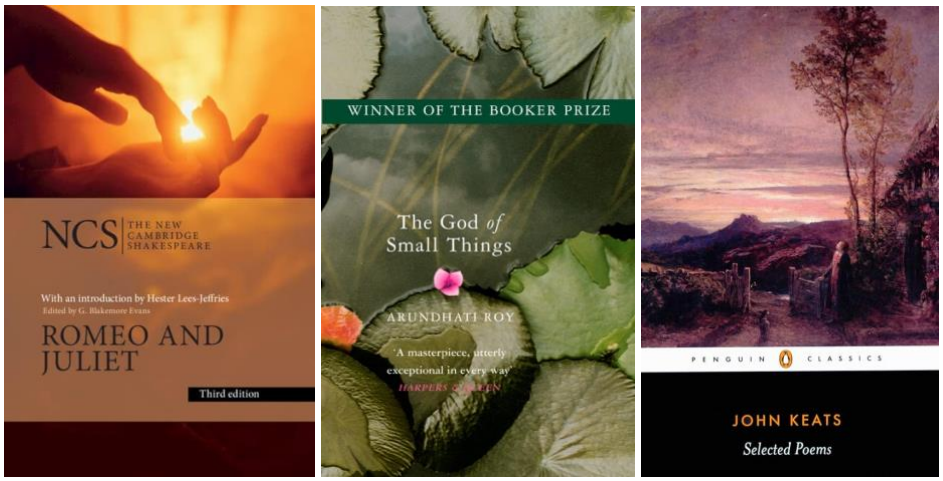
SPÉCIALITÉ ANGLAIS – LITTÉRATURE SUR PROGRAMME (KHÂGNE LYON)

M. Bicanic-Melis

Vivien Leigh (Juliet) and Laurence Olivier (Romeo) in a stage production of *Romeo and Juliet* at the Fifty-first Street Theatre in 1940.

THE CURRICULUM

Please purchase the following texts, in the editions recommended by the ENS Lyon examination board, before the start of term.



- William Shakespeare, *Romeo and Juliet*, New Cambridge Shakespeare, Third Edition, ed. G. Blakemore Evans and Hester Lees-Jeffries, 2023, ISBN-10: 1108461824, ISBN-13 : 978-110846182
- Arundhati Roy, *The God of Small Things*, Harper Collins, 1997, ISBN : 978-0006550686
- John Keats, *Selected Poems*, ed. John Barnard, Penguin Classics, 2007, ISBN : 9780140424478

READING SCHEDULE

You must have completed your reading and preliminary analysis of each work by:

→ *Romeo and Juliet*: September
→ John Keats's poems: the first class after the autumn break
→ *The God of Small Things*: the first class after the Christmas break

HOW TO APPROACH THE TEXTS (INITIAL READING)

For each text, you must keep a **handwritten reading journal** in a notebook and **submit it** at the beginning of the relevant class (see dates above).

→ Using *Britannica*, Françoise Grellet's *Literature in English*, or Françoise Grellet's *Cultural Guide*, research the author as well as the historical, social, and literary context of the work.

→ Read the introduction to each text (often written by a scholar) and note down key interpretative and background information that is worth keeping in mind when analyzing the novel. This will provide some insight into the themes explored in the text.
However, do not worry about extra secondary readings. At this stage, your main objective is to gain a solid understanding of the plot and to reflect on your own response to each work.

→ A plot log (personal summary of each scene/chapter/poem)

Summary	**Your initial impressions and analysis** (themes, motifs, stylistic strategies you've noticed)	**Quotes** (+ why you think they're noteworthy)	**Question** (any questions you'd like to discuss in class)

→ For the play and the novel, create a diagram showing the characters, their relationships to one another, and, where relevant, the principal locations.

→ Identify the major themes explored in the text and collect quotations, motifs, literary devices, and structural features that illustrate the different ways in which these themes are developed.

→ For Shakespeare's *Romeo and Juliet*, you should watch several productions, either online or at your local theatre (see below), from different periods. Note any directorial choices that you find particularly striking or significant. What interpretation of the play does each production suggest? Here is a selected few:

- https://player.shakespearesglobe.com/productions/romeo-juliet-2009/?utm_source=chatgpt.com
- https://www.ntathome.com/romeo-juliet?utm_source=chatgpt.com

Not to mention several film adaptations:

- *Romeo + Juliet* (directed by Baz Luhrmann, 1996)
- *West Side Story* (directed by Robert Wise & Jerome Robbins, 1961)
- *Romeo and Juliet* (directed by Franco Zeffirelli, 1968)

If possible, watch Thomas Jolly's production of Charles Gounod's opera *Roméo et Juliette* for the Paris Opera (2026-2027):
https://www.operadeparis.fr/saison-26-27/opera/romeo-et-juliette

'(…) Parting is such sweet sorrow.
That I shall say good night til it be morrow.'
Juliet in *Romeo and Juliet,* Act 2, Scene 2.