



Pearson
Edexcel

A level English Literature

Component 2: Prose

Support for the
teaching of the
prose texts





Contents

Introduction	3
Childhood	4
Pre-1900: <i>Hard Times</i>	4
Pre-1900: <i>What Maisie Knew</i>	6
Post-1900: <i>Atonement</i>	7
Post-1900: <i>The Color Purple</i>	9
Colonisation and its Aftermath	10
Pre-1900: <i>The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn</i>	10
Pre-1900: <i>Heart of Darkness</i>	12
Post-1900: <i>The Lonely Londoners</i>	13
Crime and Detection	14
Pre-1900 <i>Lady Audley's Secret</i>	14
Pre-1900: <i>The Moonstone</i>	15
Post-1900: <i>In Cold Blood</i>	17
Science and Society	18
Pre-1900: <i>Frankenstein</i>	18
Pre-1900: <i>The War of the Worlds</i>	20
Post-1900: <i>The Handmaid's Tale</i>	22
Post-1900: <i>Never Let Me Go</i>	23
The Supernatural	25
Pre-1900: <i>Dracula</i>	25
Pre-1900: <i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i>	27
Post-1900: <i>Beloved</i>	29
Post-1900: <i>The Little Stranger</i>	31
Women and Society	33
Pre-1900: <i>Tess of The D'Urbervilles</i>	33
Pre-1900: <i>Wuthering Heights</i>	35
Pre-1900: <i>Mrs Dalloway</i>	37
Post-1900: <i>A Thousand Splendid Suns</i>	39



Introduction

This resource has been created to support teachers in teaching their two chosen Component 2 prose texts.

Each text has a section with links and ideas for resources to help with different approaches and ideas around teaching the text. The links include a variety of formats such as articles, podcasts and Interviews with writers.

There are many other resources available on the [subject webpage](#).

The two new texts (*Home Fire* and *The Cutting Season*) added for first teaching from September 2022 have their own separate guides.



Childhood

Pre-1900: *Hard Times*

General background and introduction

- [Charles Dickens's Life and works](#) – this page from the British Library gives an overview of Dickens' life and times.
- [An overview of the novel and the main themes](#) from Course Hero. This is a basic overview which could be used at the start of the course to introduce themes, context and characters before looking at the novel in more depth.
- [Hard Times](#) – an overview of the plot, themes and characters.
- [Dickens as a writer](#) – this article discusses Dickens' works and there is a link to *Hard Times* for a plot summary.

How meanings are shaped

- [Literary devices](#) – this website discusses *Hard Times* but also analyses the different ways Dickens shaped meaning.
- [Symbolism](#) – this website discusses Dickens' use of symbolism in *Hard Times* as well as other ways meanings are shaped in the novel.
- [Literary analysis](#) – this analysis from Literariness.com discusses the novel and the methods Dickens used to shape meaning.
- [Fact and Fancy](#) – this article from the British Library website explores Dickens's use of contrasts and metaphor.
- [Hyperbole](#) – in this video of a recorded lecture, Professor Belinda Jack discusses Dickens' writing style and his use of hyperbole and exaggeration in *Hard Times*.

Contexts

- [Politics](#) – in the video, two academics from the University of Warwick discuss the political arguments within *Hard Times*.
- [Industrialisation](#) – this article on the British Library website provides teaching resources to help discussion of the contexts of *Hard Times*
- [Social contexts](#) – this website discusses Dickens' views and how these are represented in *Hard Times*.
- [Why you should read Charles Dickens](#) – these TedEd Resources provided interesting background to Dickens as a writer as well as a discussion about Victorian history and contexts
- [Victorian Readers](#) – in this article from the British library, Kate Flint looks at how Victorians read literature.



Adaptations and other useful links

- [Charles Dickens conference](#) – this webpage from the University of Warwick contains a number of videos and links to discussions about Dickens, his works and Victorian history.
- [The animated *Hard Times*](#) – this short video is an animation of the graphic novels which have been produced.
- [Audio Book](#) – this YouTube video is over 11 hours long and is an audio reading of the whole novel.
- [TV adaptation](#) – this rather old production is in two parts on YouTube.



Pre-1900: *What Maisie Knew*

General background and introduction

- An [overview of the novel](#) and the main themes from Course Hero. This is a basic overview which could be used at the start of the course to introduce themes, context and characters before looking at the novel in more depth.
- [Overview of Henry James' Life and works](#) – this article from the Poetry Foundation discusses James' Life. Although there is not a lot of detail about *What Maisie Knew*, the biographical and general points about James' writing style are interesting.
- [Student friendly resources](#) – the popular website Shmoop has some interesting resources focussing on *What Maisie Knew*. They are useful for an overview and may help support some students with revision after they have studied the text in detail.

These links and ideas for resources have been provided to help with different approaches and ideas around teaching the text.

- [Course hero](#) – this is another overview/revision site which may be useful for students to refer to as support as they study the novel.
- [Other overview resources](#) – this site contains analysis and an overview of the novel.
- [James and Conrad's' use of Preface](#) – this podcast from the University of Oxford discusses James' and Conrad's writing style and their use of prefaces.
- [Realism](#) – this article from the British Library provides an overview of realism in Romantic and Victorian Literature.
- [Realism](#) – this article, from Literariness.org, provides another overview of Realism in relation to Henry James' work.
- [Art of Fiction](#) – an online version of James' non-fiction article about the nature of fiction.
- [The Guardian](#) – this article, by Colm Tóibín, discusses James' personal life and how his family may have tried to keep it hidden.
- [BFI film review](#) – a modern day film version of the book was released in 2013 starring Julianne Moore and Alexander Skarsgard.

Adaptations and other useful links

- [Charles Dickens conference](#) – this webpage from the University of Warwick contains a number of videos and links to discussions about Dickens, his works and Victorian history.
- [The animated Hard Times](#) – this short video is an animation of the graphic novels which have been produced.
- [Audio Book](#) – this YouTube video is over 11 hours long and is an audio reading of the whole novel.
- [TV adaptation](#) – this rather old production is in two parts on YouTube.



Post-1900: *Atonement*

General background and introduction

- [Ian McEwan's Life and works](#) – this page from the British Council website outlines McEwan's life and works as well as some of his thoughts about his work.
- An [overview of the novel](#) and the main themes from Course Hero. This is a basic overview which could be used at the start of the course to introduce themes, context and characters before looking at the novel in more depth.
- [BBC Podcast](#) – in this podcast, John Mullan discusses Ian McEwan's works.
- [10 minutes on Atonement](#) – in this video from the New College of the Humanities, Dr Catherine Brown sums up the novel and its themes.

