**Lucy Cavendish Academic Enrichment - English**

**Group D Session 1**

**Pre-reading and thinking**

In our first session, we’re going to kick off by ‘interrogating’ the term ‘Literature’. H:ave a quick read through of the following six statements which attempt to answer the question:

***What is Literature?***

* All decent literature transports and entertains, but great literature should also challenge our perceptions of the world, show us reality – or realities – afresh, and make us question ourselves and our lives.
* Literature adds to reality, it does not simply describe it. It enriches the necessary skills that daily life requires and provides; and in this respect, it irrigates the deserts that our lives have already become.
* As an art, literature might be described as the organization of words to give pleasure.
* Literature also functions more broadly in society as a means of both criticizing and affirming cultural values.
* Literature transforms and intensifies ordinary language. Under the pressure of literary devices, ordinary language was intensified, condensed, twisted, telescoped, drawn out, turned on its head.

* It seems, however, best to consider as literature only works in which the aesthetic function is dominant.