



ENGLISH - YEAR 7

Unit 1: What's your story?

English is all about stories, things that have happened, things that might happen and real-life experiences; in this transition unit you will look at a range of fiction texts from 700AD to the present day and explore the core conventions of storytelling as you develop your reading skills and establish an understanding of word level analysis. Towards the end of the unit, you will begin to think critically about texts and how they reflect the world we live in. What you learn in this unit will then act as the foundation for further study in English throughout KS3 and into KS4.

In your grammar lessons, you will consolidate and develop your word-level understanding of basic word-classes and how they come together to form sentences.

Unit 2: Raise your voice!

Having explored fictional stories in the previous unit, you will explore personal stories of activism from recent history and be introduced to a range of marginalised groups in society (race, poverty, LGBT, gender) through non-fiction biography and poetry. You will develop an understanding of how speeches can be used to reclaim power by analysing how speech writers have 'raised their voices' and fought for their rights / the rights of others. You will then look in more detail at issues of poverty in the present day and in the Victorian era through 19th century non-fiction texts and poetry and use this as inspiration to write your own speech in role as a Victorian child arguing that the 1834 poor law should be revoked. You will also be introduced to the core concept of authorial intent and begin to use non-fiction texts to improve your understanding of why writers write as you begin to connect texts to bigger ideas in society.

In your grammar lessons, you will consolidate and develop your word-level understanding of basic word-classes and how they come together to form sentences.

Unit 3: Presenting the silent voices - Oliver Twist

You will build upon your understanding of Victorian society and authorial intent as you explore how Charles Dickens challenged the Poor Law in 'Oliver Twist' as well as identifying how, through literature, he gives a voice to those who lack power. As you track the plot development of 'Oliver Twist', you will learn about anti-Semitism and consider the presentation of Fagin, questioning the stereotypes displayed as you develop your analytical thinking and writing skills further in your first, guided, literature essay. Finally, you will begin crafting your skills as a descriptive writer as you make specific language choices to describe life on the streets of Victorian London.

In your grammar lessons, you will practice crafting using word choices to create specific descriptive effects at sentence level before consolidating your understanding of grammatically correct sentence construction.

Unit 4: Presenting the silent voices - The Merchant of Venice

As you continue your journey back in time, you will learn about the context of Elizabethan England and the famous playwright, William Shakespeare. Through his play, 'The Merchant of Venice', you will develop your understanding of the concepts of religion and gender by considering more complex ideas surrounding patriarchy and morality. Your reading will act as a springboard from which you will consider stagecraft, consolidate your word-level analysis skills and develop your fiction and non-fiction writing skills through describing character and writing a letter in role as a character from the play. Concluding our exploration of the social issues raised by Shakespeare, you will participate in a formal debate, discussing these topics with your classmates and linking them to the modern world whilst consolidating your spoken and written language skills developed across the year.

In your grammar lessons, you will develop your understanding of grammatically correct sentence construction before using grammatical knowledge to craft and develop arguments.

Reading and Grammar Lessons:

You will spend 1 lesson a week explicitly focusing on developing your reading and writing skills.

In your reading lessons, read a range of fiction and non-fiction at your own pace and use accelerated reader quizzes to track your progress. You will also complete 'Star Reader' tests throughout the year so that we can support you in improving your reading age.

In your grammar lessons, you will begin Year 7 by consolidating and developing your word-level understanding of basic word-classes and how they come together to form sentences. You will then practice crafting using word choices to create specific descriptive effects at sentence level before developing your understanding of grammatically correct sentence construction. Finally, you will begin to use grammatical knowledge to craft and develop arguments.

Your development as readers and writers throughout the year will not only aid your development in English, but also in the wider school curriculum.

Home Learning and Independent Study:

Educake: You will be set online quizzes on Educake once a fortnight. These will help you consolidate and develop your knowledge from lessons and you can take each quiz as many times as you like to improve your scores. You can also self quiz on Educake whenever you like to help you improve your subject knowledge.

English Revision Skills: During KS3 English, you will have 3 revision lessons per year where you will be explicitly taught a key revision strategy. You will then have a week to practise this revision strategy independently to prepare for a test. In Year 7 you will learn how to self-quiz, focusing on reflecting on what you know and building questions to help you make improve your knowledge. You will also understand how to revise successfully by planning spaced revision.

