



Curriculum Overview

Curriculum Area: English Year: 8

Year 8 Curriculum:

Autumn Term A: The Power of Language

All pupils will explore the importance of the power of language in literature texts through the study of the whole text '**Animal Farm**' by George Orwell. Pupils will develop knowledge and understanding of how Orwell uses the components of rhetoric and propaganda in the novel. All pupils will explore the key political, social context and messages presented in the novel. They will use perspective, bias and viewpoint in their own speaking and writing.

G&V - drawing on new vocabulary and grammatical constructions from their reading and listening, and using these consciously in their writing and speech to achieve particular effects

Autumn Term B: Romanticism in Poetry

All pupils will explore the focus of Romanticism through an in depth study of **William Wordsworth**. This unit will enable pupils to acquire knowledge and understanding of the elements explored in romantic poetry with focus on two of William Wordsworth's poems. Through their in depth study of two poems, pupils will develop understanding of how language structure and form are used to convey meanings. *G&V - using Standard English confidently in their own writing and speech*

Spring Term: Women in Literature

All pupils will explore the presentation of female independence in Literature texts through the study of the whole text '**Jane Eyre**' by Charlotte Bronte. In this unit all pupils will also develop knowledge and understanding of how the autobiographical form and chronological narrative of Jane Eyre depicts and shapes her journey as an independent woman in society. Pupils will also understand how a character's heritage/history can shape their identity and use this to explain in depth the events in Jane Eyre's life. *G&V - drawing on new vocabulary and grammatical constructions from their reading and listening, and using these consciously in their writing and speech to achieve particular effects*

Summer Term: Play Scripts

All pupils will explore the conventions of a play script through the whole study of '**Journey's End**' by R.C. Sherriff. Pupils will explore the use of the conventions of script writing to develop character and themes. Although, war is the overarching theme of the play, pupils will also explore the themes of comradeship, social class and courage. Pupils will strengthen their knowledge of components used in script writing by writing their own short script that explores one of the main themes from Journey's End. All pupils will further their knowledge and understanding of the context of the play by studying carefully selected WWI poetry. *G&V - knowing and understanding the differences between spoken and written language.*

Links to National Curriculum

Reading: Developing an appreciation and love of reading in increasingly challenging material. Read critically through knowing how language, structure and organisational techniques present meaning. Studying setting, plot and characterisation and their effects on the reader. Understanding how the work of dramatists is communicated effectively through performance and how alternative staging allows for different interpretations of a play. Studying a range of authors, including at least two authors in depth each year. *G&V - extending and applying the grammatical knowledge to analyse more challenging texts*

Writing: applying their growing knowledge of vocabulary, grammar and text structure to their writing and selecting the appropriate form. Considering how their writing reflects the audiences and purposes for which it was intended through stories, scripts, poetry and other imaginative writing. *G&V - drawing on new vocabulary and grammatical constructions from their reading and listening, and using these consciously in their writing.*

Spoken English: Improvising, rehearsing and performing play scripts and poetry in order to generate language and discuss language use and meaning, using role, intonation, tone, volume, mood, silence, stillness and action to add impact. *G&V - knowing and understanding the differences between spoken and written language.*

Knowledge and understanding of this curriculum will be assessed by:

- A detailed analysis of Old Major's speech in Animal Farm.
- A written and performed speech of their own using rhetorical devices to shape an argument and convince an audience.
- A detailed comparison of two romantic poems.
- An in depth study of the character Jane Eyre and how she presented throughout the novel.
- A performance of their own short play script that uses one of the themes studied in Journey's end.

Powerful Knowledge/Cultural Capital Opportunities

- Knowledge and understanding of exploitation, injustice and inequality.
- Understanding that people need to respect and love themselves before they can have a meaningful relationship with someone else.
- Knowledge and understanding of resilience and having the strength to overcome adversity in a variety of ways (as presented in the Literature texts studied).