student should be able to analyse literary forms, features and language to present a coherent view of a whole text.

Joan Lindsay's *Picnic at Hanging Rock*

"The book opens on the morning of Valentine's Day, 1900, on the grounds of an Australian boarding school: the cicadas shrilling and dahlias drooping, the lawn steaming in the sunshine, the "shimmering summer morning warm and still." Girls flutter around like butterflies, exchanging "madly romantic" cards and preparing for the fateful picnic—during which three girls will disappear, in their corsets and ribbons, while exploring the Jungian monolith inthe title of the book."

— The New Yorker (2018)

After reading the novel, reflect on the portrayal of the Australian landscape.

Lindsay describes rock itself as "tantalisingly hidden behind the screen of tall forest trees" and a "splendid spectacle, as if by special arrangement between Heaven and the Head Mistress of Appleyard College, was brilliantly illuminated for their inspection. On the steep southern facade the play of golden light and deep violet shade revealed the intricate construction of long vertical slabs; some smooth as giant tombstones, others grooved and fluted by prehistoric architecture of wind and water, ice and fire."

Miranda is noted for being "well used to the bush", but Mr Hussey fears for the girls as "even the lowest and most accessible levels of the Rock are exceedingly treacherous, especially for inexperienced girls in long summer dresses."

Using these quotes, write a short paragraph which forms an interpretation of the presentation of AustralianLandscape in Lindsay's text.

- o How does she create a sense of suspense through the landscape?
- o What lurks underneath the civilised world of Appleyard College?
- O Which voices are heard or silenced?

| Throughout Picnic at Hanging Rock, Lindsay uses the Australian landscape to | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

Peter Weir's *Picnic at Hanging Rock*

"For his 1975 film *Picnic at Hanging Rock*, the Australian director Peter Weir wanted an Impressionistic look and feel, a gauzy, painterly aesthetic. He and his cinematographer, Russell Boyd, finally landed on a solution: They bought a variety of wedding veils from a bridal store, using the different fabrics and textures to create scenes in which the characters seemed to glow from within." - *The Atlantic (2018)*





Still images from Peter Weir's 1975 film adaptation of Picnic at Hanging Rock

"...chirped the light canary voice of Mademoiselle, for whom the petite Irma would do no wrong. The girl's voluptuous little breasts, her dimples, full red lips, naughty black eyes and glossy black ringlets, were a continual source of aesthetic pleasure"

"...Miranda a little ahead gliding through tall glasses that brushed her pale skirts, Marion and Irma following arm in arm with Edith bumbling along in the rear."

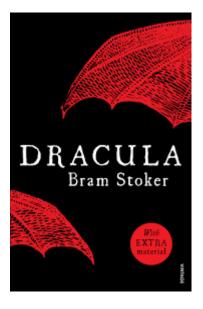
"What was her name, the tall girl with straight yellow hair, who had gone skimming over the water like one of the white swans on his [Michael Fitzhubert's] Uncle's lake?"

Write an analytical paragraph that compares the characterisation of the girls in Peter Weir's filmwith Joan Lindsay's novel. Think about the similarities and differences, as well as the impact of these changes on the reader or audience.

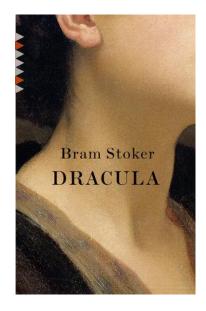
Bram Stoker's **Dracula**

Research these Gothic Terms, define them and describe how they are presented in Bram Stoker's *Dracula*.

| Gothic Feature | Definition | How are they presented in Dracula? |
|--|------------|---------------------------------------|
| Haunted House or Castle | | |
| Damsel in Distress | | |
| Atmosphere of mystery and suspense | | |
| There is a ghost or monster | | |
| Burdened male protagonist | | |
| Death | | |







| Analyse and compare these three covers of the novel <i>Dracula</i> and discuss what Gothic elements are depicted and the impact they have on the reader's understanding of the story. | | | | |
|---|--|--|--|--|
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |

W.B. Yeats' Adam's Curse

We sat together at one summer's end,
That beautiful mild woman, your close friend,
And you and I, and talked of poetry.
I said, 'A line will take us hours maybe;
Yet if it does not seem a moment's thought,
Our stitching and unstitching has been naught.
Better go down upon your marrow-bones
And scrub a kitchen pavement, or break stones
Like an old pauper, in all kinds of weather;
For to articulate sweet sounds together
Is to work harder than all these, and yet
Be thought an idler by the noisy set
Of bankers, schoolmasters, and clergymen
The martyrs call the world.'

And thereupon
That beautiful mild woman for whose sake
There's many a one shall find out all heartache
On finding that her voice is sweet and low
Replied, 'To be born woman is to know—
Although they do not talk of it at school—
That we must labour to be beautiful.'
I said, 'It's certain there is no fine thing
Since Adam's fall but needs much labouring.
There have been lovers who thought love should be
So much compounded of high courtesy
That they would sigh and quote with learned looks
Precedents out of beautiful old books;
Yet now it seems an idle trade enough.'

We sat grown quiet at the name of love; We saw the last embers of daylight die, And in the trembling blue-green of the sky A moon, worn as if it had been a shell Washed by time's waters as they rose and fell About the stars and broke in days and years.

I had a thought for no one's but your ears: That you were beautiful, and that I strove To love you in the old high way of love; That it had all seemed happy, and yet we'd grown As weary-hearted as that hollow moon.

| Key aspects/questions | Statement and Description | Key Images/phrases/words | | |
|---|---------------------------|--------------------------|--|--|
| What is the poem about? | | | | |
| What is the significance of the title? | | | | |
| What are the key issues/ideas/concerns of the poem? What is Yeats' view of these? | | | | |
| What is the setting of the poem? How is it significant? | | | | |
| Does the poem have a particular structure and/or rhyming scheme? If so what does it contribute to the meaning of the poem? | | | | |
| How would you describe the language of the poem? What do the images and sounds contribute to the poem? | | | | |
| What does the poem reveal about the narrator/author/audience? | | | | |
| Write at least a paragraph, beginning with a thesis statement, analysing the poem's features, suggesting what Yeats' views are. | | | | |
| In "Adam's Curse", W.B. Yeats reveals | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |
| | | | | |