How meanings are shaped

- [Characters](#) – the article on p.8 of this A level magazine produced by the English Media Centre, Fergus Parnaby discusses the theme of morality in McEwan's work and the character of Briony.
- [Narrative and voices](#) – this academic article discusses how McEwan uses unreliable narrators and different narrative structures.
- In three separate pages on *The Guardian* website, John Mullan discusses McEwan's use of [domestic space](#), [prolepsis](#), [weather](#) and [metanarrative](#).
- [Sample resources from the EMC](#) – this useful sample page from the EMC (the whole resource can be purchased from their website) provides a useful overview and investigates how McEwan shapes meaning in his novel.

Contexts

- [Writing Atonement](#) – in this article from the Penguin website, Alice Vincent discusses the history of the novel with interviews with McEwan.
- [Social contexts](#) – in this interview with *The Guardian*, McEwan discusses the issues he raises in his novels and his influences.
- [Literary and social contexts](#) – this resource from Hodder Education highlights the contexts of *Atonement*.
- [Second world war](#) – this academic article looks at the contexts of *Atonement*, especially the Second World War and the country house.

Adaptations and other useful links

- [Ian McEwan's papers](#) – this website outlines all of the materials from Ian McEwan's working papers and research. It provides some interesting insights into his working methods as well as some information about his life.
- [A levels](#) – Ian McEwan gives his thoughts about his works being included on A level qualifications.
- [BBC review of the novel](#) – this 30 minute podcast discusses the novel.



- [Behind the scenes](#) – a documentary (in three separate videos on YouTube) which goes behind the scenes of the film starring Keira Knightley and James McAvoy.
- [Rolling Stone Review](#) – a film review of *Atonement* in Rolling Stone magazine.



Post-1900: *The Color Purple*

General background and introduction

- [Alice Walker's Life and Works](#) – this page from the Poetry Foundation discusses Alice Walker's life, work and influences.
- An [overview of the novel](#) and the main themes from Book Summaries This is a basic overview which could be used at the start of the course to introduce themes, context and characters before looking at the novel in more depth.
- [The Color Purple](#) – an overview of the plot, themes and characters.
- [Walker as a writer](#) – this article discusses Walker's works and *The Color Purple*.

How meanings are shaped

- [Form](#) – this article from The Glasgow Women's library looks at how Walker uses form and narrative voice to shape meaning.
- [Symbolism](#) – this website discusses Walker's use of symbolism in *The Color Purple* as well as other ways meanings are shaped in the novel including [narrative](#) and [characterisation](#).
- [Literary analysis](#) – this analysis from Literariness.com discusses how Walker shapes meaning in her novels including *The Color Purple*.
- [Colour imagery and motifs](#) – although this is a subscription site, there are some resources which are free to view. The use of storyboard and imagery may help students who are just starting to read and understand the text.

Contexts

- [Feminism](#) – in this article for the Feminist Library Website, Harriet Elizabeth reviews the book and explains why it is an important feminist work.
- [Gender](#) – this website discusses the roles of men and women in the novel.
- [Race and politics](#) – in this podcast, Alice Walker discusses her novel and its meaning.
- [Origins of the novel](#) – in this article, the author looks back on how she came to write her novel.
- [Racism](#) – in this short interview on YouTube, Walker argues that the issues within her novel are global issues today.

Adaptations and other useful links

- [Curve Theatre at home](#) – this video discussion over zoom contains a panel discussion about the book and the play adaptation.
- [The legacy of The Color Purple film](#) – this short video is an animation of the graphic novels which have been produced.
- [The Color Purple film](#) – a panel discussion with some of the cast of the film which was filmed at Vanderbilt University.
- [Whoopi Goldberg](#) – in this short interview, Whoopi Goldberg, who plays Celie in the film adaptation, talks to Oprah Winfrey about the role.



Colonisation and its Aftermath

Pre-1900: *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*

General background and introduction

- [Mark Twain's Life and Works](#) this page from the Encyclopaedia Britannica is a basic overview of Mark Twain and his work although there are links to further information within the article.
- An [overview of the novel](#) and the main themes from Course Hero. This is a basic overview which could be use at the start of the course to introduce themes, context and characters before looking at the novel in more depth.
- [Huckleberry Finn](#) – an overview of the plot, themes and characters.
- [Animated Summary](#) – this short, simple animation may be useful for revision and reminding students of the main plot points.

How meanings are shaped

- [Literary analysis](#) – this analysis from Literariness.com discusses how Twain shapes meaning in his novels including *The Adventures of Huckleberry Finn*.
- [Literary Devices](#) – this article on the literary devices discusses how Twain uses characters and themes to shape meaning.
- [Study guide](#) – this study guide from Penguin.com includes a summary of the novel as well as information about how Mark Twain shaped meaning in his work.
- [Thought and Word](#) – this interesting YouTube video analyses the different ways Mark Twain shapes meaning in *Huckleberry Finn*.

Contexts

- [Literary Context](#) – this timeline from the British Library shows how the novel fits into the literary canon.
- [Author's own life](#) – these TedEd resources allow for discussion about the author's life as well as the social/historical contexts of his novels.
- [Race](#) – this article from *The Guardian* discusses how Twain's novel discusses race in America.
- [Slavery](#) – this article from ThoughtCo discusses how Mark Twain's views on slavery evolved as he aged. This article from the [Stanford magazine](#) also discusses this topic and compare *Huckleberry Finn* with *Tom Sawyer*.

Adaptations and other useful links

- [Pen Name](#) – an interesting article from *Time* magazine about how Mark Twain may have decided on this pen name.
- [Mark Twain project](#) – this digital archive allows you to search Twain's papers and writings. [Audiobook](#) – this YouTube Video is over 10 hours long and is a audio reading of the complete novel.



- **Documentary** – in 2001, the documentarian Ken Burns made a detailed documentary about Mark Twain and his work. The PBS website has information about this documentary and some possible teaching resources. To see clips from the films he made, there are excerpts which can be accessed on **YouTube**.



Pre-1900: *Heart of Darkness*

General background and introduction

- [Joseph Conrad's Life and Works](#) – this page from the Encyclopaedia Britannica is a basic overview of Joseph Conrad and his work although there are links to further information within the article.
- An [overview of the novel and](#) the main themes from Course Hero. This is a basic overview which could be used at the start of the course to introduce themes, context and characters before looking at the novel in more depth.
- [Heart of Darkness](#) - an overview of the plot, themes and characters.
- [Animated Summary](#) – this short, simple animation may be useful for revision and reminding students of the main plot points.

