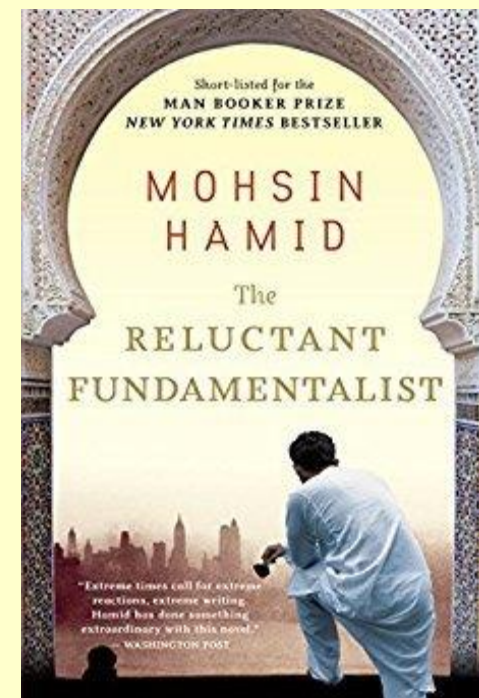
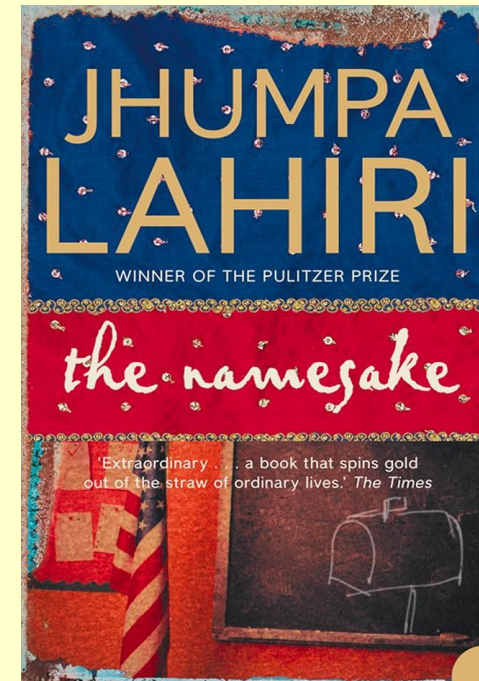
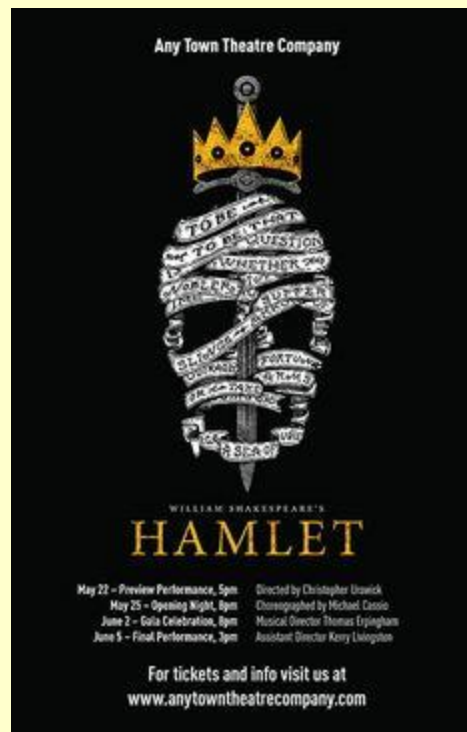


A Level English Literature OCR



I have a room whereinto no one enters
Save I myself alone:
There sits a blessed memory on a throne,
There my life centres.
Christina Rossetti

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Course overview

Unit 1: Examined

- Ibsen's *A Doll's House*
- Selected poems from Rossetti.
- Shakespeare's *Hamlet*

Unit 2: Examined

- Lead text is Mohsin Hamid's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*.
- Comparison text is *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri.
- Unseen extract
- This unit also requires some guided wider reading.

