

Introduction

ERA's **BBC Shakespeare Archive** and **Literary Archive** provide an extensive collection of TV and radio resources, including literary adaptations, live performances and critiques of English set texts across all the major exam boards.

This booklet compiles a wide range of clips and full programmes of widely taught literary works, including Shakespeare, 19th Century Literature and Modern Texts to support students revising for their GCSE and A-Level and Higher English Literature exams.

The audio-visual resources in this booklet are designed to help students explore:

- **Themes:** examine recurring themes, ideas, and motifs across different literary texts
- **Characterisation:** analyse the development of characters, their motivations, relationships, and conflicts within the text. They can also examine characters' traits, actions, and speeches to understand their significance in the narrative.
- **Contextual understanding:** explore how historical events, cultural norms, and societal values influence the themes, characters, and narratives of the texts and their adaptations.
- **Critical analysis:** develop skills in critical analysis and interpretation, learning to evaluate literary texts from different perspectives and articulate their own interpretations supported by evidence from the text.
- **Comparative study:** analyse and compare different literary texts or extracts to explore similarities, differences, and connections between them.

The material is designed to be easily digested by students whether they are in the classroom, at home, or on the move. Longer audio clips are perfect for listening on headphones while enjoying some fresh air.

You can share the clips with your students using our **Student Share** link on the site, allowing students to watch a clip without the need to register.

Registration is free if your school or institution holds an ERA Licence, granting you access to the clips free of charge. Well over 99% of all schools in the UK are already covered by an ERA Licence.

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19th Century Texts

Charles Dickens



Great Expectations

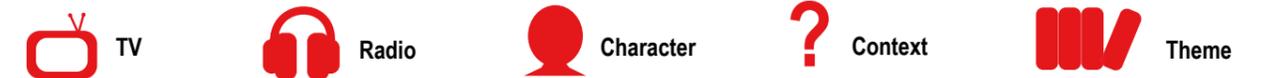
Time	Title	Description
3'33"	An introduction to Charles Dickens and 'Great Expectations'	Tony Jordan introduces Charles Dickens and 'Great Expectations'.
2'25"	Childhood in 'Great Expectations'	Tony Jordan investigates the theme of childhood in 'Great Expectations'.
3'29"	Dickens's audience	Tony Jordan discusses why Dickens wrote 'Great Expectations' in instalments and explains the importance of the audience.
28'46"	The Secret Life of Books: Great Expectations	Tony Jordan brings his writer's insight to Charles Dickens's 'Great Expectations'.

A Christmas Carol

Time	Title	Description
28'01"	Beyond Belief: A Christmas Carol	Ernie Rea takes a look at the Christian message behind 'A Christmas Carol'.
27'49"	In Our Time: A Christmas Carol	Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss Charles Dickens' celebrated story of Scrooge's redemption.
56'45"	The Many Faces of Ebenezer Scrooge	Christopher Frayling explores how Charles Dickens's classic 'A Christmas Carol' has endured in popular culture for over 170 years..
58'42"	Charles Dickens and the Invention of Christmas	Griff Rhys Jones reveals how Charles Dickens' novel 'A Christmas Carol' popularised Christmas.

19th Century Texts

Frankenstein



Time	Title	Description
3'49"	Background to the story of 'Frankenstein'	The setting in which Mary Shelley first told the story of 'Frankenstein'.
1'58"	Themes of Frankenstein	A discussion of the plot and themes of Mary Shelley's 'Frankenstein'.
1'55"	Victorian Science	The influence of Victorian science on Mary Shelley's 'Frankenstein'.
5'11"	The intellectual backdrop to 'Frankenstein'	Alice Roberts discusses the intellectual backdrop to Mary Shelley writing 'Frankenstein'.
4'38"	Novels That Shaped Our World - Frankenstein	An introduction to the life of Mary Shelley and the themes of 'Frankenstein'.
2'54"	Walton's letters in 'Frankenstein'	Alice Roberts investigates Robert Walton's letters to his sister, which frame Mary Shelley's text.
28'44"	The Secret Life of Books: Frankenstein	In Mary Shelley's Frankenstein manuscripts, Alice Roberts finds someone concerned with the act of creation itself and evidence of husband Percy's collaborative role.
27'53"	In Our Time: Frankenstein	Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss Mary Shelley's gothic story of a monster brought to life.
27'45"	Beyond Belief: Frankenstein	Ernie Rea in conversation with guests about the religious content of 'Frankenstein'.

