

A level English Combined

Why do I need to complete a bridging activity?

The purpose of this activity is to aid your preparation for advanced level study and make the transition from GCSE study as smooth as possible. Some activities are written pieces of work, some are research-based and some are practical. They should be completed to the best of your ability and they will give you the opportunity to start to showcase your talent for your chosen subjects. As these are compulsory activities, it is vital that you put in the time and effort to ensure they are completed to the highest standard.

When should I hand this in?

You should complete this activity for the start of your first lesson in September.

How will I be given feedback?

Feedback appropriate to the task will be given to you by your teacher.

Summary of the activity

There are 2 research tasks for you to complete. The tasks link to your first term study of *The Lovely Bones* by Alice Sebold. The tasks involve research into some of the social and contextual factors which were important at the time of writing. You may use any sources for your research (including the internet), but please make sure that you write the answers in your own words.

Complete the following tasks:

Task 1- *The Lovely Bones*- Social Context

The following are some important contextual factors to understand when reading *The Lovely Bones*. Make notes in the box about each one.

The Lovely Bones was published in 2002 but set in 1973.

1970s- The family. 'Norman Rockwell World'

Bridging Activity for September 2017



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1970s- Gender roles challenged

Pennsylvania and 1970s Suburbia

1970s New age beliefs emerge

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Sebold's own experience- as revealed in her memoir *Lucky*

The birth of criminal profiling

Growing awareness of acts of violence towards children e.g. 1999 shooting at Columbine High School in Colorado

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Task 2 – *The Lovely Bones*- Fantasy Elements

Introduction to fantasy sub- genres

Science Fiction (*I Robot, The Martian, A.I, Frankenstein*)

Political allegory (*Animal Farm, 1984*)

Dystopian fiction (*Hunger Games, The Handmaid's Tale, Never Let Me Go, The Road, Fahrenheit 451, The Maze Runner*)

The Gothic (*Dracula, Wuthering Heights, The Bloody Chamber, Frankenstein, Twilight, Buffy the Vampire Slayer, Flowers in The Attic*)

Magic Realism (*The Magic Toyshop, Harry Potter, A Monster Calls, House of Spirits*)

Find out about one of the types of fantasy. Read one fantasy book (or watch a film version). What fantasy elements can you find? Present your ideas in bullet point form.

Student Name (to be completed by the student)