Unit 3: Coursework

- Part extract analysis and part comparative essay.
- There is some choice of texts and you will be guided through this.
- Initial study takes place in the summer holiday before year 13.
- Coursework is written in the autumn and spring terms of year 13.

Course content – A bird's eye view



Aerial view of London – looking at the course at a glance

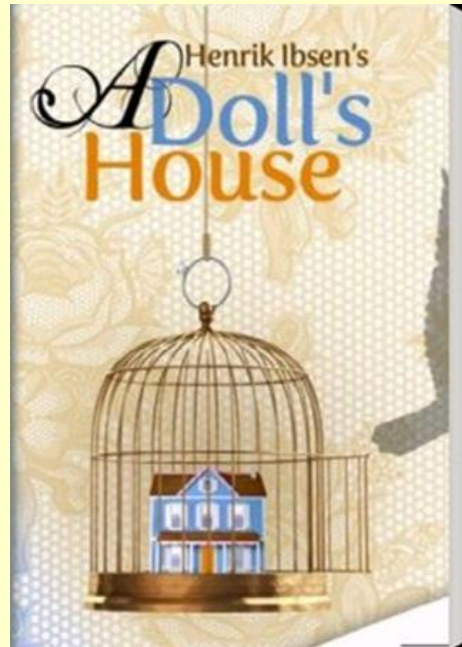
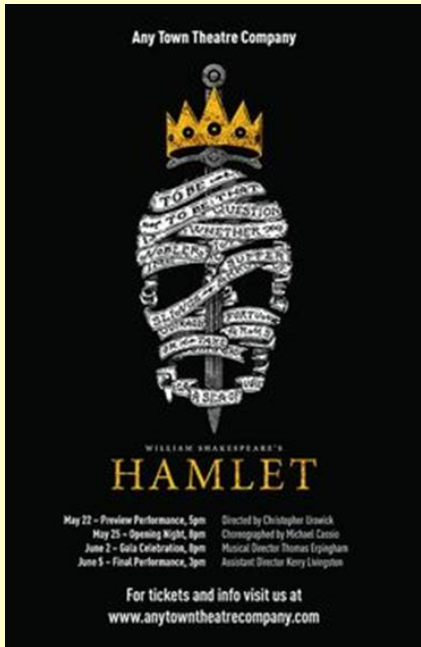
Learners must complete all components (01, 02 and 03) to be awarded the A Level in English Literature.

Content Overview	Assessment Overview	
Component 01 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shakespeare Drama and poetry pre-1900 	Drama and poetry pre-1900 (01)* Written paper 60 marks Closed text 2 hours 30 minutes	40% of total A level
Component 02 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close reading in chosen topic area Comparative and contextual study from chosen topic area 	Comparative and contextual study (02)* Written paper 60 marks Closed text 2 hours 30 minutes	40% of total A level
Component 03 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Close reading OR re-creative writing piece with commentary. Comparative essay* 	Literature post-1900 (03)* 40 marks Non-exam assessment	20% of total A level

* Indicates synoptic assessment.

Learners who are retaking the qualification may carry forward their result for the non-exam assessment component.

