



Careers in English literature & language

Jobs that read
between the lines

 TASSOMAI

Discover the power of language and unlock your imagination!

Do you have a passion for reading or writing?

A career in English literature or language could be waiting for you!

Literature opens our minds to a world of other perspectives, scenarios, stories, histories, and emotions. The use of language can feel mundane and everyday until it's analysed, probed and artfully unpicked to reveal secret meanings, references and nuances.

English is one of the few subjects where there are rarely 'right' and 'wrong' answers, which allows more space for creativity and imagination. That isn't to say that studying English literature or language doesn't take any skill, but it is open to greater interpretation than other, more binary subjects.

Choosing a career in English can open doors to a wide variety of jobs that incorporate the playful, creative elements of the subject with the analytical, investigative skills that it takes to excel in studying it.

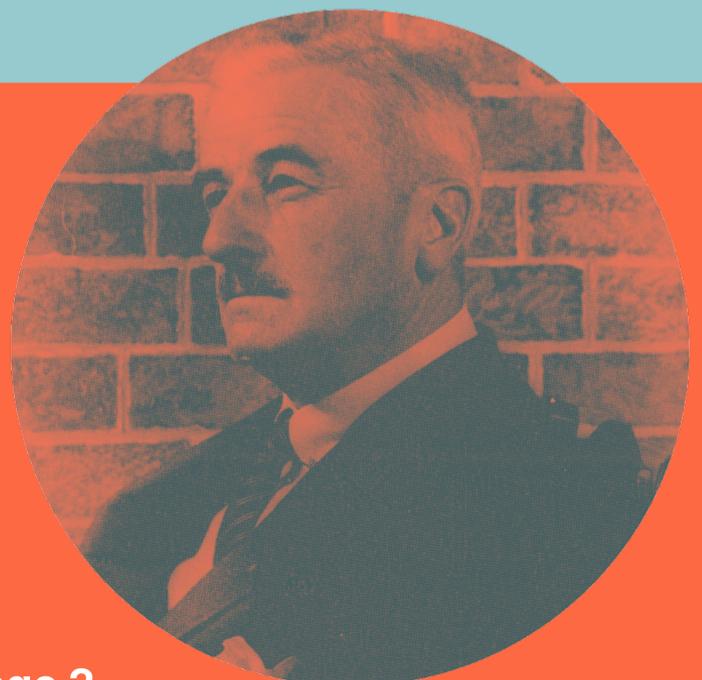
If you have a vivid imagination, but also have analytical and investigative skills, then a career in English will unlock your potential and expose you to a world of knowledge and diverse perspectives.

Will you be the next great author of our time? Or will your studies lead you to speech writing for the future prime minister? Or creating advertising campaigns for your favourite brand?

Either way, studying English will lead you on a great adventure, so let's explore the possibilities available to you in this guide...

"Read, read, read. read everything – trash, classics, good and bad, and see how they do it. Just like a carpenter who works as an apprentice and studies the master. Read! You'll absorb it. Then write. If it's good, you'll find out. If it's not, throw it out of the window."

William Faulkner



Ace your exams and build the foundations for a career in English studies with Tassomai

Tassomai is an award-winning platform that works on the principle of little and often revision to embed learning and understanding. Feel motivated and confident about your studies with the adaptive learning app, the smarter way for you to learn and revise.

Why choose to learn and succeed with Tassomai?

- Bite-sized multiple choice quizzes to reinforce learning
- Short explanation videos to deepen your understanding
- Daily goals and weekly challenges
- Track your knowledge progress journey using the Tassomai Tree

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Would a career in English literature or language suit you?

Are you an avid reader with a deep interest in the way language works and the impact it is able to have? Do you find yourself constantly thinking about the ways people communicate? Do you love to analyse and explore the meaning behind things you read?

English students are often passionate about their subject, yes, but they are also excellent communicators, who are curious and open-minded. They also tend to have a creative flair and original style that sets their writing apart from their peers.



