

English Literature Bridging Unit 2025



1. Read Khaled Hosseini's *A Thousand Splendid Suns* and Thomas Hardy's *Tess of the d'Urbervilles* by September 2025. This will enable you to engage in some discussion with your teacher on themes and connections between the two novels. Your teacher will guide you through an initial writing task, based on close analysis and comparison, in September.

2. Re-read *Eat Me* by Patience Agbabi. (*Poems of the Decade* pages 3 – 4). Read *Chainsaw Versus the Pampas Grass* by Simon Armitage (*Poems of the Decade* pages 6, 7 and 8). Recall our discussions about *Eat Me* during the 'New Year 12 Induction days' and think about connections between the two poems. This will prepare you to engage in some initial discussion about links between the two poems. In September, your teacher will teach you *Chainsaw Versus the Pampas Grass* and guide you through a writing task that will enable you to produce an analytical response, comparing the two poems.

These are the texts you will study in Year 12. We strongly advise you to buy copies of these, so that you can annotate them in class:

- Thomas Hardy: *Tess of the d'Urbervilles*. *Wordsworth Classics* ISBN 9781853260056)
- *Khaled Hosseini: A Thousand Splendid Suns*. (Bloomsbury ISBN: 9780747582793).
- *Poems Of The Decade. An Anthology of the Forward Books Of Poetry*. ISBN 978-571-32540-5.
- *Tennessee Williams: A Streetcar Named Desire*. (*Penguin Modern Classics* ISBN 978-0-141-19027-3