

ENGLISH TEXT RESOURCES – LIST A

AFTER DARKNESS



WEBSITES:

<https://www.vcestudyguides.com/blog/after-darkness-by-christine-piper>

Free study guide with sections: plot summary, characters, themes, literary devices, and essay prompts.

<http://englishtutorlessons.com.au/darkness-christine-piper/>

Contains examples of many narrative features found in the text.

<https://www.australianbookreview.com.au/abr-online/current-issue/114-april-2014-no-360/1898-unearthing-the-past>

Piper's award-winning essay on her research.

<http://www.christinepiper.com/students/>

The author herself replies here to student questions about the text.

VIDEOS:

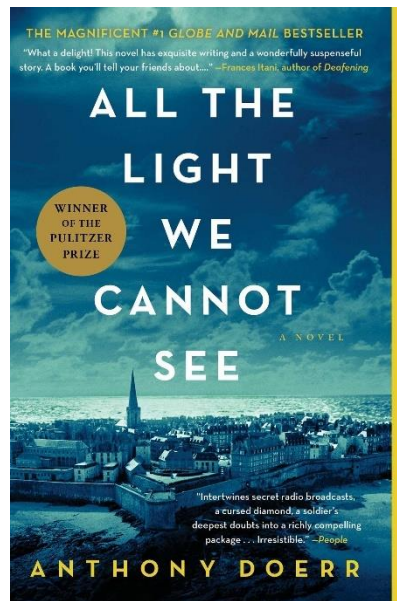
https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=14YQB_djLOs&feature=youtu.be

Panel of teachers discussing the themes.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BMbOnxIwpDc&feature=youtu.be>

A discussion of symbols can be found here.

ALL THE LIGHT WE CANNOT SEE



WEBSITES:

<https://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/a/all-the-light-we-cannot-see/about-all-the-light-we-cannot-see>

Free study guide with an overall introduction into all aspects of the text.
Includes a section on “Essay topics”.

Note that these are not VCAA standard, but could be used to deepen investigation into the text.

<https://www.coursehero.com/lit/All-the-Light-We-Cannot-See/>

Study guide with an overall introduction into all aspects of the text.

<https://www.vcestudyguides.com/blog/all-the-light-we-cannot-see-by-anthony-doerr>

Free study guide with sections: historical context, plot summary, themes, symbols, and an essay breakdown.

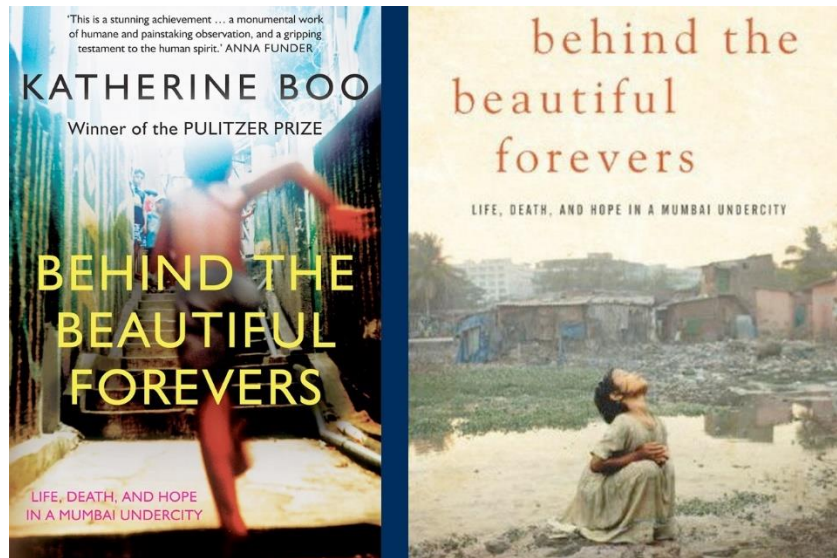
<https://lawrencecoates.wordpress.com/2015/05/05/the-style-of-all-the-light-we-cannot-see/>

Blog post with detailed analysis of Doerr’s writing style in one chapter.

<https://www.annettemarfording.com/all-the-light-we-cannot-see-blueprint-writing-fiction/>

Review with a short discussion of narrative features.

BEHIND THE BEAUTIFUL FOREVERS: LIFE, DEATH AND HOPE IN A MUMBAI UNDERCITY



WEBSITES:

https://digitalcommons.butler.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=1044&context=fys_ww_f2019

Analysis of the presence of women in the text.

<https://www.gradesaver.com/behind-the-beautiful-forevers/study-guide/summary>

Useful for an overall introduction into all aspects of the text e.g. summary, characters, narrative features.

Includes a section on “Essay topics”. Note that these are not VCAA standard, but could be used to deepen investigation into the text.

