

English Speciality: literature / 2013-14

1. **William Shakespeare, *Much Ado About Nothing***, ed. Sheldon P. Zitner, Oxford World's Classics, 2008, ISBN : 978-0199536115.

Download for a pittance, then listen and follow the text of the play:

<http://www.audiogo.com/uk/much-ado-about-nothing-bbc-radio-shakespeare-william-shakespeare-gid-21519>

Much Ado about Nothing, Kenneth Branagh (helped by William Shakespeare), DVD. Feel free to buy and watch, but we'll probably be using it in class.

- Background reading on Elizabethan theatre: Julia Briggs, *This Stage-Play World: Texts and Contexts, 1580-1625*, Oxford University Press, 1997. Still the best, most readable book about Elizabethan theatre and society. Use also to enrich your own expression.
- For the first class prepare your 'dramatic synopsis' of MAAN: a scene by scene summary of the characters onstage (speaking or silent), the stage setting (court, forest, swimming-pool), the time (dawn, lunch, following on from previous scene or otherwise), the language (blank verse, prose, soliloquy, dialogue), together with the point of the scene ("Orlando wins the wrestling match").

2. **Flannery O'Connor, *Complete Stories***, Faber and Faber, 2009, ISBN : 978-0571245789. "A Good Man Is Hard to Find"; "The Life You Save May Be Your Own"; "A Circle in the Fire"; "The Artificial Nigger" ; "Good Country People"; "Greenleaf"; "Everything That Rises Must Converge"; "Revelation".

— For the same price, why not read all the stories? Use the stories to enrich your own *active* vocabulary, essential for *thème*.

3. **Dylan Thomas, *Selected Poems***, ed. Walford Davies, Phoenix, 2000, ISBN : 978-0753810583. "And death shall have no dominion"; "The force that through the green fuse"; "Light breaks where no sun shines"; "Where once the waters of your face"; "Especially when the October wind"; "How shall my animal"; "After the funeral"; "If my head hurt a hair's foot"; "The hunchback in the park"; "Among those killed in the dawn raid"; "Poem in October"; "A Refusal to Mourn the Death, by Fire, of a Child in London"; "In my craft or sullen art"; "Fern Hill"; "Do not go gentle into that good night".

— Look up all the words, very useful for *thème*.

— **Richard Burton Reads Dylan Thomas, audio CD (15 poems and two short stories)**The

"The Welsh actor Richard Burton had one of the greatest voices ever captured on record. Dylan Thomas was one of the finest poets ever to emerge from Wales. Put them together and you have one of the most joyously beautiful recordings you can hope for."

— Use the recording to practice speech rhythms, vowel sounds, and an authentic Welsh accent!

— Dylan Thomas, *Collected Stories* (including *Portrait of the Artist as a Young Dog*), Phoenix, 1983. For fun, but once again, use to enrich your own expression.