

Year 12 English Literature – Summer homework

We want you to get off to the best possible start when you begin your studies with us in September. To help us see what level you are currently working at, we will ask you to complete a short piece of homework over the summer and hand it in during your first lesson.

Task 1

Please go to the following website to get a copy of La Belle Dame sans Merci:

<https://www.poetryfoundation.org/poems/44475/la-belle-dame-sans-merci-a-ballad>

Please listen to the following reading of the poem:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=qL-L8ExX3kQ&list=RDqL-L8ExX3kQ#t=2>

Task 2

A femme fatale can be defined as ‘an attractive and seductive woman, especially one who will ultimately cause distress to a man who becomes involved with her’ (Oxford Dictionary of English, 3rd edition).

Please write a mini-essay of between 300 and 500 words in response to the following question:

Why might the female character in ‘La Belle Dame sans Merci’ be considered to be a ‘femme fatale’?