<https://lareviewofbooks.org/article/the-branding-on-the-wall-katherine-boos-behind-the-beautiful-forevers/>

Introduction to Boo’s purpose and style.

VIDEOS:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PN6aAPNAoIU>

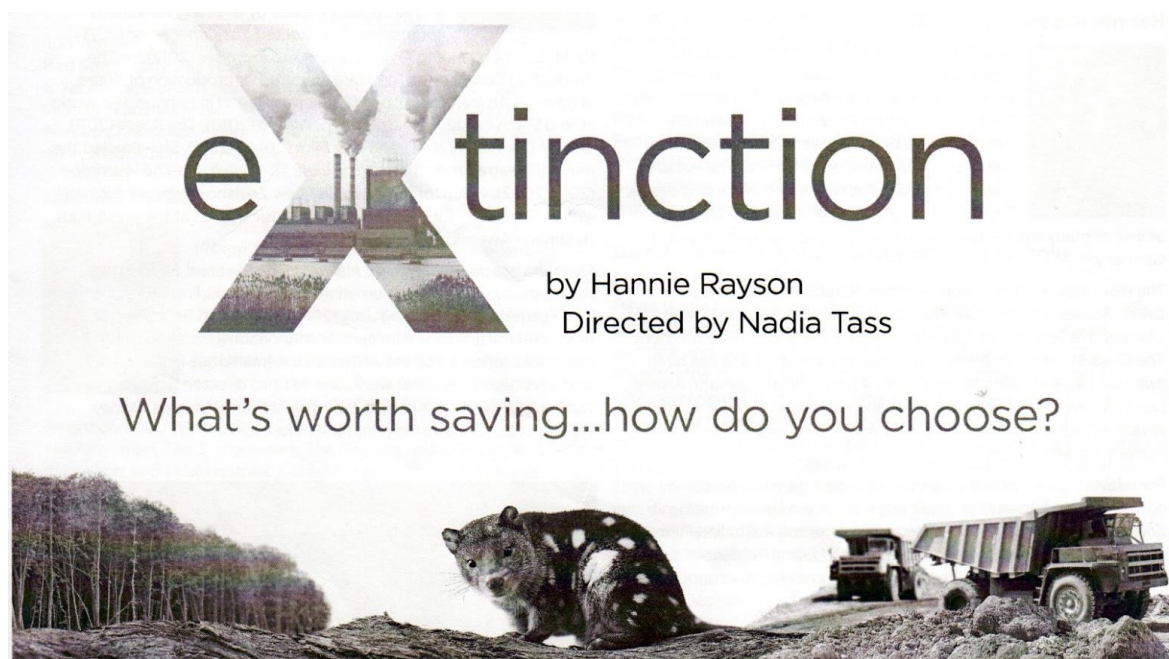
Conversation with the author.

vlogbrothers: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=AzanFEBnHhY>

Overview of the text.

Part two: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6QZFeljjcto>

EXTINCTION



WEBSITES:

<https://www.vcestudyguides.com/blog/extinction>

Free study guide with sections: plot summary, characters, themes, and essay prompts.

<https://tutor-english.com.au/meaning-of-extinction-by-hannie-rayson/>

A possible interpretation of the play's meaning.

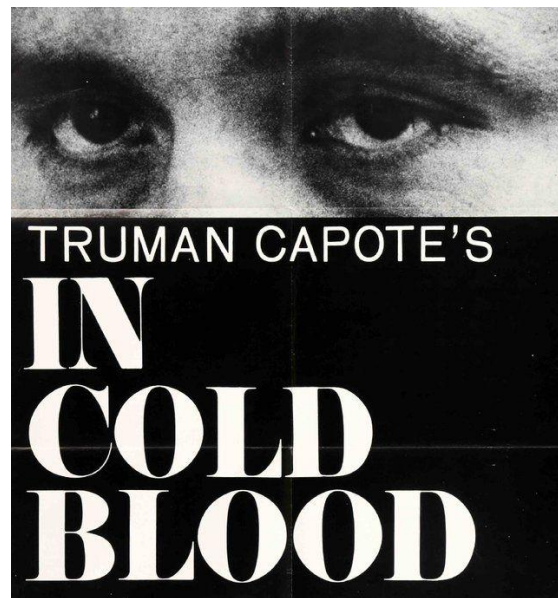
<https://australianplays.org/playwright/CP-rayfit>

Contextual information on the playwright.

<http://fuse.education.vic.gov.au/Resource/LandingPage?ObjectId=2dd9ab21-c939-44f9-8c79-80dc964a4446&SearchScope=All>

Teacher's notes for viewing a production of this play by 'Complete Works Theatre Company'.
Overviews all elements of the text.

