



# ENGLISH - YEAR 8

## Unit 1: Whose World Is It? A Religious Debate

In this unit you will be exploring writing which challenges accepted world views. You will learn about how Shakespeare uses his agency as a writer, to challenge views towards religious groups and genders through his writing, using his play, 'The Merchant of Venice', as a social commentary. You will explore the character of Shylock developing your close reading skills before using your own descriptive writing skills. You will end this section through exploring how Shakespeare uses the character of Portia to comment on the role of women in contemporary society.

## Unit 2: Whose World Is It? A Religious Debate

You will continue to explore the social questions and issues raised by Shakespeare in 'Merchant of Venice', though this half term will give you more of an opportunity to explore your own ideas and responses surrounding these issues. You will participate in a debate, discussing these topics with your classmates, and will then use these speaking and listening skills to inform a discursive essay, which you will write based on the discussions that arose in your class debate. This half term will allow you to consolidate the skills you developed, in Year 7, of crafting arguments and utilising counter-arguments to strengthen your own suggestions and ideas.

## Unit 3: Questioning Authority Through Reality

In this unit you will read a collection of poetry that challenges accepted positions within society. You will develop your analysis skills to comment on multiple possible readings and layers of meaning within these texts. You will use these poems (and what you learn about war) to craft letters, in role, as two very different members of society, criticising or advocating for war. You will end this section by transforming one of your letters into a powerful and persuasive speech, which you will deliver using clear expression and tone to affect the audience.

## Unit 4: Questioning Authority Through Reality

You will continue to explore poetry that questions authority and challenges accepted positions within society. You will further develop your analysis skills, honing your ability to present your response as a coherent and logical essay. This poetry will then become a springboard, from which you will carefully plan and deliberately craft an engaging description, where you have deliberately selected language and structure to convey a tone and perspective.

## Unit 5: Looking Back to Imagine the Future: A Cautionary Tale

In this unit you will focus on reading a range of dystopian fiction, a genre in which writers create an imagined future often following the destruction of our known world. You will begin with Phillip Pullman's 'His Dark Materials' and branch out into an anthology of extracts from other dystopian tales. Here, you will consider the perspectives of the writers and what message or warning they hope to convey to their readers through their writing. You will also begin to consider the techniques the writers have used to build their worlds, making them both believable yet new and engaging.

## Unit 6: Looking Back to Imagine the Future: A Cautionary Tale

You will continue to explore the genre of dystopian fiction, now having the opportunity to build a world and characters of your own. You will use previously studied texts as style models to craft your own dystopian world and protagonist, which are designed to convey your own (or an imagined) challenge to the world as it is, a warning of a potential future to come. First, you will explore this idea through speaking and listening, interviewing your classmates, in role, as their imagined characters. Then, you will craft a convincing description of the world itself, and your character within it.