How meanings are shaped

- [Literary analysis](#) – this analysis from Literariness.com discusses how Conrad shapes meaning in his novels including *Heart of Darkness*.
- [Imagery](#) – this academic paper discusses how and why Conrad uses the imagery and motif of 'darkness' to shape meaning in his novel.
- [Characterisation and themes](#) – this article on the literary devices discusses how Conrad uses characters and themes to shape meaning.
- [Journey](#) – in the review from *The Guardian*, Sam Jordison discusses how Conrad creates a sense of discovery and journey in his novel.

Contexts

- [Contexts](#) – this discussion of *Heart of Darkness* on the Joseph Conrad Society site provides some analysis of the novel and some links to its contexts.
- [BBC podcast](#) – this podcast from the BBC discusses the contexts and issues raised in the novel.
- [Postcolonialism](#) – these two podcasts from the university of Oxford discuss the post-colonial aspects of Conrad's writing.
- [Conrad's own life](#) – this brief documentary gives an overview of Conrad's interesting life and how it has influenced his writing.

Adaptations and other useful links

- [Radio drama](#) – an hour-long radio drama of the novel.
- [Audiobook](#) – this YouTube video is over 5 hours long and is a reading of the complete novel.
- [Apocalypse Now](#) – in the YouTube video, John Milus, the screen writer for the film *Apocalypse now*, talks about how he adapted Conrad's work.
- [Literary roots of Apocalypse Now](#) – this article from *The New York Times* looks at the parallels between the film and the novel.



Post-1900: *The Lonely Londoners*

General background and introduction

- [Sam Selvon](#) - this page from the British Library website focusses on his life and novels. There is also a link to a reading by him of [The Lonely Londoners](#).
- An [overview of the novel](#) and the main themes from Course Hero.
- This is a basic overview which could be used at the start of the course to introduce themes, context and characters before looking at the novel in more depth.
- [The Lonely Londoners](#) – an overview of the plot, themes and characters.

How meanings are shaped

- [Literary Devices](#) – this study guide from The Open University asks students to discuss [language and form, characterisation, representations of women, style and narrative technique](#) and the [depiction of memory](#).
- [Language and narrative voice](#) – this short introduction on the British Library website discusses how Selvon's work uses creolised language to create a narrative voice.
- [The city](#) – in this article from the British Library website, Sushneila Nasta discusses how *The Lonely Londoners* was a new reading and writing about the city.
- [Imagery and motifs](#) – in this discussion, Sushneila Nasta and Hetta Howes discuss how Selvon portrays loneliness in his novel.

Contexts

- [Race](#) – this article in *The Guardian* by Helon Habila discusses Selvon's portrayal of race and the under-represented people in the city in his novel.
- [London in the 1950s](#) – this podcast is part of the Penguin 'On the Road' series. In episode 7, Henry Eliot and Susheila Nasta, visit the locations in London from the novel and discuss the social contexts of the novel.
- [Windrush](#) – although these teaching resources from the British Library focus primarily on creative writing, there are resources which focus on personal voice and experiences of the [Windrush generation](#).
- [Historical and social context](#) – in this video, Dr Jo Carruthers from the University of Lancaster discusses the historical and social contexts of the novel.

Adaptations and other useful links

- [Windrush](#) – this 25 minute video on YouTube follows the journey of Paulette Wilson as she returns to Jamaica after being threatened with deportation, 50 years after she left for England.
- [Black London History](#) – this webpage provides some interesting history and images about London in the 1940s and 50s.
- [Wikipedia](#) – although this page is only a brief summary of the novel, there is a list of novels which cover the topic the immigrant experience in London if students are interested in reading more texts on this topic.



Crime and Detection

Pre-1900 *Lady Audley's Secret*

General background and introduction

- [Mary Elizabeth Braddon](#) – this page from the Mary Elizabeth Braddon Society website focusses on her life and her novels.
- An [overview of the novel](#) and the main themes from Wikipedia. This is a basic overview which could be used at the start of the course to introduce themes, context and characters before looking at the novel in more depth.
- [Lady Audley's Secret](#) – an overview of the plot, themes and characters.
- [Plot summary](#) – a short video outlining the plot of *Lady Audley's Secret*.

How meanings are shaped

- [Journeys and travel](#) – in this extract from a research blog, the use of railways and travel in *Lady Audley's Secret* is discussed and how this impacts on the narrative structure. [This article](#) from the British Library also explores this idea.
- [Themes](#) – these resources, from an Oxford University module about 19th- and 20th-century detective fiction, contain a PowerPoint and a handout about the themes of *Lady Audley's Secret* and how Braddon shapes meaning.
- [Motifs](#) – this link has been taken from GradeSaver which, like a number of summary and student resources on the internet, should be used as a starting point to encourage further reading and discussion.

Contexts

- [University of Warwick](#) – this PDF document from the University of Warwick talks through a number of the key contexts and issues discussed in the novel.
- [Sensation novels](#) – *Lady Audley's Secret* is considered to be a 'sensation' novel. In this article from the British library website, Matthew Sweet discusses this genre.
- [Gothic](#) – in this podcast, two teachers discuss the gothic (and other) contexts of the novel.
- [Mental health](#) – in this short video from Victorians exposed, the presenter discusses the portrayal of madness in the novel.
- [Road Hill House murder](#) – it has been noted that many aspects of the novel mirror the real murder case at Road Hill House a year before the novel was published.

Adaptations and other useful links

- [Further reading](#) – the Mary Elizabeth Braddon society website has a long list of secondary reading and sources.
- [Audio book](#) – the book is available as an audio book on Apple podcasts.
- [2000 film adaptation](#) – this is the full version of the film version of the book from 2000.



Pre-1900: *The Moonstone*

General background and introduction

- [Wilkie Collins](#) – this page from the Wilkie Collins.org website focusses on his life and his novels.
- An [overview of the novel](#) and the main themes from Course Hero. This is a basic overview which could be used at the start of the course to introduce themes, context and characters before looking at the novel in more depth.
- [The Moonstone](#) – a short video providing an overview of the plot, themes and characters.
- [Introduction to The Moonstone](#) – this article from the British Library provides a useful introduction to the novel.