IN COLD BLOOD



WEBSITES:

<https://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/i/in-cold-blood/book-summary>

Free study guide with an overall introduction into all aspects of the text. Includes a section on "Essay topics". Note that these are not VCAA standard, but could be used to deepen investigation into the text.

<https://www.vcestudyguides.com/blog/in-cold-blood>

Free study guide with sections: the true facts of the case, character analysis, themes and motifs, and essay writing.

<https://lib.dr.iastate.edu/cgi/viewcontent.cgi?article=17160&context=rtd>

Pages 10-19 provide analysis of the narrative features.

<https://medium.com/read-watch-write-repeat/why-in-cold-blood-is-a-classic-book-worth-celebrating-b7227a689f29>

Review with theme analysis.

VIDEOS:

<https://www.abc.net.au/radio/melbourne/programs/theweekendlife/in-cold-blood-truman-capote/11028120>

Discussion of the text by a VCE Literature expert.

LIKE A HOUSE ON FIRE



WEBSITES:

<http://scsc12vceenglish.weebly.com/outcome-1b---reading-and-creating---like-a-house-on-fire.html>

School resource with synopsis and possible essay prompts. Includes links to textual analysis and context.

<http://englishtutorlessons.com.au/themes-stories-like-house-fire-cate-kennedy/>

Introduction into theme analysis of the short story compilation.

<https://www.vcestudyguides.com/blog/how-to-get-an-a-on-your-like-a-house-on-fire-essay>

Suggested approach to writing high-scoring essays on this compilation.

<https://www.readings.com.au/news/helen-garner-talks-with-cate-kennedy-about-her-latest-collection-like-a-house-on-fire>

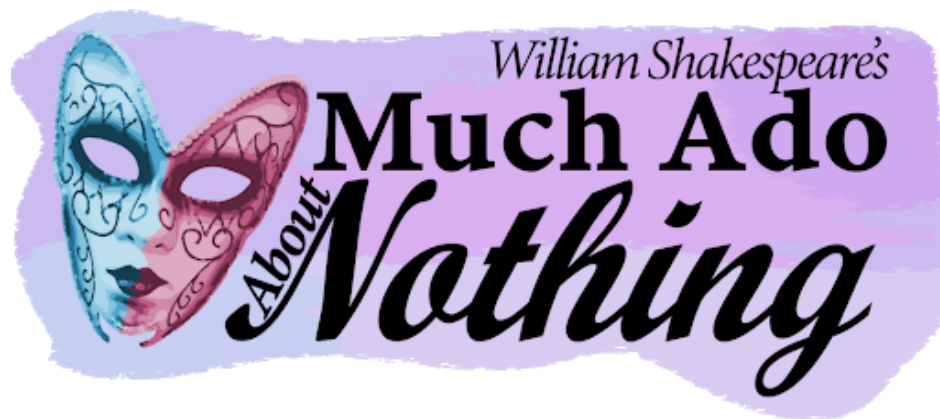
Interview with the author. Contains notes on inspirational material that could inform narrative feature analysis.

VIDEOS:

Lisa's Study Guides: <https://www.vcestudyguides.com/blog/close-analysis-of-cake-from-like-a-house-on-fire>

Analysis of 'Cake' from the compilation
The page includes a transcription.

MUCH ADO ABOUT NOTHING



WEBSITES:

<https://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/m/much-ado-about-nothing/play-summary>

Free study guide with an overall introduction into all aspects of the text. Includes a section on "Essay topics". Note that these are not VCAA standard, but could be used to deepen investigation into the text.

<https://www.rsc.org.uk/shakespeare-learning-zone/much-ado-about-nothing/character/analysis>

Interactive character analysis guide on the two couples. Introduction to analysis of the wordplay, Dogberry's language, imagery, and motifs can be found here:

<https://www.rsc.org.uk/shakespeare-learning-zone/much-ado-about-nothing/language/analysis>

<https://www.englishworks.com.au/much-ado-nothing-william-shakespeare/>

Analytical thread of the plot, themes and characters.

