



## **A Level English Language & Literature**

### **Summer Independent Learning Year 11-12**

Welcome to A Level English Language & Literature.

Please complete the following tasks ready for your first day at New College:

#### **COMPULSORY TASKS:**

##### **Part 1: Sense of Voice**

**Task 1:** Research the following contextual factors surrounding Colonel Tim Collins:

-Who is he?

-Why is he famous?

-What ranking is colonel in the military and what impact does this have on his language choices?

-What can you find out about the 1<sup>st</sup> Royal Battalion of the Royal Irish Regiment?

-What is an eve of battle speech? Can you think of some famous examples?

-What was the British involvement in the Iraq war 2003? Summarise in 3 points.

-Why was it so controversial?

**Task 2:** Read the speech on page 3 and 4 of this document and annotate.

You should identify:

1. The use of linguistic and literary devices chosen by Collins.

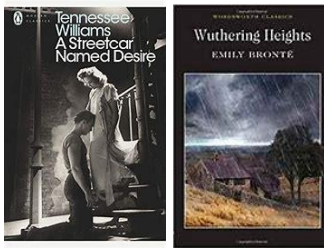
2. The effects of these devices upon his intended audience.
3. The effects of these choices upon the tone of the speech.

## **Part 2: A Streetcar Named Desire**

**Task 1:** You need to purchase the following texts for the first term:

A Streetcar named Desire (ISBN: 9780141190273)

Wuthering Heights (ISBN: 9781853260018)



**Task 2:** Read *A Streetcar Named Desire*, by Tennessee Williams.

You should:

- Summarise each scene in brief, bullet-point form
- Select two pieces of textual evidence from each scene and describe in detail the effect created by Williams with the use of each piece of evidence. Your evidence can be dialogue or stage directions such as use of sound, staging, props, costume or proxemics. You might want to consider tone, lexis, connotations, symbolism and imagery, depending on the quotation selected.

### **RECOMMENDED TASKS:**

**Task 3:** Contextual Research

Carry out some research into the social and historical context surrounding the play. Present your findings in a mindmap/ knowledge organizer or other visual representation:

- The American Civil War
- The Antebellum South
- America's role in WW2

- American society post WW2
- The American Dream
- The city of New Orleans and its history

The following films, books and websites would be useful to support your wider reading and understanding:

<https://www.sparknotes.com/lit/streetcar/companion-texts/> (links to really useful podcasts, websites etc that will support understanding of the play)

<https://prezi.com/nzcu-j-h7nrs/a-streetcar-named-desire-setting-it-in-context/> (A prezi presentation on the context of the play)

Films: *A Streetcar Named Desire*, 1951 Elia Kazan (Be aware the ending is different from the play!)

*Gone With The Wind*, 1931 ( from the novel by Margaret Mitchell – feel free to read the book but it is very long! Provides a real insight into the Antebellum South)

Other works by Tennessee Williams:

- *The Glass Menagerie*
- *Cat on a Hot Tin Roof*
- *The Rose Tattoo*
- *Sweet Bird of Youth*
- *Suddenly Last Summer*
- *The Night of the Iguana*
- *Summer and Smoke*
- *Orpheus Descending*

## 9.2 Colonel Tim Collins to 1st Battalion, Royal Irish Regiment, in Iraq in 2003

This is the eve-of-battle speech made by Colonel Tim Collins to the 1st Battalion of the Royal Irish Regiment in 2003, prior to British troops entering Iraq.

"We go to liberate, not to conquer.

We will not fly our flags in their country. We are entering Iraq to free a people and the only flag which will be flown in that ancient land is their own.

Show respect for them.

There are some who are alive at this moment who will not be alive shortly.

Those who do not wish to go on that journey, we will not send.

As for the others, I expect you to rock their world.

Wipe them out if that is what they choose.

But if you are ferocious in battle remember to be magnanimous in victory.

Iraq is steeped in history.

It is the site of the Garden of Eden, of the Great Flood and the birthplace of Abraham.

Tread lightly there.

You will see things that no man could pay to see – and you will have to go a long way to find a more decent, generous and upright people than the Iraqis.

You will be embarrassed by their hospitality even though they have nothing.

Don't treat them as refugees for they are in their own country.

Their children will be poor, in years to come they will know that the light of liberation in their lives was brought by you.

If there are casualties of war then remember that when they woke up and got dressed in the morning they did not plan to die this day.

Allow them dignity in death.

Bury them properly and mark their graves.

It is my foremost intention to bring every single one of you out alive.

But there may be people among us who will not see the end of this campaign.

We will put them in their sleeping bags and send them back.

There will be no time for sorrow.

The enemy should be in no doubt that we are his nemesis and that we are bringing about his rightful destruction.

There are many regional commanders who have stains on their souls and they are stoking the fires of hell for Saddam.

He and his forces will be destroyed by this coalition for what they have done.

As they die they will know their deeds have brought them to this place. Show them no pity.

It is a big step to take another human life.

It is not to be done lightly.

I know of men who have taken life needlessly in other conflicts.

I can assure you they live with the mark of Cain upon them.

If someone surrenders to you then remember they have that right in international law and ensure that one day they go home to their family.

The ones who wish to fight, well, we aim to please.

If you harm the regiment or its history by over-enthusiasm in killing or in cowardice, know it is your family who will suffer.

You will be shunned unless your conduct is of the highest – for your deeds will follow you down through history.

We will bring shame on neither our uniform or our nation.

It is not a question of if, it's a question of when.

We know he has already devolved the decision to lower commanders, and that means he has already taken the decision himself.

If we survive the first strike we will survive the attack.

As for ourselves, let's bring everyone home and leave Iraq a better place for us having been there.

Our business now is North."