How meanings are shaped

- [Themes](#) – these resources, from an Oxford University module about 19th- and 20th-century detective fiction, contain a PowerPoint and a handout about the themes of *The Moonstone* and how Collins shapes meaning.
- [Multiple narrators](#) – this article discusses Collins' use of multiple narrators.
- [Literary analysis](#) – this article from Literariness discusses the novel and how Collins shaped meaning.
- [Characterisation](#) – this reading guide from Penguin posits a series of questions for discussions about character, themes and description. There is also further information about the text.

Contexts

- [Sensation novels](#) – *The Moonstone* is considered to be a 'sensation' novel. In this article from the British library website, Matthew Sweet discusses this genre.
- [Detective Fiction](#) – *The Moonstone* was one of the first 'detective' novels and this article discusses the genre and Collins' novel.
- [Creation of detective fiction](#) – this article from the British Library discusses the development of crime fiction and *The Moonstone's* place in the genre.
- [Historical context](#) – this article considers the importance of the jewel, its historical context and how the novel is a critique of British Imperialism.
- [Wilkie Collins](#) – this podcast discusses the influence of Wilkie Collins in the detective and gothic genres.

Adaptations and other useful links

- [A Classic!](#) – this review from *The Guardian* summarises the plot and argues that it is one of the greatest detective novels of all time
- [Audiobook](#) – an audio version of the text.
- [1934 film](#) – this rather blurry YouTube video is the full film version of an early adaptation of the novel.



- **2016 adaptation** – The BBC website has some interesting interviews and articles about the novel and the 2016 adaptation.



Post-1900: *In Cold Blood*

General background and introduction

- [Truman Capote](#) - this page from the PBS website focusses on his life and his novels.
- An [overview of the novel](#) and the main themes from Course Hero. This is a basic overview which could be used at the start of the course to introduce themes, context and characters before looking at the novel in more depth.
- [In Cold Blood](#) – a short video providing an overview of the plot, themes and characters.
- [Plot summary](#) - In this review from *The Guardian*, George Steiner summarises the plot and discusses the impact of the novel.

How meanings are shaped

- [Literary analysis](#) – this article from the Literariness website discusses the novel and how Capote shaped meaning.
- [Structure and narrative](#) – this article from The New Republic looks at how Capote used structure and other narrative devices to shape meaning.
- [Literary devices](#) – this page from literary devices.com analyses how Capote creates meaning in a number of different ways.
- [Symbolism](#) – this webpage, dedicated to the novel, discusses the key symbols within the novel.

Contexts

- [Truman Capote](#) – in this interview, Capote discusses his work and why he chose to write *In Cold Blood*. There is also [another interview](#) with Capote.
- [The Non-fiction Novel](#) – in this article, John C Diamante discusses the genre of the non-fiction novel.
- [The Clutter family murders](#) – this video gives an overview of the Clutter family murders.
- [Trial of Hickock and Smith](#) – this article from the Encyclopaedia Britannica gives an outline of the trial of the murderers.

Adaptations and other useful links

- [Holcomb, Texas.](#) – in this article from *The Guardian* written to mark the 50th anniversary of the book, Ed Pilkington looks at how the murder case (and Truman Capote's presence) and the impact on the town.
- [Filming the novel](#) – in this article from The Criterion website, Chris Fujiwara discusses how the director, Richard Brooks brought Capote's novel to the screen.
- [Films about Truman Capote](#) – in this interview, Philip Seymour Hoffman discusses his role as Capote.
- The film [Infamous](#) is about Truman Capote's writing of *In Cold Blood*. It starred Toby Jones as Truman Capote, Sandra Bullock as Harper Lee and Daniel Craig as Perry Smith.
- [Fact or Fiction?](#) – this video discusses the novel against the facts of the case.



Science and Society

Pre-1900: *Frankenstein*

General background and introduction

- [Mary Shelley](#) - page from the Poetry Foundation website focusses on her life and works
- [An overview of the novel and the main themes](#) from Course Hero. This is a basic overview which could be use at the start of the course to introduce themes, context and characters before looking at the novel in more depth.
- [Frankenstein](#) – a short, animated video providing an overview of the plot, themes and characters.
- [Mary Shelley](#) – this article from the British Library website discusses Mary Shelley’s life and provides links to further information about her work.

How meanings are shaped

- [Literary analysis](#) – this article from the Literariness website discusses the novel and how Shelley shaped meaning.
- [British Library resources](#) – this downloadable PDF provides teaching resources for the novel.
- [Literary devices](#) – this webpage, from the educational Frankenstein website, outlines the main literary devices used by Shelley.
- [Lecture](#) – this lecture recorded at the Carnegie Library discusses the novel in some depth and considers how Shelley uses character and theme to shape meaning.

Contexts

- [Science](#) – in this article from the British Library website, Ruth Richardson looks at scientific experiments in *Frankenstein*.
- [Genres](#) – in these articles, also from the British Library, John Mullan discusses the origins of the Gothic genre and Margaretta Jolly discusses female Science fiction writing.
- [Mary Shelley’s life](#) – this series of podcasts from the university of oxford investigates the life of Mary Shelley and how it impacted on her work.
- [Social contexts](#) – this series of discussion materials and videos from TedEd allows for discussion of the social contexts of the novel, Shelley’s life and the time she was writing the novel.

Adaptations and other useful links

- [You’re dead to me](#) – this popular BBC podcast discusses the life and influence of Mary Shelley.
- [Defining the monster](#) – this interesting talk from the Chicago Humanities festival looks at the Frankenstein story and how it has been a literary ‘touchstone’ for generations.



- [National Theatre production](#) – in this video, Nick Dear discusses adapting Mary Shelley’s novel for the stage. Plus there is [further information](#) about the NT production with some [learning resources](#).



Pre-1900: *The War of the Worlds*

General background and introduction

- [H.G. Wells](#) – this page from the British Library website focusses on his life and works
- An [overview of the novel](#) and the main themes from Course Hero. This is a basic overview which could be used at the start of the course to introduce themes, context and characters before looking at the novel in more depth.
- [War of the Worlds](#) – a short, animated video providing an overview of the plot, themes and characters.
- [H.G. Wells](#) – this article from the Thoughtco website discusses H.G. Wells's life and provides links to further information about his work.

How meanings are shaped

- [Voice](#) – in this article from the British Library, Ian Sinclair looks at how H.G. Wells creates tension and panic through the use of narrative voice.
- [Literary analysis](#) – this website provides an overview of the text as well as analysis of language, character and themes.
- [Symbolism](#) – in this article from a website dedicated to *The War of the Worlds*, a list of the literary devices is provided which could be used as a starting point for further discussion.
- [Discussion guide](#) – this guide from Penguin posits many questions for discussion around how Wells' creates character, image and mood.