<https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare/articles/deception-and-dramatic-irony-in-much-ado-about-nothing>

Discussion of the deception and dramatic irony in the play. Analysis of the relationship between Benedick and Beatrice can be found here:

<https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare/articles/benedick-and-beatrice-the-merry-war-of-courtship>

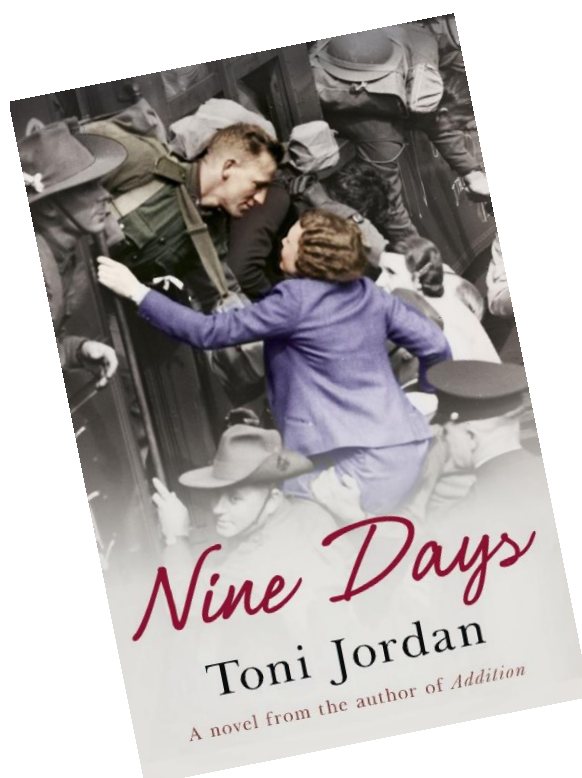
VIDEOS:

Course Hero: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=PKwUe-iRxdE&list=PLz_ZtyOWL9BRE_oqp0P5YggSgSprEXCil

Playlist with episodes on:

- Plot summary
- Characters
- Each scene
- Symbols
- Themes
- Motifs
- Summary and Analysis

NINE DAYS



WEBSITES:

<https://www.vcestudyguides.com/blog/nine-days>

Free study guide with sections: plot summary, characters, themes, literary devices, and essay prompts.

<http://www.emelbourne.net.au/biogs/EM01579b.htm>

Historical context of Melbourne during WWII.

https://d2wzqffx6hjwip.cloudfront.net/768/720/087/7687200876204009b12b4908309c802179e678e3f620ed07e41d7f5370f9/NineDays_VCE_TeachingNotes.pdf

Teaching resource with chapter summaries, links to further research, and possible essay prompts.

<https://year12help.com.au/welcome/vce-texts/nine-days-context/nine-days-essay-prompts/>

A collection of possible essay prompts.

Videos:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=jW2TjCkWqug>

Interview with the author Toni Jordan.

OLD/NEW WORLD: NEW & SELECTED POEMS



WEBSITES:

<http://englishtutorlessons.com.au/peter-skrzynecki-old-new-world-poetry-year-12-english/>

Overview of the poet, his style and major themes in the collection.

<http://englishtutorlessons.com.au/analytical-essay-belonging-peter-skrzyneckis-poetry/>

Sample essay with examples of strong analysis.

<https://www.vcestudyguides.com/blog/old-new-world-selected-poems>

Analysis of the poetic devices including structure, characters, themes, metalanguage, symbols and motifs.

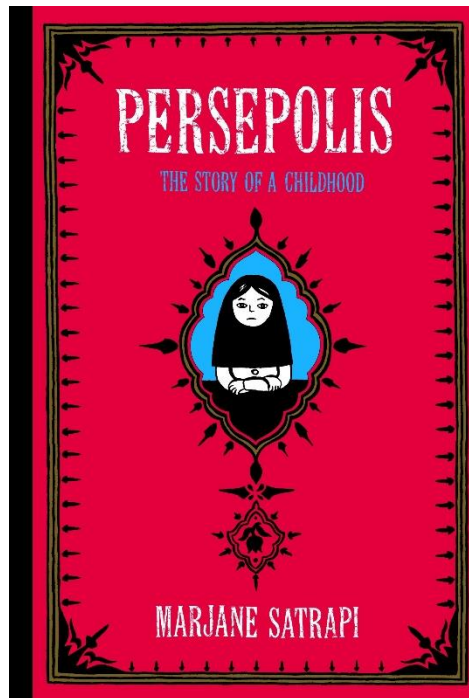
VIDEOS:

Videos with guides to the analysis of individual poems. More can be found online at YouTube-Immigrants at Central Station:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=IQL2qNac0CQ>

Feliks Skrzynecki: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qbuKltQ7n5g>

PERSEPOLIS: THE STORY OF A CHILDHOOD



WEBSITES:

<https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Persepolis/>

Study guide with an overall introduction into all aspects of the text.

<http://ncurproceedings.org/ojs/index.php/NCUR2012/article/viewFile/146/92>

Sample analysis of visual elements in the graphic novel.

https://antro.uu.se/digitalAssets/629/c_629668-l_3-k_18_8.pdf

Analysis of the significance of Satrapi's style of narration.