Component 1 – Drama and Poetry



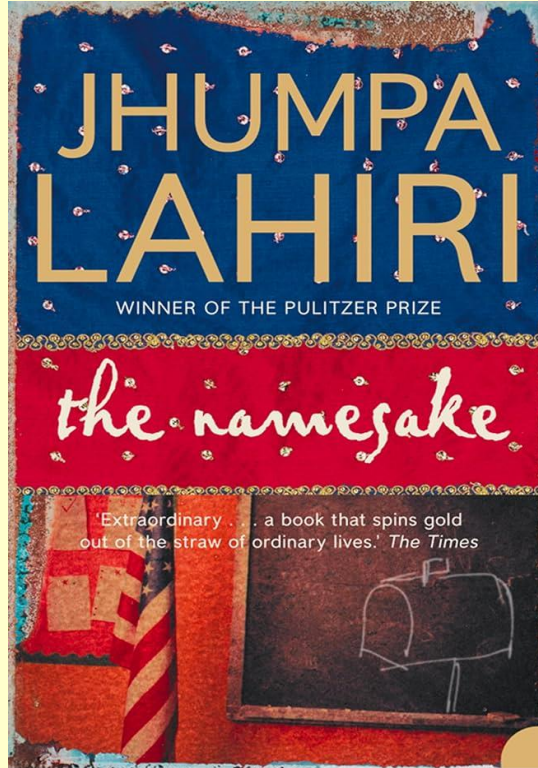
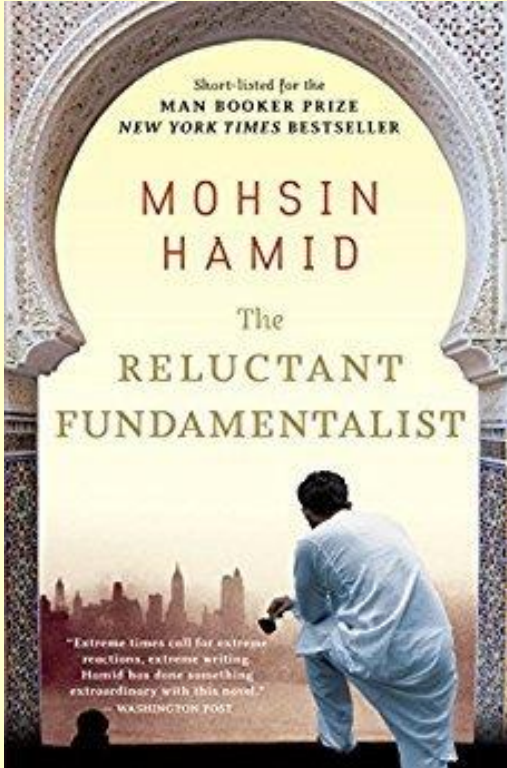
Unit 1: Examined

- Ibsen's *A Doll's House*
- Selected poems from Rossetti.
- Shakespeare's *Hamlet*

A Doll's House and Rossetti poems are mainly studied in year 12 while Hamlet is mainly studied in year 13.



Component 2 – The Immigrant Experience



Unit 2: Examined

- Lead text is Mohsin Hamid's *The Reluctant Fundamentalist*.
- Comparison text is *The Namesake* by Jhumpa Lahiri.
- Unseen extract
- This unit also requires some guided wider reading.
- This unit is mainly studied in year 12 and revised in year 13.

Introduction to assessment objectives

	Assessment Objective
AO1	Articulate informed, personal and creative responses to literary texts, using associated concepts and terminology, and coherent, accurate written expression.
AO2	Analyse ways in which meanings are shaped in literary texts.
AO3	Demonstrate understanding of the significance and influence of the contexts in which literary texts are written and received.
AO4	Explore connections across literary texts.
AO5	Explore literary texts informed by different interpretations.

A Doll's House

A Doll's House is about a woman, Nora, who seems happy – but she's hiding a serious secret from her husband. The play shocked audiences in the 1870s because of how it showed marriage and women's rights. It was so shocking that in some countries the ending was changed.

Task: Discuss reasons why a woman hiding a secret may have caused controversy?

A DOLL'S HOUSE

A PLAY



HENRIK IBSEN

Task: In pairs, read through these lines aloud between Nora and Helmer.

Helmer: *(from his room)*. Is that my skylark twittering out there?

Nora: *(opening some of the parcels)*. It is!

Helmer: Is that my squirrel rustling?

Nora: Yes!

Helmer: When did my squirrel come home?

Nora: Just now *(pops the bag of macaroons in her pocket and wipes her mouth)*. Come out here, Torvald, and see what I've bought.

Helmer: You mustn't disturb me!

(Short pause, then he opens the door and looks in, his pen in his hand.)

Helmer: Bought, did you say? All that? Has my little squanderbird been overspending again?