Below are just some of the attributes that could mean a career in literature or language studies would suit you:

- You enjoy learning about different time periods, cultures and people
- You have a keen eye for detail
- You have an active imagination
- You are good at expressing yourself and communicating with others
- You are an independent thinker who has fresh ideas about the world
- You can argue a good point about topics you are passionate about
- You are emotionally intelligent and empathetic

If you see yourself in some of these attributes then perhaps a career in English literature or language is perfect for you (don't worry if you feel they don't all suit you, they're just our opinions)!

Studying English helps you to analyse the past and present so that you can look to the future...

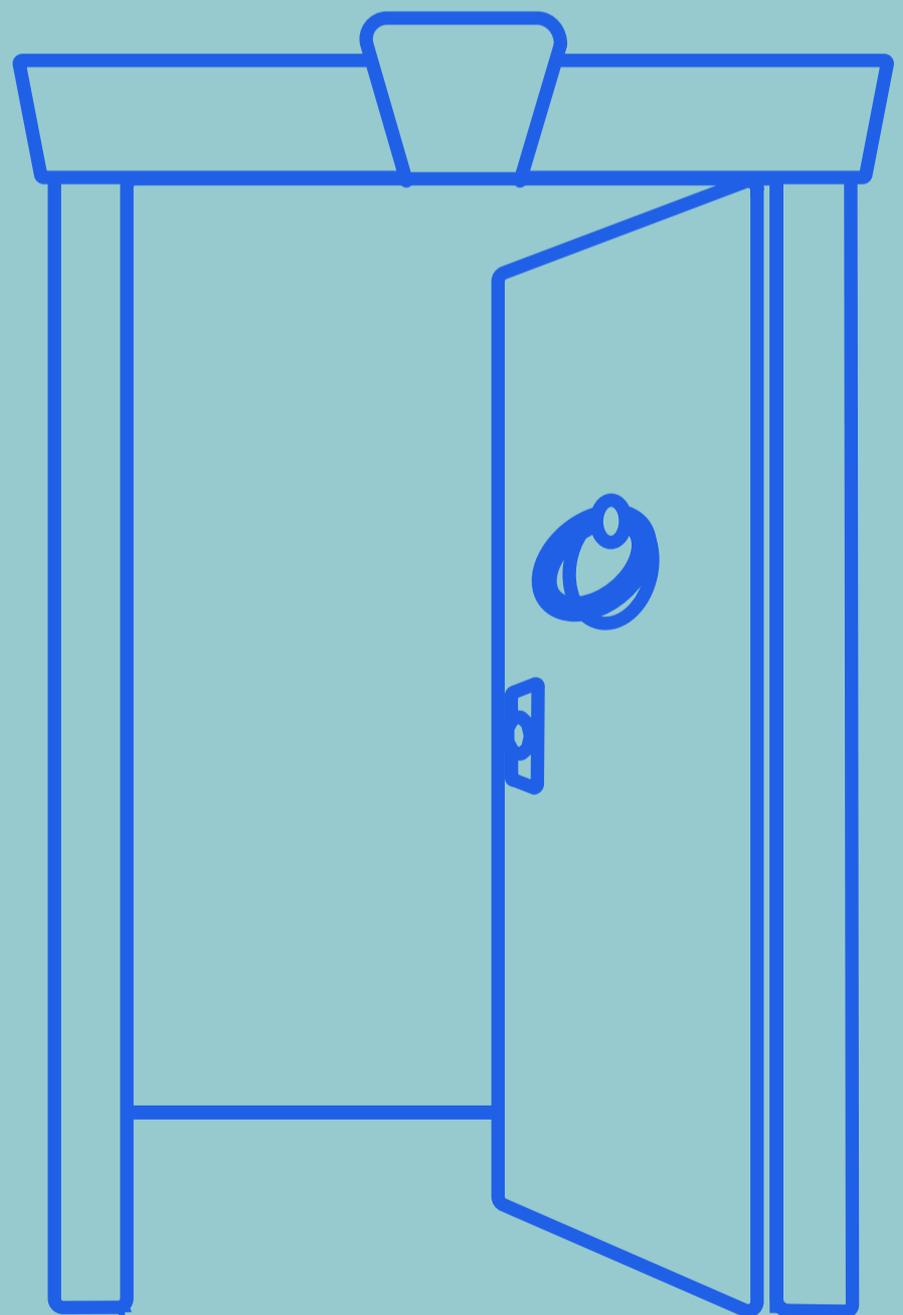
Why choose English for GCSE, A-level, a degree, or even your career path?

