

Cambridge Authors and Thinkers

What prompted Lord Byron to keep a pet black bear at his rooms in Trinity College? How did John Milton go from top government official to a blind and impoverished old man? What did Salman Rushdie write that caused widespread controversy and prompted death threats against him? In Cambridge Authors and Thinkers we shall be looking at the lives of great literary minds who studied at Cambridge University and were instrumental in shaping the future of literature. We shall discuss the merits and scandals of their activities and read extracts of their work.

Week One: Each class shall focus on the lives and literary works of famous Cambridge University Alumni. Week One shall focus on Lord Byron, Salman Rushdie, John Milton, Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes. To warm up before each lesson we will have a literary quiz that is both fun and enlightening, and for homework, students will be expected to read extracts of the work from the writers and poets discussed.

Week Two: As in the previous week, each class shall focus on the lives and literary works of famous Cambridge University alumni. Week Two shall focus on Samuel Pepys, J.G. Ballard, Julian Fellowes, Christopher Marlowe and A.A. Milne. To warm up before each lesson we will have a literary quiz that is both fun and enlightening, and for homework, students will be expected to read extracts of the work from the writers and poets discussed.

Week Three: Each class shall focus on the lives and literary works of famous Cambridge University Alumni. Week One/Three shall focus on Lord Byron, Salman Rushdie, John Milton, Sylvia Plath and Ted Hughes. To warm up before each lesson we will have a literary quiz that is both fun and enlightening, and for homework, students will be expected to read extracts of the work from the writers and poets discussed.

Week Four: As in the previous week, each class shall focus on the lives and literary works of famous Cambridge University alumni. Week Two shall focus on Samuel Pepys, J.G. Ballard, Julian Fellowes, Christopher Marlowe and A.A. Milne. To warm up before each lesson we will have a literary quiz that is both fun and enlightening, and for homework, students will be expected to read extracts of the work from the writers and poets discussed.

Suggested Reading

Reading material shall be supplied in the form of extracts so there is no mandatory reading list. However, students are welcome to read the following prior to starting the course to benefit their learning.

Samuel Pepys' Diary (found in weblog form <http://www.pepysdiary.com/diary/>),

Midnight's Children Salman Rushdie

The Bell Jar Sylvia Plath

Paradise Lost John Milton