# 6th Form Preparation work for English Language

Read a book for children learning to read and write today. How important are words and pictures? Can you spot repetitions or reveal moments? How might these help learners? Who would read the book normally, child or adult?

If you can, try reading the book to a member of your family – how does this sound? If you have recorded readings of children's books, spend some time listening to how the professional reader creates the world of the book in performance. How important is sound (phonology) or prosodics (pace, volume, intonation)? Make notes. **Time 1 hour**
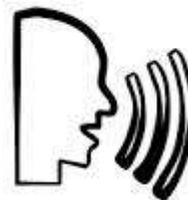
Interview a family member about their experience of learning to read and write.

What was different about schools when they first started? Can they remember any first favourite books? Make notes.
**Time: 30 mins**

Create a short book a story book or simple non-fiction book for a child just learning to read. Paper is fine.
Some children's books are made from cloth, board or plastic. Why?
If you would like to specify different materials for your book in production, add notes explaining what, where and why.
If you have a younger person at home who would enjoy your book, get them to try it out – and send us a photo of your work in action.
Time: 2 hours
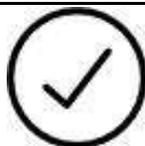
Complete a one page A4 worksheet about WOTY over the past 10 years – and make your prediction for the Word of the Year 2020.

https://languages.oup.com/word-of-the-year/
Time: 1hr

Watch this short Open University film about how English has changed over time. Make notes or cartoons inspired by words that have come into English from Celts, Anglo-Saxons, Vikings, the Christian Church, Norman French, through scientific discoveries, empire, trading and new technology.

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=H3r9bOkYW9s

Time: 1 hr

Read and Listen

There are lots of new and different activities to try with hyperlinks to more materials in the 'Leap into Language' booklet sent to you via Insight:
Start with pages 4,6, 7 to explore your own use of language.
Page 10 has information that will help with WOTY on this sheet.
Time: 2 hrs
Extension on accents: try this free course
https://www.futurelearn.com/courses/accents-attitudes-and-identity-an-introduction-to-sociolinguistics

6th Form Preparation Work Menu **English Language**	**Watch and listen** to the first five minutes of the acceptance speeches of Barak Obama (2012) and Donald Trump. (2016) https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ddx8t6zGWxA https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=owuq_An4cnk Both include thanks to opponents, promises to govern for all Americans, pacing to allow audience interaction – all quite standard elements. How are they different? Look for one speaker referring more to "I" and one to "we". Both use patterns of repetition – which uses the same word repeated "beautiful, beautiful" and which repeats expanded noun phrases, or uses abstract nouns "hope" "despair" "victory"? Look out for metaphors, academic vs commercial vocabulary? Make notes. **Time: 1 hour**	**Investigate** the social media messages on p12/13 of the 'Leap into Language' booklet sent to you via Insight. Read the messages carefully and decide which of the three suspects are most likely to be the sender of the abusive messages. Linguists are called to trials to give expert evidence like this. Answers p42. **Time: 1 hour**	**Create a short speech** In the style of a famous politician. This could be Obama, Trump or Boris Johnson https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Li-alEzL72k Keep a word bank of the common words and phrases your speaker uses. You can follow the pattern of victory speeches, say thank you, congratulate opponents, talk about the future. Try recording yourself delivering the speech – we would love to hear your delivery **Time: 2 hours**
Listen to how your family talk to your family pet. What common patterns can you spot in the way they talk to the dog, cat or llama? Spot repetitions (the name of the pet) praises and discipline phrases, common vocabulary e.g. "walkies!" How does the volume, pace and intonation (the prosodics) differ from other speech in the household? **Time: 2 hours** (**if walking dog as well near home)**	**Look at a cookbook** in a new way. Find a recipe book, website, or recipes in a newspaper. With highlighter pens colour code common nouns, verbs and phrases. Notice how many imperatives there are telling you what to do! Do the recipes follow a common order or discourse structure? How does this help readers? Write your own in the style of a favourite recipe writer – Jamie Oliver is different to Nigella Lawson, and Heston! If time, do make the dish and serve to your family. **Time: 2hours (with cooking)** **Time: 1 hr**	**Try a brief introduction to Conlangs -** in 'Game of Thrones', or 'Lord of the Rings' https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=a5mZ0R3h8m0 An animated Ted Talk gives you a feel for how these languages are constructed for fantasy, film and television. Use your favourite fantasy book, film, television series, or imagination to record or create a conlang of your own. Illustrated or animated guides welcome – do let use view your inventions, learner's guides to your invention or sketches showing how this might be used by native speakers. **Time: 2 hrs**	