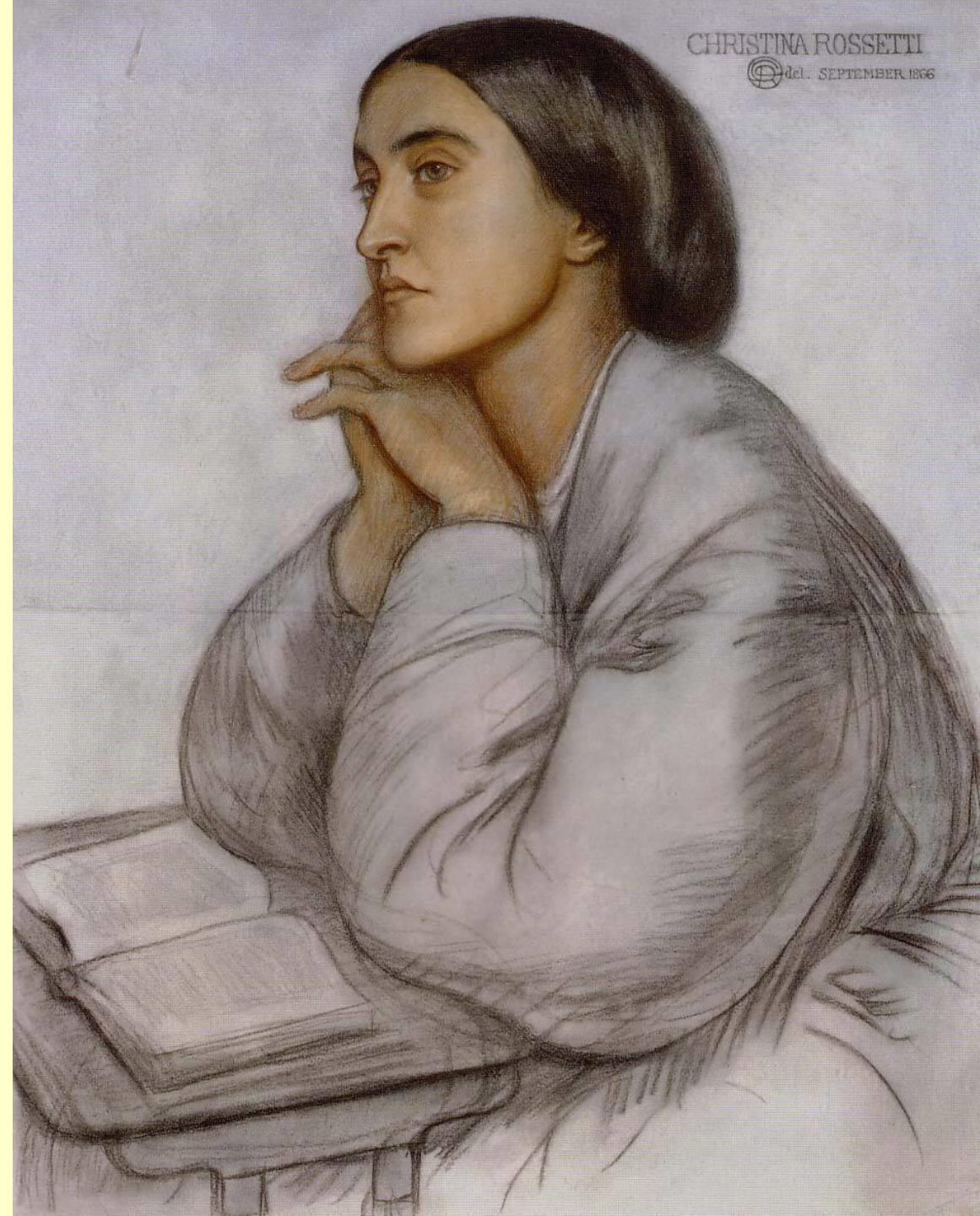
Nora: Oh, Torvald, surely we can let ourselves go a little this year! It's the first Christmas we don't have to scrape.