Contexts

- [Science Fiction](#) – this article from Literariness.org provides an interesting overview of the genre.
- [Social context](#) – in this article from the British Library, Matthew Taunton discusses suburbia and how this setting is used by H.G. Wells in his novel.
- [Victorian and modern day anxieties](#) – this article from *The New Statesmen* discusses how *The War of the Worlds* taps into people's insecurities today just as it did when it was written.
- [Wells' own life](#) – this summary also provides analysis about the legacy of Wells but also how he own personal experiences influenced his work.
- [Fin de Siècle](#) – in this article about the Fin de Siècle, Greg Buzwell looks at how the end of the century Fin de Siècle novels explored the idea of the 'human' and the evolving and changing nature of the mind.

Adaptations and other useful links

- [Orson Welles](#) – Orson Welles recorded a reading of *The War of the Worlds* which caused mass hysteria when it was broadcast in 1938.
- [Audio book](#) – an audio reading of this novel was recently serialised by the BBC and all episodes are available here.



- [Review of 2019 BBC adaptation](#) – this review from *The Guardian* comments on the BBC production in light of Wells' novel. Watch [the trailer](#).
- [Jeff Wayne](#) – In 1976, Jeff Wayne composed a rock opera retelling the story of *The War of the Worlds*. This short video is a trailer for the touring version of the production.



Post-1900: *The Handmaid's Tale*

General background and introduction

- [Margaret Atwood](#) – this page from the British council website focusses on her life and works as well as providing some analysis of *The Handmaid's Tale*
- An [overview of the novel](#) and the main themes from Course Hero. This is a basic overview which could be use at the start of the course to introduce themes, context and characters before looking at the novel in more depth.
- [The Handmaid's Tale](#) – a short, animated video providing an overview of the plot, themes and characters.
- [Margaret Atwood](#) – this biography from Margaret Atwood's website discusses her life and has links to her full bibliography and works.

How meanings are shaped

- [Imagery and symbolism](#) – this website provides an overview of the text and moves onto to focus on the imagery, symbols, themes and characterisation used by Atwood.
- [Symbols and motifs](#) – this teacher-produced YouTube presentation discusses Atwood's use of motifs and symbols in her novel.
- [Literary devices](#) – this website focussed on *The Handmaid's Tale* looks at some of the key quotations and literary devices which may be a good starting point for discussion.
- [Narrative voice](#) – this article from Literariness discusses all of Atwood's novels and looks at how Atwood uses narrative voice to shape meaning in *The Handmaid's Tale*.

Contexts

- [Gender and power](#) – in this article, Atwood talks about the impact her novel has had and the contexts and issues she wanted to bring to the surface. [This interview](#) also talks about how the novel is being read very differently now.
- [Science Fiction](#) – this article from the British Library looks at female science fiction writers and the themes they cover in their novels.
- [Dystopia](#) – this article from the British Library looks at how writers use imaginary regimes to explore contemporary political concerns. Atwood also discusses the dystopian nature of her novel in a [podcast](#).
- [Historical contexts](#) – in this video, Dr Madelaine Davies from the University of Reading discusses the contexts within *The Handmaid's Tale*.

Adaptations and other useful links

- [Book to TV series](#) – in this recorded panel discussed from BookCon in 2017, Margaret Atwood and one of the creators of the TV series discuss *The Handmaid's Tale*.
- [Margaret Atwood interviews](#) – the quality of these recordings is not very high, but it is interesting to hear Atwood's views on religion and to see clips from the 1990 film.
- [Audiobook](#) – this recording of the novel is read by Elisabeth Moss who stars as Offred in the TV adaptation. The full version can be downloaded by clicking on the link in the description on the YouTube site.



Post-1900: *Never Let Me Go*

General background and introduction

- [Kazuo Ishiguro](#) – this page from the Nobel Prize website provides a brief outline of Ishiguro’s life and works.
- An [overview of the novel](#) and the main themes from Course Hero. This is a basic overview which could be used at the start of the course to introduce themes, context and characters before looking at the novel in more depth.
- [Never Let Me Go](#) – a short, animated video providing an overview of the plot, themes and characters.
- [Kazuo Ishiguro](#) – this article from the Academy of Achievement website discusses Ishiguro’s life and works. There is also a podcast about the author at the bottom of the page.

2. How meanings are shaped

- [BBC resources](#) – although these resources are primarily for GCSE students, they can be used to spark initial conversations and investigation. This [BBC Teach](#) video could also be useful for initial engagement.
- [Literary analysis](#) – this website provides an overview of the text as well as analysis of language, character and themes.
- [Frieze Lecture](#) – in this short lecture, Professor Kate Hansen discusses the novel and its meanings.
- [Tone and voice](#) – in this article from *The Guardian*, Rachel Cusk discusses how Ishiguro creates meaning through tone and voice.
- [Discussion guide](#) – this guide from Penguin posits many questions for discussion around how Ishiguro creates character, image and mood.
- [Narrative voice and memory](#) – this article from Literariness discusses all of Ishiguro’s novels – *Never Let Me Go* is analysed towards the end of the article. This article on the [British Council’s website](#) also looks at Ishiguro’s novels and discusses his use of unreliable narrators.

3. Contexts

- [Kazuo Ishiguro](#) – the author talks in this audio interview about his motivations for writing the novel and also reads from the text. This is also another interesting [interview with Ishiguro](#).
- [Science and other contexts](#) – this overview from Course Hero explains the main contexts of the novel. This interview with Ishiguro in *The Guardian* also talks about the [context of biotechnology](#) in the novel.
- [Human condition](#) – in this short podcast, Dr Rita Charon discusses *Never Let Me Go* and the questions it asks about what it means to be human.
- [Post Modernism](#) – this article from the University of Durham website discusses questions of identity, existence and adaptation.



4. Adaptations and other useful links

- [2010 film](#) – Carey Mulligan and Andrew Garfield discuss working on the film adaptation. Watch [the trailer](#) for the film.
- [BBC Bookclub](#) – Ishiguro discusses his novel and answers reader’s questions in this podcast.
- [Review of the 2010 film](#) – this review in *The Independent* looks at how the film adapted its source material.
- [Review of the 2005 novel](#) – in this review from the London Review of Books, Frank Kermode discusses Ishiguro’s novel and how it compares to his past works.