VIDEOS:

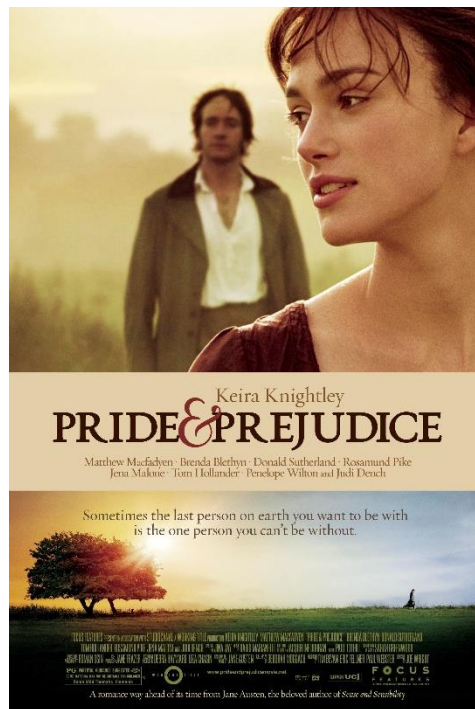
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=uHIHUKwh3rQ>

Documentary on the Islamic Revolution of Iran

Crash Course: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8w4Ku6l7OEI>

Context on the Iranian revolution of 1979

PRIDE AND PREJUDICE



WEBSITES:

<https://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/p/pride-and-prejudice/book-summary>

Free study guide with an overall introduction into all aspects of the text. Includes a section on “Essay topics”. Note that these are not VCAA standard, but could be used to deepen investigation into the text.

<https://www.vcestudyguides.com/blog/pride-and-prejudice>

Free study guide with sections: plot summary, characters, themes, important quotes, and essay prompts.

<https://www.thoughtco.com/pride-and-prejudice-overview-4179034>

Free study guide with sections: plot summary, characters, themes, key quotes, and a quiz.

<https://www.bl.uk/romantics-and-victorians/articles/jane-austen-and-social-judgement>

Contextual information on Austen’s novels in general, but contains insight into literary devices specific to *Pride and Prejudice*.

Other articles on Austen’s novels can be found on the website.

VIDEOS:

Course Hero:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mq4jIX_Euwo&list=PLz_ZtyOWL9BT65-hQ1KdNNOvEVmu1Sn8r

Playlist with episodes on:

- Each chapter
- Plot summary
- Symbols
- Themes
- Motifs
- Characters
- Context
- Author biography
- Things you didn't know
- Summary and Analysis

REAR WINDOW



WEBSITES:

<https://www.acmi.net.au/education/online-learning/study-guide-rear-window/>

Comprehensive study guide with downloadable pdf.

<https://www.vcestudyguides.com/blog/rear-window-by-alfred-hitchcock>

Free study guide with sections: context, themes, cinematography, and symbols.

A guide to analysis of this text can be found here:

<https://www.vcestudyguides.com/blog/how-to-write-a-rear-window-film-analysis>

http://www.jcatalfano.com/uploads/2/0/2/0/20204407/rear_window_sound_article.pdf

Detailed analysis of the use of sound in film.

<https://ksamaarchvis.wordpress.com/2015/12/08/the-importance-of-set-design-in-hitchcocks-rear-window/>

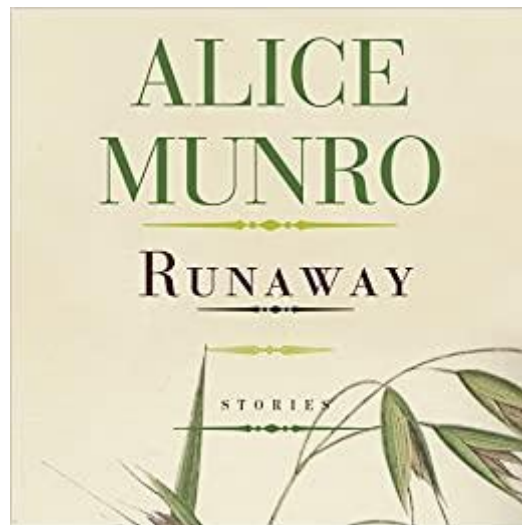
Analysis of the set design.

VIDEOS:

<https://www.abc.net.au/radio/melbourne/programs/theweekendlife/alfred-hitchcock-rear-window/10934280>

Discussion of the film by an educational consultant.

RUNAWAY



WEBSITES:

<https://literature.britishcouncil.org/writer/alice-munro>

Contains a biography and short summary of the style used in this compilation.

<https://www.thoughtco.com/closer-look-at-alice-munros-runaway-2990450>

Explores the significance of the 'runaway' motif and the symbolism of the goat.

