



ENGLISH - YEAR 8

Unit 1: Tragedy and the Human Condition - The Power and Ambition of 'Macbeth'

In this unit you will be introduced to the core literary concept of the human condition and, through your study of 'Macbeth' by William Shakespeare, begin to understand the concepts of power and authority. You will develop your understanding of narrative and genre from Year 7 by considering the conventions of tragedy and the journey of the tragic hero. Through your study of the text, you will develop your literary analysis skills and have opportunities to develop descriptive and transactional writing through crafting descriptions and articles.

Unit 2: War and the Human Condition - Examining Perspectives on Authority

You will begin this unit by considering perspectives about war and develop your understanding of devices and techniques commonly used in poetry through a study of poems from WW1 which challenge patriotism and reveal the realities of trench warfare and further develop your analysis skills, commenting on the effects of imagery. You will then read 'The Boy at the Top of the Mountain' as a class reader, developing reading skills, understanding of narrative conventions and considering alternative perspectives on war and conflict.

Unit 3: Authority and the Human Condition - Challenging Authority through Dystopian Fiction

You will explore the genre of dystopian fiction by investigating a range of fiction extracts. Here, you will consider what message or warnings they might hope to convey to their readers through their writing. You will also begin to evaluate the techniques that writers have used to build their worlds, making them both believable yet new and engaging. You will then further develop your understanding of stagecraft and ideas surrounding race, power and authority through studying the play version of 'Noughts and Crosses' and reading non-fiction texts to help you understand this alternative history. Using previously studied texts as style models, you will then craft your own dystopian world and protagonist which are designed to warn about a real-life issue.

Grammar Lessons:

You will spend 1 lesson per fortnight developing writing skills through explicit grammatical instruction.

You will develop your skills in crafting figurative language and imagery by using word choices to create specific descriptive effects at word-level. You will then learn how to craft sentences to create engaging structural effects. Finally, you will focus on crafting speech, using sophisticated punctuation to create tonal inferences.

Your development as a writer throughout the year will not only aid your progress in English, but also in the wider school curriculum.

Reading Lessons:

You will spend 1 per fortnight developing your reading skills. In these lessons you will access the library and read a range of fiction and non-fiction at your own pace, using 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.

Your development as a reader throughout the year will not only aid your progress 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 8 you will continue to practise revision strategies learnt in Year 7, build upon your understanding of self-quizzing by learning how to create and use flashcards successfully and also develop your revision toolkit by learning how to create and use mindmaps to aid revision.

