

## A level English Literature Summer Independent learning activity

Welcome to A Level English Literature. Please complete the following tasks ready for your first day at New College:

1. Read the poem below:  
ASH  
I had a heart like an upturned ashtray.  
I spoke smoke. People held their breath.  
When I found you, ash was all  
I had to pile at your feet.  
I did not know what you would do  
with my dire, dirtying heart  
crumbled there, burning.  
Would you brush it off, blow it out,  
heap it, beating, in your palm  
offend the wind with it?  
No, you found soil, seeded it.  
You poured my heart in, stirred  
what I had wasted. And we waited.  
Now here's a sapling. Soon, an ash tree.
2. Annotate the poem, identifying any technical decisions the poet has made and how these decisions affect the possible meaning of the poem
3. Read the opening scene of 'A Streetcar named Desire' by Tennessee Williams. (Feel free to read the whole play. You might also watch a production on Youtube if you would like to see it in performance but please don't replace this for the reading task).
4. Produce an essay (at least 2 sides or writing) explaining how Williams established the setting of Elysian Fields and introduced key characters (Blanche, Stanley and Stella).

5. You need to purchase the following texts for the first term:

A Streetcar named Desire( ISBN: 9780141190273)

Poems of the Decade (ISBN: 9780571325405)

The Handmaid's Tale (ISBN: 0099740915)

Frankenstein (ISBN-13 9781853260230)