English is not only an interesting subject to study, with a wealth of topics and avenues to explore, it is also a well-respected degree when it comes to finding a job later. Some people assume English graduates are only able to work in academia, and while a proportion do choose teaching or further study, the majority explore careers in a vast range of industries and organisations.

Studying English provides you with a great toolkit of skills that will equip you for the working world, such as critical thinking, analysis, independent research, and clear communication. It's a thought-provoking subject, which helps you to think outside the box and see things in a new way. These are all skills that employers value highly and will be looking for in interviews.

English degrees are adaptable and full of opportunities in the arts, marketing, charity, publishing, and public sectors — and many other industries too!

There are also plenty of transferable skills that you will pick up along the way if you pursue further study of English, even just at GCSE and A-level.





Did you know...

Studying English can span not just literature and language, but film, speeches, songs, articles, and campaign slogans. Professors tend to specialise in niche areas, time periods or geographical regions, so a degree in English is able to dig deep into these specialisms, depending on the topics you choose.

There are many famous and successful people with degrees in English, particularly in the arts. Lots of high profile actors are English graduates, including Emma Thompson, Tom Hiddleston and Emma Watson. Understandably, many famous authors have also found their success after studying English literature, including Zadie Smith, Stephen King, Toni Morrison and Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie.

A degree in English has opened doors for these famous figures, but there's a plethora of other careers out there for those wishing to advance their English studies...

Top tip

Visit [talent.com](https://www.talent.com) to easily find details on average salaries and opportunities in your area.

What degree options are there?

The first thing to understand about a degree in English, is that there are a lot of choices!

It is an incredibly varied subject, which can offer something different to everyone who studies it. There are 4 main degree paths you can take:

1. English literature

If you enjoy reading fiction, plays and poetry, this is the subject for you! Degrees specialising in literature often cover a range of time periods and different types of text, but it all boils down to analysing the writing of others.

2. English language

If the structure of language itself interests you, a degree in English language will captivate you. Studying language will help you to break down the history of language, the way it currently functions, and the way it is changing for future generations.

3. Creative writing

Are you inspired to be the next best-selling author? A degree in creative writing could be the first step on your ladder to success! Studying creative writing allows you to improve your writing skills in an environment where you are surrounded by experts who can help you map out story lines, character development and enhance your overall style.

4. Combination degrees

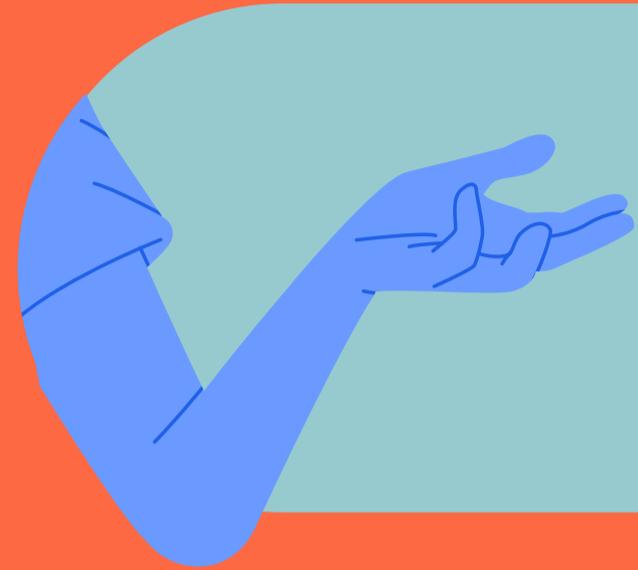
English literature and language are frequently combined to form a general 'English degree', involving complementary modules and elements that give you a well-rounded understanding of the subject as a whole. English degrees can also be combined with creative writing or other subjects like history, languages, politics, film studies or drama.

What topics will you learn about in an English degree?

