

Literature has the ability to develop a wide range of emotions in people and the joy it brings out in me is one of the reasons I've applied to study English Literature. I'm particularly looking forward to extending my knowledge and critical style through the reading of a variety of texts. My interest in reading was initially sparked from Rick Riordan's Percy Jackson series as the classical myths and fantasy adventures transported me away during difficult times of my childhood, this coupled with my passion for studying and analysing various forms of literary art gave me a healthy outlet to focus my efforts on.

At A-level I am currently studying English Literature, Government Politics and History; throughout my time at college I have found the transferable skills I've gained in these courses to be increasingly valuable. Studying Government and Politics has developed my ability to research, source and examine information thoroughly. From studying English Literature, I have found that critical analysis is gained from understanding the political atmosphere present at the time of writing, when studying specific aspects of literature. Finally History has majorly developed my contextual and essay writing skills, these skills I've found particularly important as throughout most aspects of literature, the contextual influence develops a further and deeper analysis.

Having been inspired by the A-Level syllabus, I have attempted to broaden my knowledge of Sylvia Plath and have recently started reading *The Bell Jar*. The novel is thoroughly enjoyable and the theme of mental illness is making it an intensely emotional read. Another author that has sparked my interest is Thomas Hardy, especially his novel *Tess of the D'Urbervilles*. Both of these novels touch upon the worlds in which the female protagonists are disadvantaged due to their placement in a male dominated world, a topic I find fascinating. Besides reading, I enjoy writing poems as a way to relax and am a published author.

A regular period of part-time work at Currys PC World has provided me with improved confidence and communication skills through the ambition to give great customer service. Working as a Sales Assistant has taught me how to use my interpersonal and judgement skills to make sure every customer is happy while also meeting my own targets. Previously, I have worked at McDonalds as a Customer Care Assistant, which meant that I had to manage several people at once while also sticking within strict time limits. When I'm not studying or working, I like to improve on my musical expertise. I have completed ABRSM Grade 5 Flute with Merit and am currently studying to excel in my Grade 6 exam. Additionally, I am also completing my Grade 5 saxophone. Since I was eight years old, I have attended Warsash Brass Band and have performed several times a year in front of an audience, whilst attending rehearsals every week since. xxx

My eventual goal is to become an English Literature teacher, preferably teaching at the secondary level as I'd love to be able to share how enjoyable literature is with younger students. My strong work ethic and determination will be able to guide students in the joys of my future field of expertise. After completing an English Literature degree, I hope to research Victorian literature at Masters level. Then hopefully have a gap year of travelling before gaining a PGCE and having a fulfilling career as a teacher with a dedication to further studying the subject of English Literature.