

## Leaving Certificate 2023 – Higher Level

Series Editors: *Pat O'Shea, Tony Lake, Robert Clougher*

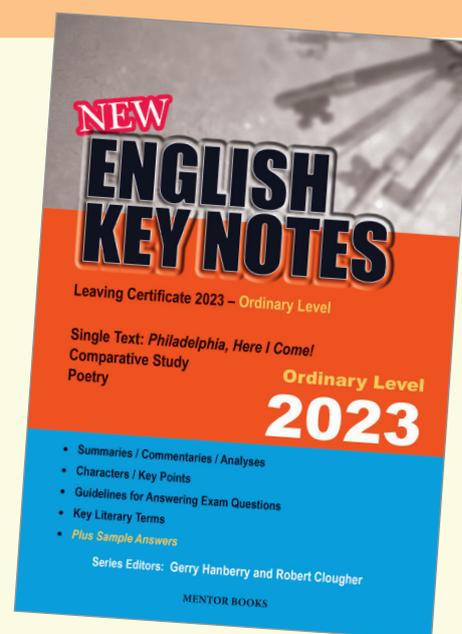
- Single Text: **Macbeth**
- Poetry: Full range of poets with useful biography and key points included, as well as comprehensive notes on each poem.
- The Comparative Study Texts:
  - **Philadelphia, Here I Come!** – Brian Friel
  - **The Handmaid's Tale** – Margaret Atwood
  - **Winter's Bone** – Director: Debra Granik

### Modes:

- A General Vision and Viewpoint
- B Literary Genre
- C Theme: Freedom

All prescribed modes covered with  
Sample Questions and Sample Answers.

1. **Philadelphia, Here I Come!** by Brian Friel  
Gareth O'Donnell's frustrated life in Ballybeg and his acceptance of a dream offer to move to America is a great option for the Comparative Study. The playwright brings rural Ireland of the 1960s to life with a number of deft touches. His exploration of Public and Private Gar O'Donnell generates much comedy, sadness and empathy. The play is an accessible and enjoyable text for the Comparative Study.
2. **The Handmaid's Tale** by Margaret Atwood  
This unforgettable dystopian novel is seen by many as a novel for our times with its fascinating dissection of women's rights, religion and power in society. It has quickly become a favourite for many LC students. Offred is a 'handmaid' who lives in a totalitarian state with a plummeting birth-rate. Her role in the world is to bear children for elite couples who are having trouble conceiving. The novelist borrows from a number of genres to tell a story that will disturb and fascinate students, making it a great choice for the Comparative Study.
3. **Winter's Bone** (film) directed by Debra Granik  
This film about 17-year-old Ree Dolly's life in the Ozarks is a popular option for students. Ree must find her father – who is missing following his release from prison on bail – or else her family home will be taken. The director creates a world that is startlingly authentic as her protagonist confronts a powerful local drugs gang, as well as a culture of secrecy in her community, in a text that fits easily into the Comparative Study course.



## Leaving Certificate 2023 – Ordinary Level

Series Editors: *Gerry Hanberry and Robert Clougher*

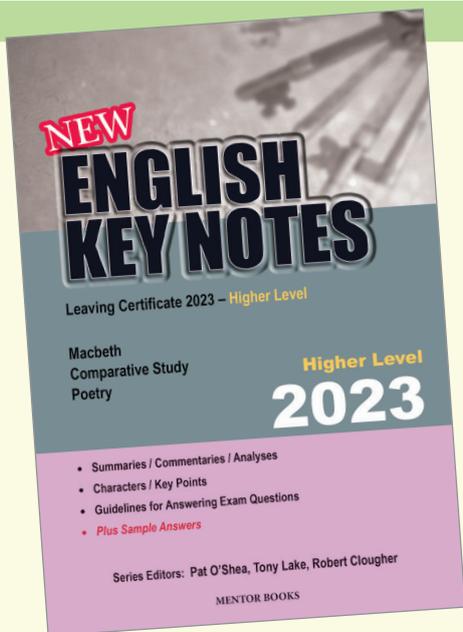
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  - **Kindertransport** – Diane Samuels
  - **Never Let Me Go** – Kazuo Ishiguro
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### Modes

- A Relationships
- B Hero, heroine, villain
- C Theme: Growing up

All prescribed modes covered with  
Sample Questions and Sample Answers.

1. **Kindertransport** by Diane Samuels  
This is a play about a woman who was part of the Kindertransport rescue effort – a mission to free 10,000 Jewish children in Nazi-controlled parts of Europe and settle them with families in Britain. The theme of 'growing up' is vividly demonstrated as flashbacks explore Evelyn's dramatic escape from Germany, while present-day scenes detail the challenges her daughter, Faith, faces as she leaves home. A piece of fiction that uses a lot of real stories, the play is notable for its complex relationships, particularly between mothers and daughters. Evelyn emerges as a likeable though flawed heroine: she struggles to accept her life as a war survivor, leading to major complications with the people she loves the most.
2. **Never Let Me Go** by Kazuo Ishiguro  
A novel about the seemingly idyllic childhood of Kathy H. at Hailsham School. This coming-of-age-tale is set against the backdrop of an eerily distorted version of contemporary England, and contains a number of lively and fractious relationships.
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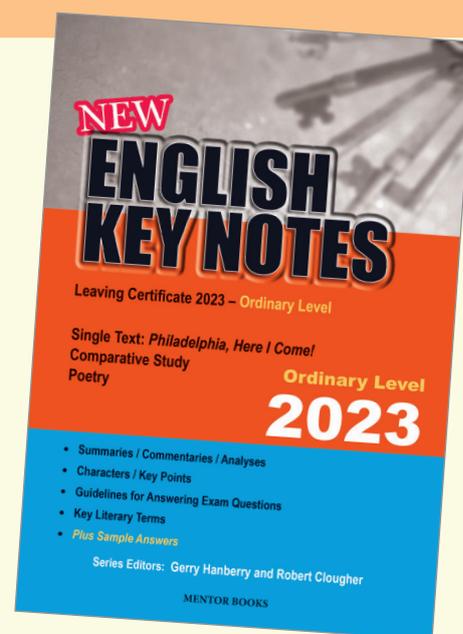
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