English degrees vary greatly depending on where you are studying, as professors have different specialisms and the available modules will vary as a result.

While the majority of degrees cover historical texts, like Shakespeare, and time periods, like the Victorian era, there is often a lot of freedom to explore much more current topics and look at older texts through a new lens.

Below are just some of the diverse and topical modules you **could** study within an English-related degree:



Post Colonial literature

World Cinema

The Language of Arguments

Writing for the stage

Modernism

LGBTQ+ authors throughout history

Short-form digital content & publishing

Gothic, horror and ghost stories

Scriptwriting

Revenge on the Renaissance stage

Animals on Film

Genre comparison across the ages

Language, literature and childhood

Modern Irish literature

Literature and history

Writing historical fiction

20th century American literature

Fairy tales, folklore and mythology

“Reading is an exercise in empathy; an exercise in walking in someone else’s shoes for a while.”

Malorie Blackman

Myths about English degrees

It's not all Shakespeare! But it may also change your mind about how you view Shakespeare...

English degrees can take you anywhere due to their extensive range and the analytical skills they teach you.

The world needs more people who are able to explore multiple perspectives and draw considered, well thought out conclusions. The skills you learn through studying English could set you on a path for a career in politics, environmental policy, legal negotiations and more!

A degree in English gives you a better understanding of the complex social relationships that we all navigate every day, and the importance of language and communication, which makes graduates well suited to working in all areas of government, both within the UK and overseas.

Studying English teaches you about people and society, and encourages you to value a diverse range of opinions, while also being able to evaluate these opinions and their natural biases.

Learning to think in an analytical way like this will change how you read everything – from Shakespeare to adverts on Instagram!

"Language is the road map of a culture. It tells you where its people come from and where they are going."

Rita Mae Brown

Jobs you could pursue if you study English

You may have heard of people becoming teachers or professors after studying English, but there is a world of varied, interesting jobs out there you may not be aware of yet.

Let's explore some of those lesser-known, equally impactful jobs that are open to English literature and language graduates:

Children's book publishing

Marketing manager

Entrepreneur

Content creator

Journalist

Educational outreach officer

Diversity and inclusions officer

Market researcher

Blogger

PR executive

Charity fundraiser

Freelance writer

Teacher

Civil servant

Media analyst

Education curriculum development

Speech therapist

Lawyer

Podcast researcher

Theatre manager

Literary agent

Copywriter

Political analyst

Program coordinator

An English degree will open doors to thousands of different jobs, as you will have highly desired skills that employers are actively looking for, like analytical research, strong communication and intellectual curiosity. This will mean you can instantly start applying for jobs in industries such as the arts, education, media, tech and the public sector.

"Today a reader, tomorrow a leader."

Margaret Fuller

Who are the greatest writers of all time?

Determining the most important authors of all time is subjective and can vary depending on personal opinions and cultural contexts. However, there are several authors who have had an enduring literary impact and are widely recognised for their skills. Here are just a couple of these authors:



Jane Austen

Famous works: Pride and Prejudice & Emma
Austen's novels are considered some of the finest works of English literature and are widely studied in educational institutions due to her sharp wit and social commentary.

Miguel de Cervantes

Famous works: Don Quixote
Miguel de Cervantes is known for his seminal work 'Don Quixote', which is one of the most famous novels in the Spanish language and is widely thought to be the first example of the modern novel.



Virginia Woolf

Famous works: Mrs. Dalloway & To the Lighthouse
Woolf was a pioneer of modernist literature, challenging traditional narrative forms and grammatical structures in her novels. She wrote predominately on the themes of gender, identity and human consciousness.

Charles Dickens

Famous works: Great Expectations & Oliver Twist
Dickens' novels are known for their social commentary and complex characters. He is still widely studied in higher education for the lasting impact he left of literature.



Current writers paving the way for the next generation...