Helmer: Well, you know, we can't afford to be extravagant.

Nora: Oh yes, Torvald, we can be a little extravagant now. Can't we? Just a tiny bit? You've got a big salary now, and you're going to make lots and lots of money.

Rossetti's poems

Christina Rossetti was a Victorian poet known for her emotional and often mysterious poems. She wrote about themes such as love, death, nature and faith. As a very religious person, her faith made an appearance in a lot of her writing. She'd often use vivid images or symbols (flowers, fruit, darkness, etc) that help to express ideas around life and loss.



Goblin Market

Task 1: Read this opening from *Goblin Market* and pick out any sights, sounds, smells, tastes, or textures which stand out to you.

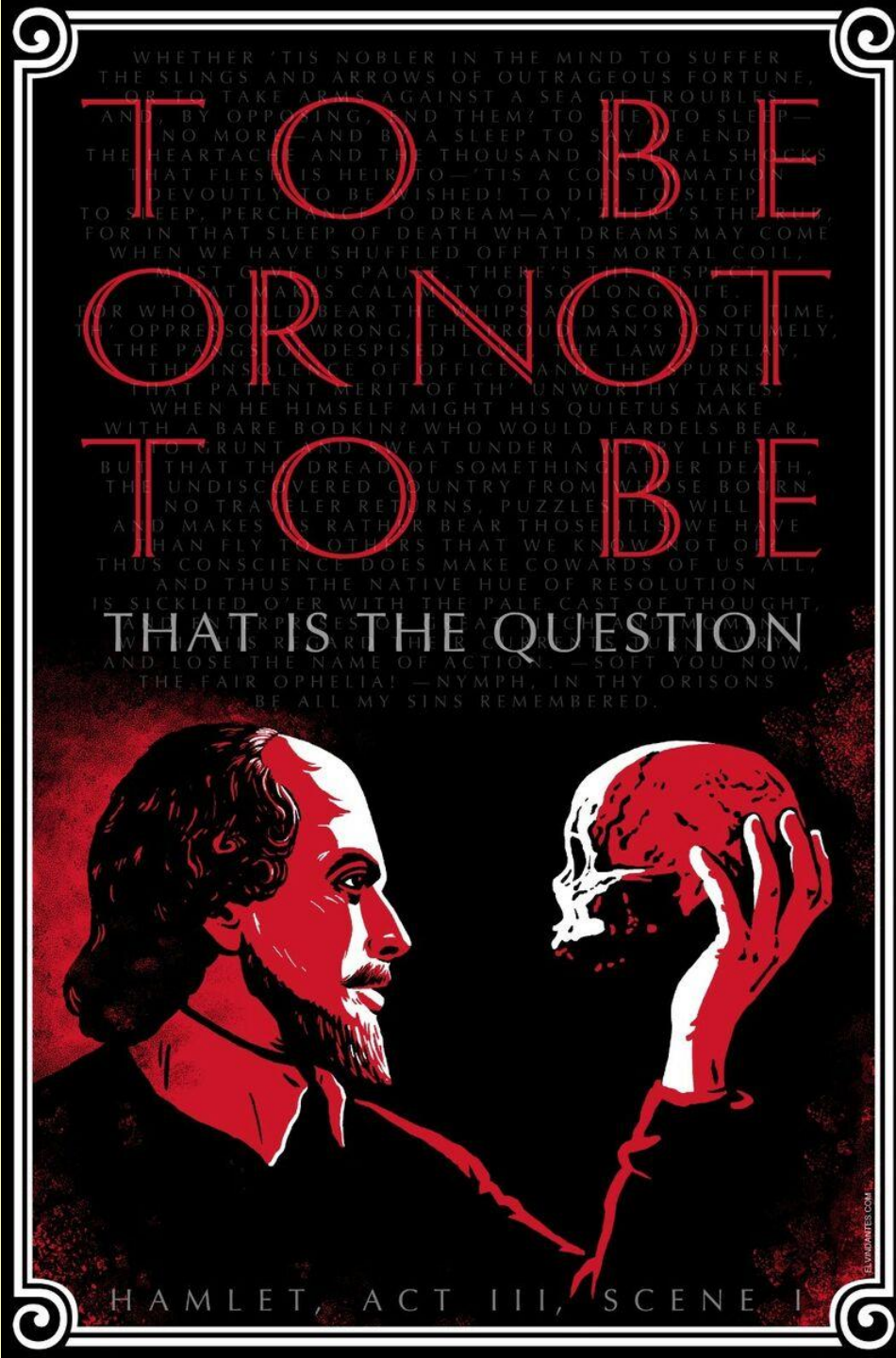
Task 2: Quickly sketch one vivid image from the poem. What made this image stand out to you?

