

# Climate change

## - suggestions for a theme at English B-level

### Too *much* water:

Questions e.g.: - The ethics connected with the issue of climagrations caused by rising sea levels: who decides and on what basis?

How are we influenced by apocalyptic descriptions of climate change?

Genre	Title/author	Comments/description
Poem	Awoonor: <i>The Sea Eats the Land at Home</i> (Nigeria, 1964) from <i>Earth Shattering - Eco-poems</i>	"Simple" description of what damage "the angry water of the cruel sea" causes in a small Nigerian community
Poem	Rae: <i>One World Down the Drain</i> (1991) from <i>Earth Shattering - Eco-poems</i>	"The future has no vote": a simple poem about the consequences of global sea rise (and how little we care?)
Poem	Burnside: <i>Swimming in the Flood</i> (1995) from <i>Earth Shattering - Eco-poems</i>	A detailed description of how one survivor remembers details from when his village was flooded
Song text + YouTube video	Grainger/Wetzel: <i>Oceans Rising</i> (2007)  (Can be found at <a href="http://www.youtube.com">www.youtube.com</a> )	The song is a warning. Quote: "It will take all our courage, faith and time to redefine the American Dream" (i.e. change of values needed)
Novel (suggested excerpts)	Stephen Baxter: <i>Flood</i> (2008)  <i>Review in the (London) Times, 01/08/08:</i> "Disaster novels have been a popular subset of science fiction since the genre began, and, as Stephen Baxter remarks in his Afterword, "The flood is an ur-myth of our culture." In <i>Flood</i> , he presents a terrifying scenario in which the sea rises not just the few metres likely to be caused by global warming, but unstopably, to cover all the land within a few decades, as water long trapped deep beneath the earth's mantle is released. [...]	Long-term sea rise: the novel takes place from 2016 to 2052 - and describes among other things how the rich protect themselves (and still make money!), how sustainability becomes an "automatic" aspect of our lives, how governments are unable to function, etc. etc.

	<p>The scientific lectures and speculation are interesting, if cool. By contrast, the narrative occasionally bogs down in unconvincing soap opera dynamics, presumably meant to make the sketchily-presented characters seem like real people. Despite this weakness, Baxter's vision of a drowning earth is powerfully compelling".</p> <p><b>Suggested excerpts:</b></p> <p>- pp. 79-82: An attempt at describing by means of an everyday situation how everybody may be caught by surprise because both ordinary citizens and authorities tend to ignore scientists' warnings about global warming.</p> <p>- pp. 446-448: The extremely rich Nathan Lammockson, owner of AxysCorp, and the crew of his Ark 3, on which he is circling the globe, tries to obtain access to Tibet, one of the few places still above water, but is warned off by a former business contact because conditions are "concentration camp-like".</p> <p>- pp. 450-455: The Ark is now in the Pacific in the year 2038. A depressing description of a sea full of plastic remnants, raw material fought over by all sorts of vessels. There are no laws, no rules - everyone must fight for themselves.</p>	
Article	<p>the Observer (06/09/09):  <i>Climate change: melting ice will trigger ...</i>          (Can be found at <a href="http://www.guardian.co.uk">www.guardian.co.uk</a>)</p>	<p>Scientists warn that global warming may trigger earthquakes, tsunamis, avalanches and volcanic eruptions.</p>
Article	<p>Time Magazine (19/12/05):  <i>6 Tales of Courage</i>          Time Magazine (20/11/05):  <i>The Displaced: Which Way Is Home?</i></p>	<p>Hurricane Katrina: human interest stories</p>
Article	<p>Newsweek (26/12/05)  <i>Living With Fear</i>          (Can be found at <a href="http://www.newsweek.com">www.newsweek.com</a>)</p>	<p>About the consequences of the 2004 tsunami in Thailand: human interest.</p>
Film	<p><i>The Day After Tomorrow</i> (2004)</p>	<p>A new ice age: eco-horror-thriller (118 minutes)</p>