Zadie Smith

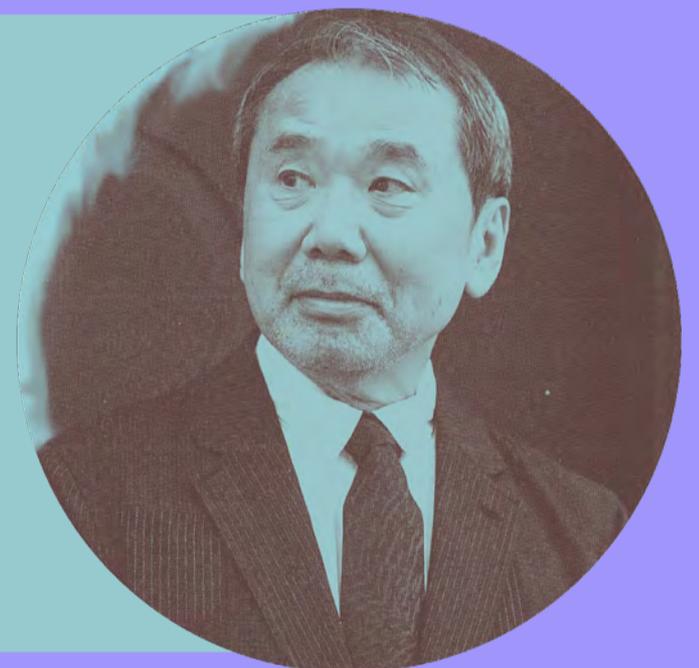
Famous works: White Teeth

Smith is a British author whose work is already being studied at university level following the success of her debut novel, 'White Teeth'. Her work explores multiculturalism and identity with an individual flair.

Haruki Murakami

Famous works: Kafka on the Shore & 1Q84

Murakami is a highly celebrated Japanese author whose work has been translated into 50+ languages. His surreal novels use elements of magical realism to explore themes surrounding human consciousness.



Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie

Famous works: Half a Yellow Sun & Purple Hibiscus

Adichie is a Nigerian author who has gained international acclaim for her novels in recent years. Her work explores themes of race, identity and gender.



**HOT
TOPIC!**

Why study English if Artificial Intelligence will replace the careers that lead from it?

There are numerous benefits to studying English literature and language, many of which extend beyond your academic or professional life. While it is true that artificial intelligence (AI) is going to have an impact on some career paths, it cannot entirely replicate or replace the human touch that the vast majority of jobs require, particularly those stemming from an English degree.

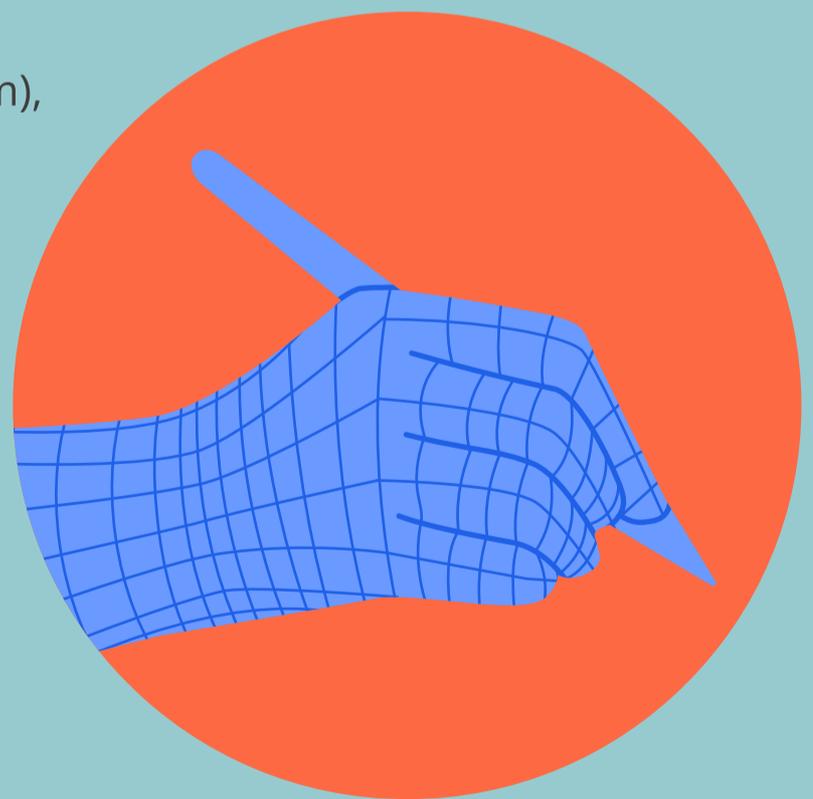
Studying English remains a vital and valuable part of the education system because of the communication and language skills that it teaches students. Understanding complex characters, diverse perspectives and thematic undertones gives us the skills to express ourselves clearly and comprehend others effectively.