19th Century Texts

Jane Eyre



Time	Title	Description
7'20"	'Jane Eyre' and Slavery	An analysis of where the historical context of the slave trade appears in Charlotte Bronte's 'Jane Eyre'.
3'09"	Jane's relationship with Rochester	A discussion of the complications and inequalities of Jane Eyre's relationship with Mr Rochester.
3'22"	Bertha	Bidisha investigates the character of Bertha through theories of race and colonialism.
3'08"	Charlotte Bronte and colonialism	Bidisha explores Charlotte Bronte's writing in relation to colonisation and race.
27'37"	Beyond Belief: Jane Eyre	Ernie Rea in conversation with guests about the religion in 'Jane Eyre'.
56'12"	World Book Club: Charlotte Bronte – Jane Eyre	Writers Claire Harman and Tracy Chevalier discuss Charlotte Bronte's classic 'Jane Eyre'.
41'56"	In Our Time: Jane Eyre	Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss 'Jane Eyre' by Charlotte Bronte, first published in 1847.
28'41"	The Secret Life of Books: Jane Eyre	Journalist Bidisha revisits Charlotte Bronte's classic novel after first reading it as a teenager.

19th Century Texts

Pride and Prejudice



Time	Title	Description
3'25"	Introduction to 'Pride and Prejudice'	An introduction to the context and reception of Jane Austen's 'Pride and Prejudice'.
2'14"	Characterisation in 'Pride and Prejudice'	A discussion of the various character archetypes Jane Austen has employed in 'Pride and Prejudice'.
3'49"	The balls in 'Pride and Prejudice'	The importance of the balls in 'Pride and Prejudice'.
3'49"	Marriage and social standing	An introduction to the historical background and setting of Jane Austen's 'Pride and Prejudice'.
3'33"	Elizabeth Bennet and Mr Darcy's relationship	Critics discuss the relationship between Elizabeth Bennet and Mr Darcy in 'Pride and Prejudice'.
1'51"	Mr Darcy	An introduction to the character of Mr Darcy.
44'12"	Night Waves: Landmarks – Jane Austen's Pride and Prejudice	Anne McElvoy presents a Landmark edition examining Jane Austen's 'Pride and Prejudice'.
28'55"	Pride and Prejudice Revisited	Documentary exploring the enduring appeal of Jane Austen's classic mixture of romance, wit and scathing social satire.

19th Century Texts

The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde



	Time	Title	Description	
	6'15"	What was the inspiration for Jekyll's double life?	Ian Rankin investigates what inspired Robert Louis Stevenson to construct the story of Dr. Jekyll's double life.	
	2'44"	The unconscious	An exploration of the unconscious in 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde'.	
	3'54"	Medical science	Ian Rankin investigates Victorian medical science in Edinburgh, which relied on dead bodies that had been dug up from graveyards.	
	56'40"	Ian Rankin Investigates: Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde	Writer Ian Rankin investigates 'The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde', tracing Robert Louis Stevenson's story back to events in Stevenson's childhood.	