The Supernatural

Pre-1900: *Dracula*

General background and introduction

- [Life of Bram Stoker](#) – a brief overview of the writer’s life and works from the Bram Stoker society website.
- An [overview of the novel](#) and the main themes from Course Hero. This is a basic overview which could be used at the start of the course to introduce themes, context and characters before looking at the novel in more depth.
- [Bram Stoker](#) - this short guide from ThoughtCo gives a brief biography of Stoker and his works with links to other articles and resources.
- [Dracula summary](#) – this summary from the Encyclopaedia Britannica provides links to further information about the texts and its contexts.
- [Dracula](#) – a short, animated video outlining the plot.

How meanings are shaped

- [Narrative voices](#) in this review from *The Guardian*, Darragh McManus discusses how Stoker builds tension and horror with multiple voices and narrative techniques.
- [Analysis of the novel](#) – in this lecture, Professor David Davis discusses the novel.
- [Study guide](#) – these study resources provide a summary of the novel as well and discuss how Stoker shapes meaning.
- [Symbolism](#) – on this website dedicated to Bram Stoker’s *Dracula*, there is a short section on ‘symbols’ which can be used to support further teaching.

Contexts

- [Fin de Siècle](#) – in this article about the Fin de Siècle, Greg Buzwell looks at how the end of the century Fin de Siècle novels explored the idea of the ‘human’ and the evolving and changing nature of the mind.
- [Early reviews of the novel](#) – the Bram Stoker estate has collated some early reviews of the book.
- [Vampire narratives](#) – this article from Literariness discusses the idea of vampire narratives and what they represent and *Dracula* place in the development of this. This podcast – [You’re Dead to Me](#) – also discusses this topic.
- [Social context](#) – this article from the British Library discusses how Stoker’s novel reflected societal fears about immigration, sex and morality. [This video on YouTube](#) also discusses the social contexts of the novel
- [Gender roles in the 19th century](#) – this lecture from Gresham college discusses gender and sexuality in the 19th century and there is a downloadable PowerPoint presentation to support learning.
- [Gothic motifs](#) – in this article from the British Library, John Bowan discusses what makes a novel ‘gothic’.



Adaptations and other useful links

- [Legacy](#) – an interesting podcast from the BBC discusses the legacy of the novel and the many adaptations that have been made.
- [BBC adaptation](#) – these three podcasts were recorded to support the three episodes of the BBC adaptation. The writers and cast discuss how they wrote and produced each episode.
- [Popular Culture](#) – this page from Wikipedia sums up the many adaptations of the novel with links.
- [Audiobook](#) – this long YouTube video is one of three which is an audio reading of the text.



Pre-1900: *The Picture of Dorian Gray*

General background and introduction

- [Life of Oscar Wilde](#) – a brief overview of the writer’s life.
- An [overview of the novel](#) and the main themes from Course Hero. This is a basic overview which could be used at the start of the course to introduce themes, context and characters before looking at the novel in more depth.
- [Oscar Wilde](#) – this short guide from the British Library gives a brief biography of Wilde and his works with links to other articles and resources.
- [Oscar Wilde podcast](#) – a series of podcasts from the University of Oxford giving an overview of Oscar Wilde’s life and his works.
- [The Picture of Dorian Gray](#) – a short, animated video outlining the plot.

How meanings are shaped

- [Poetry Foundation](#) – a useful overview of Wilde’s life and works – with some analysis of the way he shapes meaning in *The Picture of Dorian Gray*.
- [Analysis of the novel](#) – in this lecture from Royal Holloway University, Professor Ruth Livesey discusses the novel.
- [Study guide](#) – these study resources provide a summary of the play as well and discusses how Wilde shapes meaning.
- [Themes and character](#) – in this podcast, Will Self and Fiona Shaw discuss the novel with Matthew Sweet and Merlin Holland, Wilde’s grandson.

Contexts

- [Social context](#) – in the article from *The Guardian*, Deborah Orr talks about re-reading *The Picture of Dorian Gray* and the social themes it highlights.
- [Aestheticism and Decadence](#) – in this article from the British Library website, Dr Carole Burdett discusses Victorian Aestheticism and Decadence and references Oscar Wilde. Professor Nick Groom from the University of Exeter also discusses this theme in this [video](#).
- [Gender roles in the 19th century](#) – this article from the British Library website outlines the roles of men and women in Victorian society.
- [Gothic motifs and morality](#) – in this article from the British Library, Greg Buzwell discusses the connections between art, morality, Gothic motifs and aestheticism in Wilde’s novel.
- [Fin de Siècle](#) – in this article about the Fin de Siècle, Greg Buzwell looks at how the end of the century Fin de Siècle novels explored the idea of the ‘human’ and the evolving and changing nature of the mind.

Adaptations and other useful links

- [The Oscar Wilde Society](#) – this society’s YouTube Channel contains interesting videos and clips about the writer and his works.



- **Adaptations** – there have been many adaptations of Wilde’s work. This Wikipedia entry collects them all together and includes film, plays and dance.
- **Audiobook** – this video on Youtube is an audio recording of the text.
- Trailers from the **1945**, **1973** and **2009** film versions of the novel and information about the **ballet** based on the novel.
- **Wilde online** – this useful website contains overviews of Wilde’s life and works as well as his lectures, letters and reviews.



Post-1900: *Beloved*

General background and introduction

- [Life of Toni Morrison](#) - a brief overview of the writer's life and works from the Pulitzer website.
- An [overview of the novel](#) and the main themes from Coursehero. This is a basic overview which could be used at the start of the course to introduce themes, context and characters before looking at the novel in more depth.
- [Toni Morrison](#) - this short biography from the Toni Morrison Society website gives a brief chronology of her life and her works. There is also an [interesting podcast](#) introducing the author and her works.
- [Beloved](#) – a summary of the plot with links to themes, characters and contexts.
- [Why you should read Beloved](#) – this short, animated video from TedEd outlines the plot and the themes of the novel.

How meanings are shaped

- [Themes and imagery](#) – this website provides some starting points for discussing how Morrison shaped meaning.
- [Literary analysis](#) – this article on literariness.org focusses on Morrison's novels - *Beloved* is discussed towards the end of the article.
- [Character of Sethe](#) – in this video, Professor Ato Quayson discusses how time and memory is represented, in part, by the character of Sethe.
- [Colour imagery](#) – this detailed review from *The Guardian* discusses Morrison's use of colour as well as other ways Morrison shapes meaning.
- [BBC Radio 4 Book club](#) – in this podcast, Toni Morrison talks about her novel and answers readers' questions about the themes, characters and issues raised in the novel.

