

Film and Literature Study

A key part of A-Level Spanish is learning to analyse Hispanic culture through film and literature. Throughout Summiteers, students will study film and literary work in depth, developing the analytical skills, vocabulary and cultural understanding needed for the AQA A-Level Spanish exam.

Rather than simply memorising quotes and essay structures, students will explore the historical, social and cultural contexts behind each work, learning how to discuss complex ideas confidently in Spanish.

Film Study

***Volver* (2006) – Pedro Almodóvar**

Students will study Pedro Almodóvar's acclaimed Spanish film *Volver*, exploring themes including:

- Family relationships
- Female identity and resilience
- Death and memory
- Rural traditions in Spain
- Secrets and social expectations
- Changing roles within modern Spanish society

Through guided analysis, students will develop the ability to discuss:

- ✓ Character development
- ✓ Cinematic techniques
- ✓ Symbolism
- ✓ Themes and messages
- ✓ Social and historical context

Volver provides rich opportunities for sophisticated discussion while introducing students to one of Spain's most influential directors.

Literary Study

***Como agua para chocolate* (1989) – Laura Esquivel**

Students will study Laura Esquivel's internationally acclaimed Mexican novel *Como agua para chocolate*, exploring themes including:

- Family traditions and expectations
- Gender roles
- Love and relationships
- Freedom and personal identity
- Mexican culture and history
- The role of food, memory and storytelling

The novel allows students to explore a different Spanish-speaking culture and develop a deeper understanding of Latin American perspectives.

Students will analyse:

- ✓ Characters and relationships
- ✓ Narrative style
- ✓ Themes and symbolism
- ✓ Historical context
- ✓ Authorial techniques

Why these works?

We have deliberately chosen works that represent the richness and diversity of the Hispanic world.

From the rural landscapes of Spain in *Volver* to the magical realism and cultural traditions of Mexico in *Como agua para chocolate*, students experience Spanish not just as a language, but as a window into different societies, histories and perspectives.

Students will finish the course able to write sophisticated essays, discuss cultural ideas in depth and approach the AQA A-Level examination with confidence.