Morning and evening
Maids heard the goblins cry:
“Come buy our orchard fruits,
Come buy, come buy:
Apples and quinces,
Lemons and oranges,
Plump unpeck’d cherries,
Melons and raspberries,
Bloom-down-cheek’d peaches,
Swart-headed mulberries,
Wild free-born cranberries,
Crab-apples, dewberries,
Pine-apples, blackberries,
Apricots, strawberries;—
All ripe together

What would you do if you were stuck with an impossible decision?

Hamlet is a tragedy about a prince whose father has been murdered (most likely by his uncle). His dead father appears as a ghost and coerces him into committing revenge. However, Hamlet is unsure whether to take revenge or not.

Task: Discuss reasons why Hamlet might decide to take revenge versus why he might not. Consider what could be at stake?



Hamlet's soliloquy (Act 3.1)

To be, or not to be, that is the question:

Whether 'tis nobler in the mind to suffer

The slings and arrows of outrageous fortune,

Or to take arms against a sea of troubles

And by opposing end them. To die—to sleep,

No more; and by a sleep to say we end

The heart-ache and the thousand natural shocks

That flesh is heir to: 'tis a consummation

Devoutly to be wish'd. To die, to sleep;

To sleep, perchance to dream—ay, there's the rub:

For in that sleep of death what dreams may come,

When we have shuffled off this mortal coil,

Must give us pause—there's the respect

That makes calamity of so long life.

Modern translation

The question is: is it better to be alive or dead? Is it nobler to put up with all the nasty things that luck throws your way, or to fight against all those troubles by simply putting an end to them once and for all? Dying, sleeping—that's all dying is—sleep that ends all the heartache and shocks that life on earth gives us—that's an achievement to wish for. To die, to sleep—to sleep, maybe to dream. Ah, but there's the catch: in death's sleep who knows what kind of dreams might come, after we've put the noise and commotion of life behind us. That's certainly something to worry about. That's the consideration that makes us stretch out our sufferings so long.

Summer home learning

Task 1: Research of Victorian gender roles. How were men and women expected to behave in the 19th century? Consider the role of women in marriage and family life. What about legal rights for both men/women? Create a **poster** giving the facts.

Task 2: Research of what a 'well-made play' is. Write an **explanation** of this and how realism is involved.

Task 3: Research Rossetti's religious background and see how her faith might shape her views on love, life and death. Write a **paragraph** on what you have found out and your views.

Task 4: Buy all texts needed to begin in September!

Recommended Texts

Hamlet (for the accurate text for the exam)

https://www.amazon.co.uk/Oxford-School-Shakespeare-Hamlet-William/dp/0198328702/ref=sr_1_2?crid=8ZMLZQ0NQT3Z&keywords=hamlet+alexander+text+student&qid=1688112491&s=books&prefix=hamlet+alexander+text+student%2Cstripbooks%2C76&sr=1-2

Hamlet (for scholarly reference)

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Hamlet-Revised-Arden-Shakespeare-Third/dp/1472518381>

Christina Rossetti Poetry (guidebook)

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Christina-Rossetti-Selected-Revision-Guides/dp/1520338554>

A Doll's House

<https://www.amazon.co.uk/Dolls-House-Student-Editions/dp/1350116785>