



Literature Tours | 2009-10

Bringing your curriculum to life

Author: ^{borned} ~~is~~ for youth - Nation 17
 What passing-bells for these who die as cattle?
 - Only the monstrous anger of the guns.
 Only the stuttering rifle
 Can patter out their hasty or
 No ~~music~~ ^{for} "them" ^{nor no} ~~from~~
 Nor any
 The shrill
 And
 What can
 Not
 Shall
 And the
 Their flowers the
 And each slow dusk a draw

Sigfried Sasson

OCR Tours

AS Unit F661: Wilfred Owen, GCSE Anthology: 'Opening Lines', Unit 2708: 'Pride and Prejudice', Unit 2712: 'Atonement'

In the Footsteps of Wilfred Owen (AS Unit F661)

This two day tour focuses on the fifteen poems by Wilfred Owen set for examination in the OCR's AS Unit F661. Understanding the attainment objectives involved, this tour is designed to launch, reinforce or revise the set poems. In addition, our tour guided by experts will challenge preconceptions about Owen's poetry and offer a tantalising glimpse of what might have been had he lived.

"One dies of war like any old disease" (A Terre)

The tour begins where Owen first saw action on the Somme in 1917. Here the experiences occurred which were to shape and inform his most famous poems. On Day 2 we follow Owen and the men he commanded from the Manchesters to key locations on the Hindenburg Line during the last 100 days of the war and on to the crossing of the Sambre Canal in November 1918 a week before the Armistice was declared, ending by his grave in Ors cemetery.

"I lost all my earthly faculties and fought like an angel"

(WO in letter to his parents)



Most of the set poems are covered, some in detail others by reference or to compare and contrast. A teacher's request for a particular poem can be built in if advance notice is given.

Underpinning the tour is an enduring fascination with the enigma and phenomenal achievement of a writer and soldier whose considerable literary reputation and popularity depends on about thirty poems written in fourteen months spanning 1917 and 1918. Remarkably, the fifteen poems set for examination were written in the last nine months of his life and of the Great War itself. The tour will not only study these poems in detail on location where the events took place but will also look at how Owen changed in the last 100 days of the war. What inspired him to lead his men in an almost suicidal assault across a major water obstacle in broad daylight a matter of days before the war was to end, a fact that would have almost certainly been known to him?

"Where death becomes absurd and life absurder" (Apologia)

"I shot one man with my revolver. The rest I took with a smile"

(WO in a letter to his mother)

In carefully selected locations linked directly to Owen's military career or a particular theme in his work, our specialist literature guides will engage your students in stimulating and challenging discussion appropriate to their level of study. Each location will blend biographical detail and appreciation of the distinctiveness of his technique with relevant literary, historical and social contexts.

"Shall life renew these bodies? Of a truth all death will he annul"

(Epitaph on Owen's headstone from The End)

GCSE anthology: 'Opening lines – Poetry Past and Present'

To reinforce and refresh work done in class to cover the requirements for 'The 1914 -18 War' section of the OCR anthology, our guides take your students to a range of locations on the Somme and/or Ypres Salient, where topics and poems set for examination in 2006-2008 are discussed, compared and contrasted. **This can be run as a stand alone literature tour or as part of a cross-curriculum tour with your history department.**

Jane Austen 'Pride and Prejudice' (Unit 2708)

"Single women have a dreadful propensity for being poor", Jane Austen once wrote. In this one-day tour our expert guide will lead you in Jane's footsteps to the places of her birth, life and death to discover how she triumphed over her limited opportunities to become one of the most revered writers in the English language. Students will look closely at how the common themes of love, marriage and social status influenced the lives of young women, whilst focussing on your chosen text to build a comprehensive picture of her life, times and works.

Ian McEwan 'Atonement' (Unit 2712)

Social class, love and death, and the self-conscious examination of the relationship between fiction and reality are all explored in this one-day tour. As the students learn about the historical background of one of the first masterpieces of this century, the journey to the beaches of Dunkirk will help illuminate a psychological and literary landscape that will greatly enhance an understanding of Atonement, arguably Ian McEwan's finest novel. This tour can be run as part of a broader Literature field trip.

AQA Tours

AS/A Unit WW1, AQA B Modern novel

Your tour will focus on the core prose and drama texts you have chosen for course work and your preferred poetry text for the written examination. Around this core, and after discussion with your literature guide, we will build a stimulating mix of wider references. Historic/military context, diary entries, letters and extracts from other poems, autobiographies and novels will fascinate and challenge your students.

We envisage that certain overarching themes will underpin our tours. We outline these in order to give you a flavour of our approach.

"Come along lads!"

What brought one million men to enlist in the early months of the First World War? We examine the role of persuasive language and early war literature in achieving this unique phenomenon.

"I went on an Anglia Battlefields poetry tour when I was in Year 10 and found it one of the most powerful experiences of my schooldays. It started my interest in First World War poetry, inspired me to write my own and has remained with me throughout my time at university. I'm entering my final year and have decided to write my dissertation on pathos in Siegfried Sassoon's poetry, largely because of my experience with your tour group and the way this poet was discussed and presented so beautifully alongside the stories of the Somme."

Vicki Sparks, University of Durham

"All a poet can do is warn; that is why a true poet must be truthful."

Poetry was reinvented through the experience of trench warfare. From Georgian pastoral to the brutal realism of the post Somme world, students will appreciate the characteristic differences between the poetry of expectation and that written from personal experience.

"Swear by the slain of the war that you'll never forget."

From the 1920s to the present day we consider a range of attitudes to remembrance and consider how the different nations chose to commemorate their war dead.

"I must go over the ground again"

We will examine the continuing fascination with this unique period of history which still attracts millions of readers and countless thousands of visitors to the battlefields of Belgium and France. From Sassoon to Blunden, Faulks to Ben Elton, students will look at the legacy in the light of their own battlefield visit.

'Birdsong' for in depth study

A two day tour

Our two day "Birdsong" tour begins in the delightful medieval centre of Amiens and moves onto the Somme battlefield. The aim is to visit key locations from the novel and to engage your students in lively discussion of Faulks' narrative technique, the effectiveness of the multiple viewpoints, timelines and the motifs that link them. On the battlefield we evoke the experience of the first day of

the battle of the Somme and consider how Faulks uses the historical and literary sources to underpin the authority of his novel. A specially produced booklet accompanies each student on tour. We can provide a one day "Birdsong" tour that will focus on Stephen Wraysford's battlefield experiences, whilst linking the themes and techniques of both the earlier and later sections of the novel.

Michael Morpurgo 'Private Peaceful'

Anglia has run several successful Private Peaceful tours for younger students. All of our tours can be adapted to suit most audiences and age groups. Please contact us to talk through your requirement.

2-Day Wilfred Owen
From £153

Day 1: Somme 1917

Day 2: Somme 1918

Elements can be achieved on a one day tour

2-Day Somme and Ypres
(including Last Post)

From £153 - Fully inclusive

1-Day Somme or Ypres

From £62 - Fully inclusive

All of the tours can run for longer than two days. Please contact us for further details.

If the unit you are studying is not shown then please contact ANGLIA & we would be happy to design a bespoke tour that meets your particular requirements.

www.angliabattlefields.co.uk

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“The tour was a huge success. The staff and pupils had a marvellous time and spoke highly of all aspects including the wonderful guide... Thank you for your excellent level of support, it would have been impossible to pick this up and allow it to run without you.”

Norton Canes High School

“The value of a literature tour with Anglia cannot be calculated in terms of improved grades alone.”

Tormead School, Guildford

“We will build this into the syllabus to enhance learning.”

Putney Park

For further information please contact:

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