Modern Texts

Animal Farm



	Time	Title	Description	
	3'35"	'Animal Farm' and the Russian Revolution	An exploration of the historical context of the Russian Revolution and how it influenced George Orwell's 'Animal Farm'.	
	3'29"	Why George Orwell wrote 'Animal Farm'	A discussion of the historical context of George Orwell's 'Animal Farm', including the influence of the British attitude to Stalin.	
	3'10"	Stalin's 5 year plan	An explanation of Stalin's 5 year plan, as context to the plot of George Orwell's 'Animal Farm'.	
	3'11"	Soviet purges	An exploration of Soviet terror and the purges that also appear in George Orwell's 'Animal Farm'.	
	22'30"	Masterpiece: Animal Farm	A look at George Orwell's masterpiece, 'Animal Farm'.	
	8'59"	Witness: George Orwell and Animal Farm	'Animal Farm' was an allegory about the dangers of Soviet communism and of Joseph Stalin.	
	51'17"	In Our Time: Animal Farm	All animals are equal, but some animals are more equal than others.	
	19'06"	English File - In Context: Animal Farm	A social and historical context for George Orwell's 'Animal Farm' is explored.	

Modern Texts

An Inspector Calls



	Time	Title	Description	
 	3'03"	An Inspector Calls – historical context	A discussion of the historical context and influences behind J B Priestley's 'An Inspector Calls'.	
 	3'46"	An Inspector Calls – Social and political context of 1945	An investigation of the post-war social and political context in which J. B. Priestly wrote 'An Inspector Calls'.	
 	4'00"	An Inspector Calls – Social and political context of 1912	An investigation of the political and social context of 1919, the time in which J. B. Priestly set 'An Inspector Calls'.	
 	4'11"	Women in 'An Inspector Calls'	An investigation of the social and political context behind the female character in J. B. Priestly's 'An Inspector Calls'.	
 	3'34"	The moral of 'An Inspector Calls'	A discussion of the morals that J. B. Priestly leaves for the audience of 'An Inspector Calls'.	
 	4'24"	Priestley Shorts: 'An Inspector Calls' – the character of Inspector Goole	An explanation of Inspector Goole's character in JB Priestley's play.	
 	3'58"	Priestley Shorts: 'An Inspector Calls' – the theme of class	Examination of the theme of class within J.B Priestley's 'An Inspector Calls'.	
 	2'45"	Priestley Shorts: 'An Inspector Calls' – the character of Mrs Birling	Sybil Birling's character in 'An Inspector Calls' from actresses who have played the role.	

Modern Texts

An Inspector Calls / Anita and Me



An Inspector Calls (cont.)

	Time	Title	Description	
 	4'09"	Words of Faith: JB Priestley	On Priestley's play An Inspector Calls and his social conscience.	
	18'55"	In Context: An Inspector Calls	A social and historical context for 'An Inspector Calls' by J.B. Priestley is explored. It uses a National Theatre production to explore the play.	

Anita and Me

	Time	Title	Description	
 	5'49"	Anita and Me...and Me	Meera Syal discusses how her childhood experiences inspired her novel 'Anita and Me'.	
	43'56"	Free Thinking- Meera Syal & Tanika Gupta in Conversation at Birmingham Rep	Meera Syal and Tanika Gupta discuss with Rana Mitter turning 'Anita and Me' into a play.	

Modern Texts

Lord of the Flies



Time	Title	Description
3'49"	Civilisation and savagery in Lord of the Flies	Exploring the themes of civilisation and savagery in 'Lord of the Flies'.
3'15"	Lord of the Flies – Characters	A summary of the characters in William Golding's 'Lord of the Flies'.
3'49"	Lord of the Flies – Themes	A summary of the themes of William Golding's 'Lord of the Flies'.
4'41"	Lord of the Flies – Plot and influences	An exploration of the plot and influences for William Golding's 'Lord of the Flies'.
4'57"	Lord of the Flies – The theme of fear	An exploration of the theme of fear in William Golding's 'Lord of the Flies'.
18'59"	In Context: Lord Of The Flies	A social and historical context for 'Lord of the Flies' by William Golding, is explored.

