

学校教育専攻の授業へようこそ！

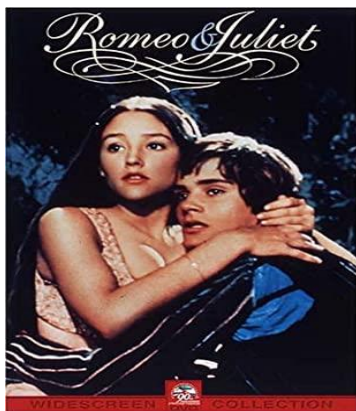
## Introduction to ‘Outline of English Literature’

This lecture is designed for students in their second year or above who want to be English teachers at high school or junior high school. I want all of you to pay attention to the phrase ‘English Literature.’ English language has expanded its linguistic territories all over the world for the past hundreds of years. Today there are many countries and regions that have built their linguistic cultures on the English language. ‘English literature’ in my lecture means literary works written in the English language, not literary works only in England or America.

## What is in this lecture?

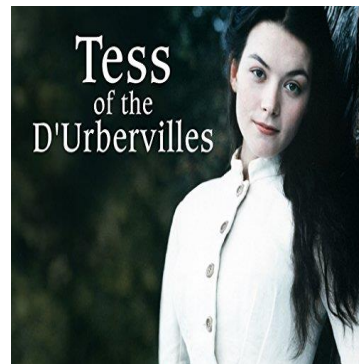
The students are required to read intensively extracts from the works by famous writers. Intensive reading of literary texts could not only help them have in-depth comprehension of the texts but fully understand the philosophy and the culture behind the language.

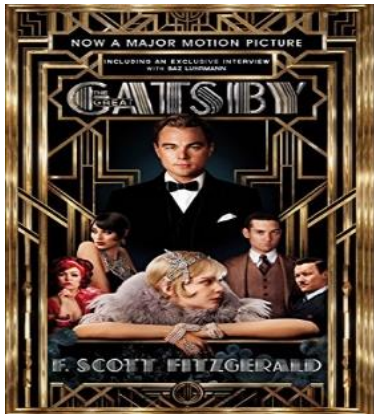
Many literary works have been made into other types of artistic productions: films, plays, musicals, TV dramas, etc. In my lecture, I always make full use of visual aids to help the students better understand the contents of the works. Let me give you some examples:



William Shakespeare (1564-1616) was and has always been the world’s greatest playwright. Many of his plays have been made into films for the enjoyment of millions of people. Have you ever watched or heard of *Romeo and Juliet*? This is a tragic story of two ‘star-crossed’ (look up this word in your dictionary) lovers. Juliet says to herself, ‘What’s in a name? That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.’ What do you think she would want to say? Let’s check out the DVD and watch the film.

One of the greatest novels written in the late 19th century is *Tess of the D’Urbervilles* by Thomas Hardy (1840-1928). This novel has been made into films and TV dramas many times. Tess is a very pure girl, but she has to go through a lot of hardships in her life. She has been forced to do nasty things against her own will. What has happened to her at the end of the story? Hardy concludes the story by saying, ‘Justice was done.’ Read the novel (in Japanese translation) and find what he means.





In the early 1920s, America reached the top of the world after the devastation of Europe by the First World War. F. Scott Fitzgerald (1896-1940) shows us how a rich young man called Jay Gatsby lives a very fabulous life in his novel *The Great Gatsby*. Gatsby is very rich, but for all his riches, he is far from being satisfied with his life. Why? One night, Gatsby stands in front of his mansion gazing at the other end of the bay. What is he looking for? Let's see the film starring Leonardo Wilhelm DiCaprio.

Do you like cats? Do you have your own cat as your pet? Even though you may prefer dogs to cats as a pet, you might hear of the musical *Cats*. This musical is based on a collection of poems called *Old Possum's Book of Practical Cats* by Thomas Stearns Eliot (1888-1965). In this book you will meet many different types of cats. Each cat has his / her own name. Unlike Juliet, each cat seems to think highly of his / her name. If you want to travel by train, you should be accompanied by Skimbleshanks; when you need someone to take care of your children, you could rely on Jennyanydots. Just enjoy reading the book and watching the musical.



### What Can You Gain from this Lecture?

Literary works, whatever languages they may be written in, are full of verbal magic and enchantment. They have been handed down from generation to generation since the beginning of human civilization. In this lecture, the students are required to read and comprehend simple but essential literary works ranging from short stories to poetry. The final goal of this literature class is for each student to gain skills in English to be a fully-fledged English teacher, not only at junior high or high school but also at elementary school.