

Curriculum Overview: Year 8 English – Ideologies present throughout literature

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1	Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
<p>Introduction to Gothic Fiction This unit aims to introduce pupils to the conventions of Gothic fiction and understand how the Gothic genre has developed over time.</p> <p>Pupils will read and explore a range of extracts of Gothic fiction in order to be able to use these same Gothic conventions in their own writing.</p>	<p>The Tempest In this unit, pupils will read a complete Shakespeare play and explore its language, structure and form.</p> <p>Pupils will explore the components of a literary essay, considering the significance of characters and themes in relation to contextual information, with a focus on colonialism and patriarchy.</p>	<p>Romantic Poetry This unit introduces pupils to a study of Romantic poetry, mainly through (but not restricted to) the poems of William Blake.</p> <p>The unit aims to develop pupils' ability to analyse the impact of the writer's use of language and structure using the prompts of 'What? How? Why?'</p>	<p>Animal Farm (I - Reading) This unit aims to introduce pupils to a complete novel from a canonical author and explore characters and themes in relation to relevant contexts.</p> <p>Pupils develop their analytical reading skills, building on their use of thesis statements through an exploration of the presentation of Boxer at different points in the novel.</p>	<p>Animal Farm (II - Writing) This unit involves pupils producing a variety of transactional writing pieces across a range of different text formats: letter, review, speech, opinion article, blog, using style models, through exploration of style models and examples of different types of non-fiction texts, written from a range of diverse viewpoints</p>	<p>Girl. Boy. Sea. This unit is designed to be reading-intensive, covering the whole novel at a fast pace. This is not a traditional 'novel study' unit, as the focus is on reading for pleasure. However, various comprehension, recall, retrieval and reciprocal reader activities are explored in each lesson where appropriate, alongside key discussion points around character and theme.</p>
<p>Links to prior learning Recalls the main explanation of patriarchal society from <i>Introduction to Shakespeare</i> in year 7. Revisits the theme of the supernatural explored across <i>The Purple Lady</i> in year 7 and the concepts of narrative structure and archetypal characters.</p> <p>Stretch and Challenge Enquiry How can specificity be used to create tension in Gothic writing?</p>	<p>Links to prior learning Builds on the basic knowledge covered in <i>Introduction to Shakespeare</i> in year 7 – now applying this knowledge to a whole play – particular focus on context of patriarchy links <i>Introduction to Shakespeare</i> and <i>Introduction to Gothic</i>.</p> <p>Stretch and Challenge Enquiry How is Shakespeare's influence seen in modern literature?</p>	<p>Links to prior learning Builds on pupils' knowledge of applying contextual links and analytical reading skills from studying <i>The Tempest</i>.</p> <p>Stretch and Challenge Enquiry How influential are Blake's philosophical, religious and political beliefs on his poetry?</p>	<p>Links to prior learning Builds on the reading skills introduced in <i>Myths and Legends</i> and <i>The Purple Lady</i> from year 7, as well as pupils' knowledge and use of thesis statements to structure responses.</p> <p>Stretch and Challenge Enquiry How is Aristotle's influence seen in <i>Animal Farm</i>?</p>	<p>Links to prior learning Builds on the themes present in <i>Animal Farm</i> and understanding of rhetoric introduced in 'Speeches Across Time' in year 7.</p> <p>Stretch and Challenge Enquiry How do writers use pathos, logos and ethos to manipulate the reader?</p>	<p>Links to prior learning Bill's boat is named Pandora – link to Pandora's Box in 7.1 <i>Myths and Legends</i>. Builds on literary devices introduced in 7.4 <i>The Purple Lady</i>.</p> <p>Stretch and Challenge Enquiry Read at least one novel a month for the rest of the year.</p>
Equipment Needed		Wider Reading		Family activities	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Gothic extracts booklet (provided) • Copies of <i>The Tempest</i> (provided) • Copies of <i>Animal Farm</i> (provided) • Style models booklet (provided) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <i>1984</i> by George Orwell • Further romantic poetry by poets such as William Wordsworth, John Keats and Lord Byron • <i>The Graveyard Book</i> by Neil Gaiman • <i>Speak Up: Speeches for Young People</i> by Adora Svitak 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Share reading aloud together – both fiction and non-fiction • Learn a range of techniques and terminology • See if you can link to any of the gothic influences, techniques, ideas or characters when watching a movie or TV programme. 	