‘Small Island’: Traditional Homework tasks

Here are some options for homework tasks for each of the lessons in this unit of work.

You do not need to use all of these tasks and you do not need to set homework every lesson.

Please refer to your school and department homework policy when setting and marking homework tasks.

1	You read an essay by Andrea Levy describing a significant journey in her life, a journey she remembers clearly and continues to reflect on. Write about a journey from your own life that has been significant.
2	The opening of the play is set during a hurricane. You can watch a clip of this moment here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Hmsel9Xa9TE (search *Small Island hurricane* and watch the 2 minute 30 second clip). **Either**: Write a diary entry as Hortense describing your emotions after the hurricane ***or*** Describe how you would stage this scene on stage. How would you ‘create’ a hurricane in the theatre?
3	In this lesson, you wrote about Hortense. Now think about Michael. How is an audience meant to respond to his character? Why?
4	Research: What was the Blitz? In what ways did it effect the civilian population? What do people who experienced the Blitz say about it?
5	Research: What were the Jim Crow laws?
6	Celia was going out with Gilbert. Hortense manages to end their relationship. Write the conversation between Celia and Gilbert in which he reveals he is going to marry Hortense. You should include both dialogue and stage directions.
7	You have now finished reading Act One. Write a summary of what has happened so far.
8	Look at the stage directions which open Act One (page 9) and the stage directions which open Act Two (page 79). What are the differences? Why do you think Edmundson created such stark differences?
9	You have learned the word ‘euphemism’. Find six euphemisms and explain what they mean.
10	Bernard has returned from war after a long and unexplained absence. Queenie asks why he didn’t write her a letter. Imagine you are Bernard. Write a letter to Queenie explaining what happened to you in the war, and why you have found it so difficult to return.

11	You read an extract from 'Small Island', the novel. Listen to Andrea Levy talking about the novel here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=WyUR6gZyYLE (search *Small Island novel* and watch the 2 minute 51 second clip). Why was Andrea Levy surprised by the reception of the novel?
12	In this lesson, you learned about stage directions. Select three stage directions from the play and explain why they are such crucial instructions for an actor. What do they convey to the audience?
13	You have now finished the play and discussed what you thought about the ending. Write down those thoughts now in a structured paragraph. You can watch the BBC adaptation here https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=_F2h4gE8m6o (search *Small Island ending* and watch the 3 minute 12 second clip).
14	In this lesson, you read about the experience of Floella Benjamin. She is a Trinidadian-British actress, author, businesswoman, politician, presenter and singer. Make a fact file about her. You can explore her website here. http://www.floellabenjamin.com/
15	You have looked more in depth at the character of Arthur. He has a strong bond with Queenie. Describe their relationship. Use one stage direction and one quotation in your description.
16	You now know the assessment question. Revise the plot of 'Small Island' and continue to fill in your planning sheet in order to prepare for the assessment.