Creativity, critical thinking and empathy are skills that will still be valued in a range of industries for many years to come and cannot be replaced by a machine.

It is more productive to think about the ways in which AI may help you to progress in your chosen field in the future. That isn't to say you should ask ChatGPT to write your essays for you (you'll find out pretty quickly that this will get you in trouble for plagiarism), but there may be ways that you can speed up research or tailor your search results better thanks to the help of AI.

The skills learned through studying English can complement technological advancements and enable individuals to adapt to changing professional landscapes.

Machines may arm us with knowledge, but we are the ones who apply meaning, nuances and emotional and cultural significance.

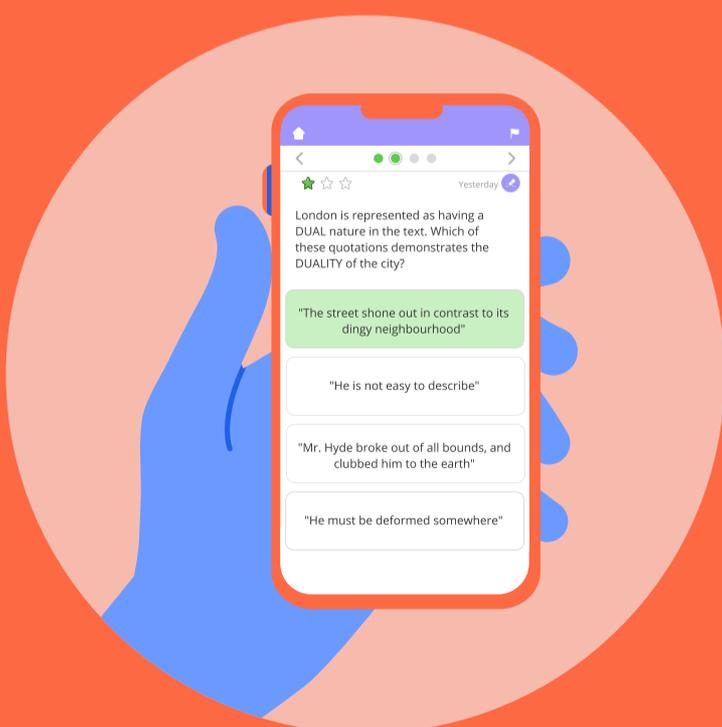


Passion vs Skill

Have you got an industry you are passionate about but worried you don't have the skill set to pursue a career?

Don't let that put you off! In actual fact, some employers value personality and passion over skill. You can train skills but you can't change a person's drive and attitude!

However, of course, having both of these will really make you stand out from the crowd in today's competitive job market. Remember, you're still very young and have the whole of your career ahead of you, so right now it's all about identifying the skills you will need to pick up along the way in order to achieve your goals!



Studies have shown that people learn more when they work for concentrated, short bursts every day, frequently switching between topics and returning to them at strategically timed intervals.

With Tassomai, you can start developing these skills now at your own pace, through a combination of bite-sized interactive quizzes and short videos on your phone.

Learn more at tassomai.com/students

Where does the journey begin?

For anyone wanting to study English literature or language at a higher education level, start by focusing on getting the best grade you can at GCSE so that you will be able to take it as an A-level. This will start giving you insights into the different mediums you have to study, like plays, novels and poetry.

You don't need to be top of your class to get a career in the field of English (although it does help!) – the key to kick-starting your career is to identify your passion and build up your areas of interest. Start thinking about your favourite forms of literature and writing and try to narrow down what it is about them that you find most interesting.