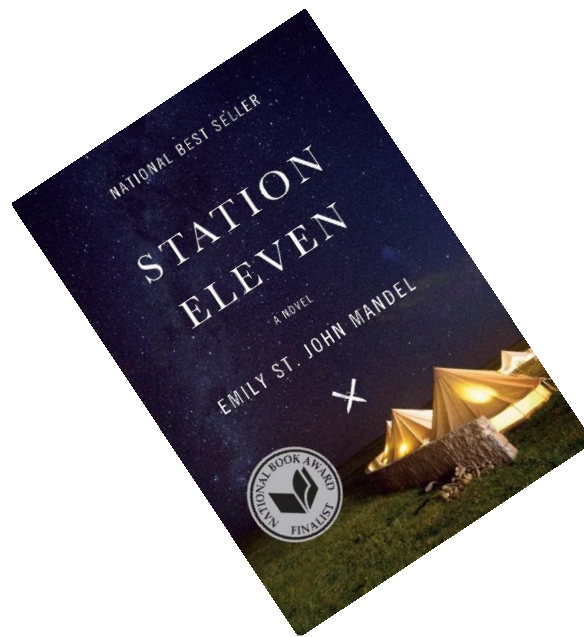
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/281448541 'Silence' from the Politics of Silence to a Rhetoric of Silence](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/281448541_'Silence'_from_the_Politics_of_Silence_to_a_Rhetoric_of_Silence)

Explores the significance of "Silence" in Munro's work.

<http://www.languageinindia.com/march2019/sumairashortstoriesmunrofinal.pdf>

Postmodern criticism of the stories "Chance", "Soon", and "Silence"

STATION ELEVEN



WEBSITES:

<https://www.vcestudyguides.com/blog/station-eleven-by-emily-st-john-mandel>

Free study guide with sections: characters, themes, symbols, and an essay breakdown.

Sample essay prompts can be found here: <https://www.vcestudyguides.com/blog/station-eleven-essay-topics>

<https://diymfa.com/writing/legacy-immortality-emily-st-john-mandels-station-eleven>

Exploration of the theme of legacy in the text.

<https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare/articles/shakespeares-london>

Overview of London at the time of Shakespeare's writing career.

<https://www.coursehero.com/lit/King-Lear/>

Study guide for *King Lear* that could provide insight into the literary allusion.

<https://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/n/new-testament-of-the-bible/summary-and-analysis/the-book-of-revelation>

Free study guide for the book of 'Revelation' that could provide insight into the biblical imagery of the text.

STORIES WE TELL



WEBSITES:

<https://www.vcestudyguides.com/blog/stories-we-tell>

Free study guide with sections: themes, author views and values, interpretations, and essay breakdowns.

<http://filmslie.com/stories-we-tell-review-sarah-polleys-documentary/>

Breakdown of the different dimensions to the film.

<http://sensesofcinema.com/2013/feature-articles/memorys-chorus-stories-we-tell-and-sarah-polleys-theory-of-autobiography/>

Another breakdown of the different dimensions to the film.

<https://u.osu.edu/english6778autumn2016/2016/11/09/representing-reality-stories-we-tell-and-the-desire-for-truth/>

Discussion of the complexity of documentary narrative.

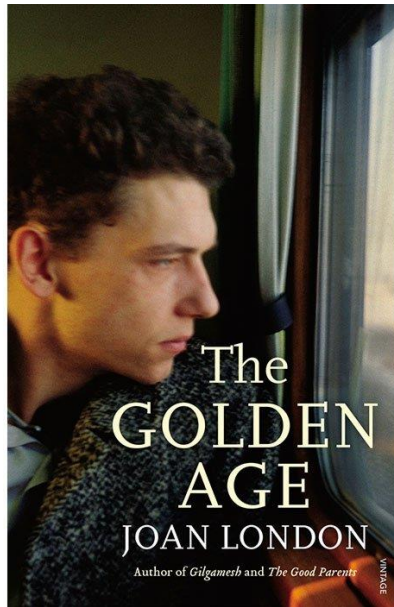
VIDEOS:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=dj2tLHU12ek>

Reflection by Polley on the film

Highlights version: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zRi_iF6q-Xc

THE GOLDEN AGE



WEBSITES:

<https://www.vcestudyguides.com/blog/the-golden-age-by-joan-london>

Free study guide with sections: historical context, themes, and characters.

Sample essay prompts can be found here: <https://www.vcestudyguides.com/blog/the-golden-age-prompts>

A guide to breaking down an essay prompt can be found here:

<https://www.vcestudyguides.com/blog/dissecting-an-a-essay-using-the-golden-age-by-joan-london>

<https://www.englishworks.com.au/golden-age-joan-london/>

Analytical thread of the plot, themes and characters.

<https://www.educatguides.com/the-golden-age>

Free study guide with sections: plot summary, themes, characters, and key quotes.