Shakespeare

Macbeth



Time	Title	Description
57'16"	GCSE Bitesize: English - Macbeth	An exam revision programme that looks at the GCSE English curriculum focusing on 'Macbeth' by William Shakespeare.
11'14"	The Political Spinning of Macbeth	Series comparing the known historical facts about 'Macbeth' with Shakespeare's dramatisation. Was Macbeth a murderous tyrant or a generous and popular king?
12'33"	Lady Macbeth – Monster or Princess?	Lady Macbeth - was she a barren, ambitious monster who goes mad from guilt, or a true royal princess, hailed the first queen of Scots?
12'30"	The Myth of the Witches	Boiling up trouble for the would-be king in their cauldron, how did the witches become part of the myth?
19'31"	Playing Macbeth - Act 1, Scenes 1 and 3	Exploration and analysis of Act 1, Scenes 1 and 3: The witches cast their spell and confront Macbeth..
19'22"	Playing Macbeth - The Supernatural	Exploration and analysis of Act 3, Scene 4: Banquo's ghost returns to haunt Macbeth at his banquet.
19'35"	Sanity and Insanity - Playing Lady Macbeth	Exploration and analysis of Act 5, Scenes 1, 3 and 5: Lady Macbeth's sleepwalking scene and Macbeth's lament on the death of his wife.

Shakespeare

The Merchant of Venice / Much Ado About Nothing



The Merchant of Venice

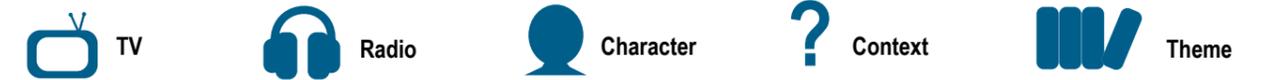
Time	Title	Description
27'37"	The Quality of Mercy	Peggy Reynolds explores the legal, theological and linguistic complexities of Portia's speech with baroness Helena Kennedy, Lisa Jardine, Rabbi Julia Neuberger and Janet Suzman.
28'37"	Prefaces to Shakespeare: The Merchant of Venice	A personal introduction to the play and its characters by Timothy West, who played Shylock in the 1980 Old Vic production of the play.
13'26"	Love Across the Racial Divide: The Merchant of Venice	Yasmin Alibhai-Brown focuses on the complex role of Shylock, and how he navigates being a Jew in a Christian world.

Much Ado About Nothing

Time	Title	Description
24'26"	Much Ado About Nothing	Kenneth Haigh, who played Benedick in 1976, presents a personal view of the play 'Much Ado About Nothing'.
24'29"	Shakespeare In Perspective: Much Ado about Nothing	Writer Eleanor Bron gives her personal view of Shakespeare's play 'Much Ado About Nothing'.

Shakespeare

Romeo and Juliet / The Tempest



Romeo and Juliet

Time	Title	Description
60'00"	GCSE Bitesize: English - Romeo and Juliet	An exam revision programme that looks at the GCSE English curriculum focusing on 'Romeo and Juliet'.
27'35"	In Our Time: Romeo and Juliet	Melvyn Bragg and guests discuss the poetry and power of Shakespeare's tragedy of two young lovers in Verona.
24'19"	Prefaces to Shakespeare: Romeo and Juliet	Dame Peggy Ashcroft presents her personal view of 'Romeo and Juliet', with archive and commercial extracts.

The Tempest

Time	Title	Description
24'44"	Shakespeare In Perspective: The Tempest	Laurens van der Post offers a personal view of the play 'The Tempest', which he describes as profoundly autobiographical - an exploration of Shakespeare's own inner nature.
58'52"	Trevor Nunn on The Tempest	Royal Shakespeare Company director Trevor Nunn explores Shakespeare's final work, 'The Tempest'.
19'01"	Prefaces to Shakespeare: The Tempest	A personal introduction to 'The Tempest' by actor Michael Hordern, who played Prospero in the BBC TV Shakespeare production.