Contexts

- [Race](#) in these lesson resources, there are videos and articles to discuss Morrison's points about race and the issues she wrote about in her novel.
- [Social and historical contexts](#) – this article on the BBC Culture website talks about the novel and its contexts. This [blog](#) from the NYU creating writing course also considers the novel's contexts.
- [Slavery and freedom](#) – in this video discussion, Professor Ato Quayson from Stanford university looks at the contexts within *Beloved*.
- [Margaret Garner](#) – the life of a Margaret Garner whose life was an inspiration for Morrison's character of Sethe.

Adaptations and other useful links

- [Documentary](#) – this documentary on Toni Morrison discusses her life and work.
- [1998 film](#) – this is a trailer from the 1998 film version of the novel.



- **Audiobook** – this is an extract from the book read by Morrison. The whole audiobook can be purchased from Audible.com
- **Legacy of Morrison** – In this article from *The Guardian*, Chigozie Obioma discusses how much we owe Morrison for her life and work.



Post-1900: *The Little Stranger*

General background and introduction

- [Life of Sarah Waters](#) – a brief overview of the writer’s life and works from the British Council website.
- An [overview of the novel](#) and the main themes from Super Summary. This is a basic overview which could be used at the start of the course to introduce themes, context and characters before looking at the novel in more depth.
- [Sarah Waters](#) – this short biography from Waters’ website gives a brief overview of her life and her works.
- [The Little Stranger](#) – this short interview with Waters’ outlines the novel’s main themes and ideas.
- [The Little Stranger](#) – this review from medium.com outlines the novels plot, themes and key narrative devices.

How meanings are shaped

- [Tension and uncertainty](#) – this essay on the literature blog looks at the character of Faraday and how he is used to build tension and cause the reader to question what is happening.
- [Guardian Book Club](#) – *The Guardian* included this novel as part of their book club. John Mullan discusses [pace](#) and [fact v reason](#).
- [Reading Guide](#) – on this page from the Penguin website, there are some key questions to help discuss how meanings are shaped.
- [Bitesize Literature](#) – these short YouTube videos have been created by an English Teacher and study key elements of the text.

Contexts

- [Gothic motifs](#) – in this article from the British Library, John Bowan discusses what makes a novel ‘gothic’.
- [Supernatural](#) – in this article from *The Guardian* book club, Sarah Waters discusses writing her novel and her portrayal of the supernatural. There is also [a podcast](#) to accompany this discussion.
- [Gender](#) – in this review of the film from *The Vox*, the reviewer also discusses Waters’ novel in some detail and how it is a study in toxic masculinity.
- [Britain in the 1940s](#) – this BBC web page gives an interesting overview to the time. This review of [The Little Stranger](#) from *The Independent* links the book to its 1940s contexts.

Adaptations and other useful links

- [LGBTQ+ month](#) – short videos from the English Department of Manchester Metropolitan university introducing LGBTQ+ authors including Sarah Waters.
- [Interviews](#) with the cast and director of the 2018 film.
- [Review of the film](#) – this review is taken from Rolling Stone magazine.



- **Audio reading** – this first chapter of the book is read by Domhnall Gleeson who played Dr Faraday in the film.



Women and Society

Pre-1900: *Tess of The D'Urbervilles*

General background and introduction

- [Life of Thomas Hardy](#) – a brief overview of the writer's life and works from the British Library website.
- An [overview of the novel](#) and the main themes from Coursehero. This is a basic overview which could be used at the start of the course to introduce themes, context and characters before looking at the novel in more depth.
- [Thomas Hardy](#) – this short biography from the Thomas Hardy Society website gives a brief chronology of his life and works.
- [Tess of the D'Urbervilles](#) – a summary of the plot with links to themes, characters and contexts.

How meanings are shaped

- [Literary analysis](#) – this article on literariness.org focusses how Bronte shapes meaning in his novels with reference to *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*.
- [Narrative](#) – in this article provides some basic insights into the methods Hardy uses to shape meaning which can be developed further in the classroom
- [BBC Radio 4 Podcast](#) – in this podcast, Melvyn Bragg discusses the novel with guests Dinah Birch, Francis O'Gorman and Jane Thomas.
- [University of Southampton](#) – in this podcast, Dr Matt Kerr discusses how Hardy shapes meaning in Tess of the D'Urbervilles.
- [University of Kent](#) – in this video tutorial, Dr Sara Lyons from the University of Kent analyses the novel.

Contexts

- [Gender and class](#) – in this short lecture, Dr Sophie Gilmartin from Royal Holloway university discusses the key contexts of the novel and how they shape the narrative.
- [Victorian values](#) – in this article from the British Library, Margaret Higonet discusses how Hardy uses Tess to complicate conventional ideas of modesty and desire.
- [Women in Victorian society](#) – in this article from the British Library, Kathryn Hughes discusses gender roles in the 19th century.
- [Historical context](#) – this website offers some key ideas around the historical contexts of the novel.
- [Martha Brown](#) – Hardy watched the hanging of Martha Brown in 1856 which inspired him to write the novel. In this article from *The Guardian*, Steven Morris discusses her case as well as the discovery of some bones which may well be the remains of Martha Brown.



Adaptations and other useful links

- [Dramatisation of the novel](#) – in a season about Hardy’s women, the BBC produced a dramatisation of the novel.
- [Adaptations](#) – there have been many adaptations of the novel. This Wikipedia page is a guide to many of them with links to further details.
- [BBC Production 2008](#) – the trailer for the BBC mini-series starring Gemma Arterton and Eddie Redmayne.
- [Audiobook](#) – this video is over 17 hours long and is a full audio version of the novel.



Pre-1900: *Wuthering Heights*

General background and introduction

- [Life of Emily Bronte](#) a brief overview of the writer's life and works from the British Library website.
- An [overview of the novel](#) and the main themes from Coursehero. This is a basic overview which could be used at the start of the course to introduce themes, context and characters before looking at the novel in more depth.
- [Emily Bronte](#) – this short biography from the Bronte Society website gives a brief chronology of her life and her works.
- [Wuthering Heights](#) – a summary of the plot with links to themes, characters and contexts.
- [Summary of the plot](#) – this short-animated video outlines the plot and the themes of the novel.