<https://tutor-english.com.au/the-golden-age-novel-meaning-joan-london/>

A possible interpretation of the novel's meaning.

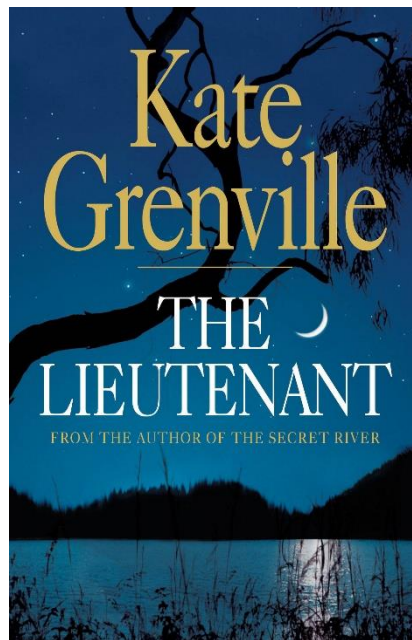
VIDEOS:

<https://library.norwood.vic.edu.au/englishtexts/goldenage#s-lib-ctab-16737802-4>

Chapter-by-chapter analyses.

An interview with the author can be found at the bottom of the page.

THE LIEUTENANT



WEBSITES:

<https://www.vcestudyguides.com/blog/the-lieutenant>

Free study guide with sections: themes, character analysis, and narrative features.

<https://libguides.stalbanssc.vic.edu.au/the-lieutenant/home>

Contains suggestions for beginning research regarding the author, characters, symbols and motifs, and other contextual areas.

https://www.myplace.edu.au/decades_timeline/1780/decade_landing_22.html?tabRank=2

Historical context of the First Fleet landing.

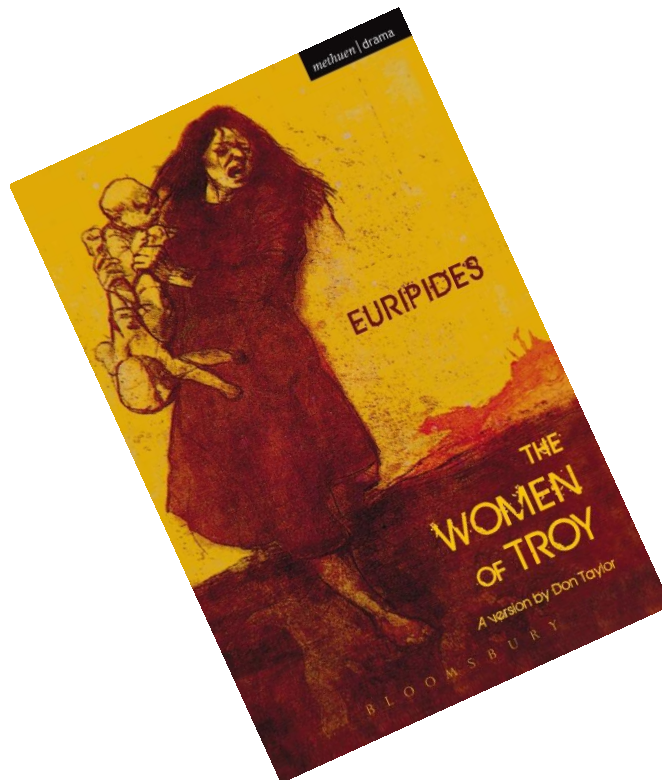
<https://www.williamdawes.org/>

Introduction to William Dawes' research and his relationship with Patyegarang (the historical figures inspiring Kate Grenville's characters).

<http://englishtutorlessons.com.au/moral-integrity-essay-natives-lieutenant-kate-grenville/>

Sample essay with a strong introduction, body paragraph plan, and conclusion.

THE WOMEN OF TROY



WEBSITES:

<https://www.vcestudyguides.com/blog/women-of-troy-by-euripides-don-taylors-version>

Free study guide with sections: historical context, literary devices, and themes.
Sample essay prompts can be found here: <https://www.vcestudyguides.com/blog/women-of-troy-essay-topics>

<http://libguides.gen.vic.edu.au/c.php?g=106238&p=6660462>

Comprehensive study guide containing links to contextual material.

<https://tutor-english.com.au/the-women-of-troy-meaning-of-the-play-by-euripides/>

A possible interpretation of the play's meaning.