There's lots of experience you can get outside of the classroom too! Simply explore your local library to delve into your interests, maybe you'll discover a new playwright or find a poet you really connect with.

"The English language is like London: proudly barbaric yet deeply civilized, too, common yet royal, vulgar yet processional, sacred yet profane."

Stephen Fry



Identify possible pathways with the Tassomai Tree

A great place to start is identifying which areas of English you have a natural flair for. If you're a Tassomai user, your Tassomai Tree is a great visual representation of your natural strengths per topic.

Do you have a branch that has more green leaves than the others? This could be a possible career pathway you might want to explore further.

See tassomai.com/tree to find out more.

Open your eyes and imagination to a world of discovery!

If you know that exploring a career in English is your ambition in life, it's never too soon to tell a teacher.

Did you know one of the best career advisors you can speak to isn't your parents, siblings, or your pet dog? It's your favourite teacher! They'll want to know and will be able to help you understand and achieve your career ambitions. They will be full of good advice about your GCSEs, which A-levels to take, and your many options at university and beyond.

Remember, they also love this subject, so may well have some brilliant podcast or reading recommendations!

We love the following books, but as with all things that are enjoyable, there are too many marvellous ones to mention:

KACEN CALLENDER *FELIX EVER AFTER*

GIRL WOMAN OTHER BERNADINE EVARISTO

HARPER LEE *TO KILL A MOCKINGBIRD*

J. D. SALINGER *THE CATCHER IN THE RYE*

NEVER LET ME GO KAZUO ISHAGURO

We also recommend keeping up with current literature, which can come in many forms!

Podcasts, TikToks and YouTube channels are all modern forms of communication, and while we don't think they are going to replace novels or plays, they can be a great resource for learning new things and exploring your interests.

YouTube channels you may enjoy:

1. Rincey Reads
2. CrashCourse Literature
3. TED-Ed
4. Mr Bruff

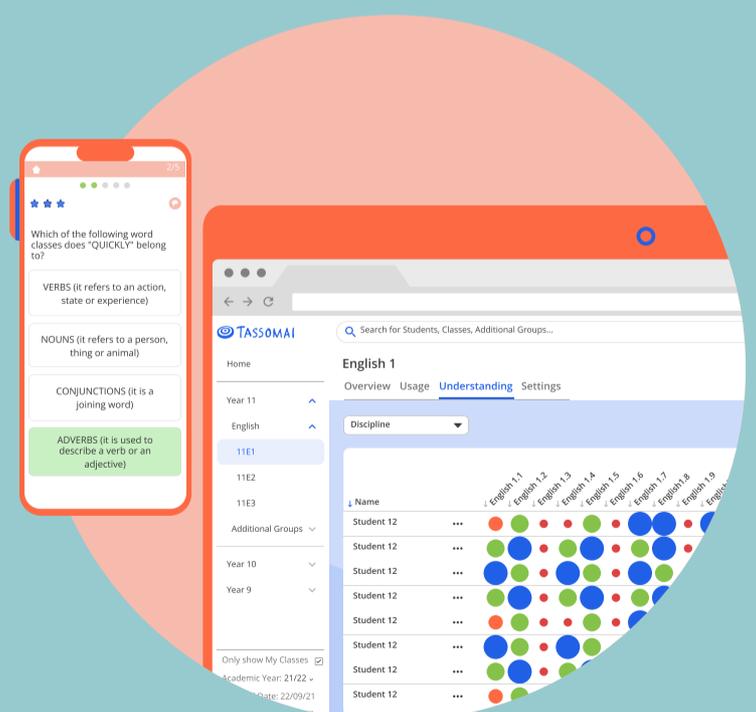
Podcasts:

1. Something Rhymes with Purple?
2. The Guardian Book Podcast
3. The Penguin Podcast
4. The Invisible College
5. The Stories that Changed my Life

Track your way to your future career path with Tassomai

Tassomai's intuitive algorithm adapts to help you get the most out of your learning but as with everything, practice makes perfect (or permanent as we like to say!). Your daily and weekly goals are a great way to keep on top of your progress. Watch as you grow your knowledge and expand your Tassomai Tree.

www.tassomai.com





The Learning Program

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