How meanings are shaped

- [Literary analysis](#) – this article on literariness.org focusses how Bronte shapes meaning in *Wuthering Heights*.
- [Setting](#) – in this article from the British Library, Professor John Bowen discusses how Bronte uses landscape and setting to shape meaning. There is also a [video](#) to accompany this article.
- [Character](#) – in another article on the British Library website, Professor John Bowen discusses Bronte's use of the outsider, Heathcliff, in the novel. There is also a [video](#) to accompany this article.
- [BBC Podcast](#) – in this podcast, Melvyn Bragg discusses Bronte's novel and its impact with guests John Bowen, Alexandra Lewis and Karen O'Brien.

Contexts

- [Fantasy and realism](#) – in this article from the British Library, John Bowen discusses how Bronte's novel combines fantasy and realism. There is also a [video interview](#) to accompany this article.
- [Historical and social contexts](#) – in this podcast from the University of Southampton, Dr Justine Pizzo discusses the contexts of *Wuthering Heights* with one of her students.
- [Literary context](#) – in this lecture from the University of Durham, James Quinnell discusses the literary context of the novel
- [19th century Britain](#) – this [website](#) offers some ideas about, and links to, the historical contexts of the novel.
- [Gender and class](#) – this video of a book club discussion with Jeanette Winterson as a special guest discusses Bronte's portrayal of gender and class in the novel.



Adaptations and other useful links

- [Emily Bronte vs Jane Austen](#) – an interesting video debate created by Intelligence² discussing the merits of each author with John Mullan and Kate Mosse.
- [Comparison between the adaptations and books](#) – this YouTube video provides an interesting comparison between the novel and the many adaptations. A complete list of the adaptations can be [found on Wikipedia](#) .
- [1939 adaptation](#) – this iconic film starred Laurence Olivier and Merle Oberon. Some history of the filming can be found in this review for [Empire magazine](#).
- [Audiobook](#) – this is a full audio recording of the text.



Pre-1900: *Mrs Dalloway*

General background and introduction

- [Life of Virginia Woolf](#) – a brief overview of the writer's life and works from the British Library website.
- An [overview of the novel](#) and the main themes from Coursehero. This is a basic overview which could be used at the start of the course to introduce themes, context and characters before looking at the novel in more depth.
- [Virginia Woolf](#) – this short biography from Columbia University provides an overview of Woolf's life and works.
- [Mrs Dalloway](#) – a summary of the plot with links to themes, characters and contexts.
- [Virginia Woolf](#) – Sara Pascoe explains why she has chosen Virginia Woolf as her subject in the podcast series 'Great Lives'.

How meanings are shaped

- [Literary analysis](#) – this article on literariness.org focusses on how Woolf shapes meaning in her novels with reference to *Mrs Dalloway*.
- [Narrative](#) in this article from the British Library website, Elaine Showalter investigates how Woolf uses 'stream of consciousness' to shape meaning.
- [BBC Podcast](#) – in this podcast, Melvyn Bragg discusses the novel with Dame Hermione Lee, Dr Jane Goldman and Dr Catherine Simpson.
- [University of Reading](#) – in this video, Dr Nicola Wilson, from the University of Reading, analyses *Mrs Dalloway*.
- [Literary analysis](#) – this article, on the interesting literature website, explains the plot and goes onto analyse key themes and ideas.

Contexts

- [World War I](#) – in this article from the British Library, David Bradshaw discusses how the war effected society after it was over.
- [London](#) – in this article, also from the British Library website, David Bradshaw discusses Virginia Woolf's London. Katherine Millin discusses the use of cities in [Modernist literature](#) with reference to Woolf and her work.
- [Modernity and Gender](#) – in this video, Elaine Showalter discusses modernity, consciousness, gender and time in *Mrs Dalloway*.
- [Stream of Consciousness](#) – this teacher-devised ppt presentation explains Woolf's use of stream of consciousness and its literary context.
- [Women](#) – this blog from the Literature Cambridge website discusses the role of women in *Mrs Dalloway*.



Adaptations and other useful links

- A [Mrs Dalloway walk](#) – this walk from the Virginia Woolf Society, takes in the locations in the novel.
- [The Virginia Woolf podcasts](#) – this collection of podcasts discusses Woolf's impact on art, culture and society.
- [Dalloway Day](#) – organised by the Royal Society of Literature, this day includes a [walk around London](#) and lectures and discussions about Woolf and her novel.
- [Audiobook](#) – an audio recording of the novel.
- [Voice of Virginia Woolf](#) – this audio recording of Virginia Woolf is the only surviving recording of her voice.
- [1997 adaptation](#) – this is the trailer for the 1997 adaptation of the novel starring Vanessa Redgrave.



Post-1900: *A Thousand Splendid Suns*

General background and introduction

- [Khaled Hosseini](#) – a brief overview of the writer’s life and works from the Khaled Hosseini website.
- An [overview of the novel](#) and the main themes from Coursehero. This is a basic overview which could be used at the start of the course to introduce themes, context and characters before looking at the novel in more depth.
- [Khaled Hosseini](#) – this biography from the American Academy of Achievement outlines Hosseini’s life and works.
- [A Thousand Splendid Suns](#) – this review from *The Guardian* provides an outline of the plot.

How meanings are shaped

- [Voice](#) – in this short interview, Hosseini discusses writing from a female perspective and point of view.
- [Points for discussion](#) – *A Thousand Splendid Suns* was chosen as one of the BBC’s 100 Novels That Shaped Our World. On their website, they have suggested 3 different questions to discuss how meanings are shaped as well as including two interviews with the author. There are also some [other questions](#) on the ThoughtCo website to aid discussion.
- [Symbols](#) – in this webpage from Coursehero, there are some suggested symbols which could be studied in more depth in the classroom.

Contexts

- [Afghanistan](#) – in this interview, Hosseini talks about his life and growing up in Afghanistan.
- [Role of women](#) – this report from the Foreign and Commonwealth office is a case study on the role of women in Afghanistan. This article from [Forbes Magazine](#) discusses the role of women in Hosseini’s novel and the play version of the novel.
- [History of Afghanistan](#) – this short article on the PBS website outlines the key dates in Afghan history.
- [Family](#) – in this interview about *The Kite Runner* and *A Thousand Splendid Suns*, Hosseini discusses the importance of family and relationships in his novel.

Adaptations and other useful links

- [Play version](#) – in this short video, the artistic director for the Old Globe, a theatre in San Diego, talks about their production of *A Thousand Splendid Suns*.
- [Review of the premiere of the play](#) – this review from the *LA Times* discusses the play’s first performance in San Francisco in 2017.
- [Lecture from Hosseini](#) – in this lecture, Hosseini reads from his novel and talks about the characters and themes.