<https://year12help.com.au/welcome/vce-texts/women-of-troy-context/women-of-troy-themes/>

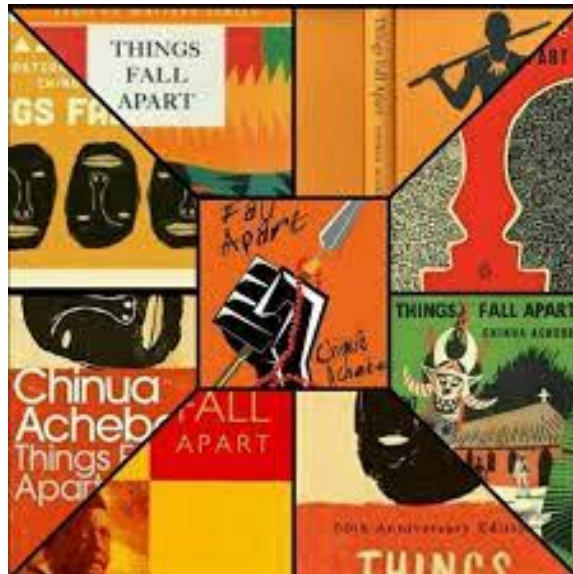
Analysis of the themes with suggested quotes.

VIDEOS:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gw2k4SvM5MQ>

Introduction to a series discussing the plot of the play.

THINGS FALL APART



WEBSITES:

<https://www.cliffsnotes.com/literature/t/things-fall-apart/about-things-fall-apart>

Free study guide with an overall introduction into all aspects of the text. Includes a section on “Essay topics”. Note that these are not VCAA standard, but could be used to deepen investigation into the text.

<https://www.newyorker.com/magazine/2008/05/26/after-empire>

Detailed overview of Achebe and other African writers’ work in changing the attitudes towards and representation of African literature.

<https://medium.com/@differengenera/chinua-achebes-things-fall-apart-and-william-butterfield-yates-the-second-coming-5b77e8b179c>

Analysis of the title as a literary allusion to Yeats’s poem “The Second Coming”.

VIDEOS:

Course Hero: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1AoTU2YvOR0>

Animated overview of the plot, characters and some narrative features. Course Hero also has chapter-by-chapter videos.

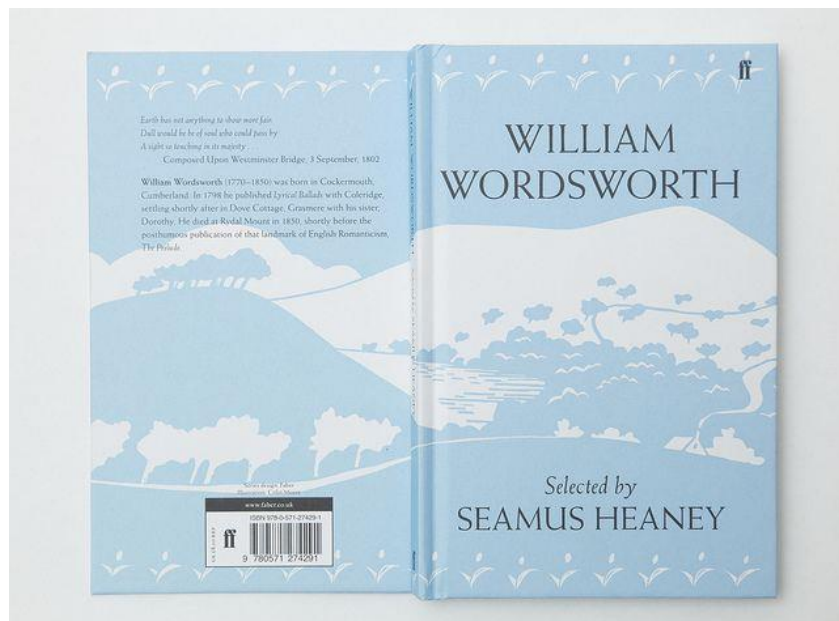
Part 1, Ch. 1: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qrVwO6OeZiQ>

Crash Course: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=w1Kw94qjdQA>

Animated plot summary combined with detailed analysis of Okonkwo and the themes of the text.

Part two: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=oyvDYZ6hJNA>

WILLIAM WORDSWORTH: POEMS SELECTED BY SEAMUS HEANEY



WEBSITES:

<https://www.sparknotes.com/poetry/wordsworth/context/>

Study guide for Wordsworth's poetry as an overall collection.

<https://www.coursehero.com/lit/Poems-of-William-Wordsworth-Selected/>

Study guide with an overall analysis of all elements of the compilation. Includes video explanations.

<https://poemanalysis.com/william-wordsworth/page/2/>

Sample analyses of select poems.

VIDEOS:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=tWGASvk1vUg>

Introduction to Wordsworth's inspiration with visuals of the landscape. Analytical videos discussing select poems can be found on YouTube, e.g.-

I wandered lonely as a cloud: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=9WubxvMXRGc>

Historical context: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ypbymSayaaw>