



English Literature Curriculum Overview - Year 7

		Unit	Details
Autumn One	Detective Unit		<p>At the beginning of Year 7, we start with Detective Fiction. In this unit, pupils study a range of extracts from Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's <i>'Sherlock Holmes'</i> novel series. Pupils become well versed with the character of Sherlock Holmes and the concept of a Victorian detective throughout the first term. We begin by exploring the context of the Sherlock Holmes novels, considering what life was like during the late 1800s and early 1900s in London; this firmly grounds their understanding of the texts. When studying each text, they examine characterisation, plot development and themes such as justice, secrecy, power and truth. In addition to this, pupils will build their reading skills through close analysis of the texts and develop their ability to make analytical comments on the writer's use of language, structure and form to create meaning. Furthermore, they will also learn the key conventions of a detective piece and be able to emulate this style of writing with success.</p>
Autumn Two			
Spring One	A Midsummer Night's Dream		<p>In the second term, Year 7 pupils study the Shakespearian comedic play, <i>'A Midsummer Night's Dream'</i>. We begin by exploring the context of the time Shakespeare wrote the play and also the time in which the play is set. This provides pupils with an understanding of how a traditional audience may have viewed the play in contrast with how a modern day audience would view the play. Pupils will then read the play and we will focus on key moments within specific acts and scenes. To build on their contextual understanding, we will identify themes such as gender roles, the supernatural and love within the text and discuss how they are presented. Key skills such as understanding, inference and analysis are built upon, through pupils learning to select key quotations and dissect their meaning and impact. By the end of the unit pupil's will have become more comfortable reading Shakespearian language and will have a firm understanding of the events of the play and how an audience would respond to them.</p>
Spring Two			
Summer One	War Novel		<p>In the final term of Year 7, pupils study one of the following War Novels: <i>'War Horse'</i> by Micheal Morpurgo, <i>'The Book Thief'</i> by Markus Zusak, <i>'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe'</i> by C.S. Lewis or <i>'My Friend the Enemy'</i> by Dan Smith. In this unit, we explore the contextual impact of the World Wars and what life was like for people during this period. This enables pupils to identify key themes within their novel, such as: conflict, cultural and societal diversity, power, relationships and responsibility. It is evident throughout these novels that the characters all need some form of escapism and pupils are able to sympathetically put themselves in the shoes of the characters and write from their perspective in different forms (e.g. diary entry and letters) throughout the unit. Pupils will also build upon their analytical reading skills, by carrying out in depth analysis of key moments within the book pupils will further cement their understanding of literary conventions (e.g. metaphor, simile, personification, declarative, exclamative, repetition etc.) and their impact on the reader.</p>
Summer Two			