

Resource 4: Draft coursework titles for discussion

1. 'Anybody who's had to contend with mental illness, actually has a fair amount of resilience in the sense that they've had to deal with suffering already, personal suffering.' (*An Unquiet Mind* Key Redfield Jamison.)

In the light of this statement, compare the presentation of mental health in Ian McEwan's 'Enduring Love' and Sylvia Plath's 'The Bell Jar'.

2. Compare the ways power and status are presented in 'Persuasion' and 'Look back in Anger' exploring relevant contextual factors and critical reading.

3. It is impossible to feel anything but contempt for characters who behave immorally. In the light of the two texts that you have studied, to what extent do you agree with this statement? [Fowles 'The Collector' and Hosseini 'The Kite Runner']

4. How is violence presented in Riddley Walker and 'A Clockwork Orange'?

5. With reference to your wider reading around 'The Yellow Wallpaper' and 'A Woman of No Importance' compare how Gilman and Wilde present relationships.

6. With reference to Angela Carter's 'The Bloody Chamber' and Bram Stoker's 'Dracula', to what extent do you agree that Gothic literature celebrates transgressive characters?

7. "The horrible and the preternatural have usually seized on the popular taste, at the rise and decline of literature" [Coleridge] With reference to Frankenstein and Coleridge's 'Selected Poems' discuss how conscience, transgression, and punishment are used to make Gothic literature popular.