



English Literature Curriculum Overview - Year 8

		Unit	Details
Autumn One	Gothic Novel		<p>In the first term of Year 8, pupils study one of the following gothic novels: <i>'A Monster Calls'</i> by Patrick Ness, <i>'Cirque du Freak'</i> by Darren Shan or <i>'The Woman in Black'</i> by Susan Hill. In this unit we explore the key conventions of a gothic novel and ensure that pupils are able to identify them within the texts we are reading and analyse their impact on the reader. In addition, pupils will be able to utilise these conventions in their own piece of descriptive gothic writing. Throughout the study of the novel, we would expect pupils to fully understand the plot and also explore subtle nuances within the text that link to key themes such as conflict, the supernatural, relationships and cultural and societal diversity.</p>
Autumn Two			
Spring One	Poetry From Different Cultures		<p>In the second term of Year 8, pupils explore poetry from different cultures. This includes a range of poets such as: Hollie McNish, John Agard and Grace Nichols. We explore the context of these poems which enables pupils to gain a greater understanding for different cultures. In addition to this, pupils will explore poetic structures and ideas and consider how they are linked to our theme of diversity. Pupils will strengthen their understanding of poetic terminology through analysing language, structure and form and their subsequent impact on the audience. Furthermore, pupils will develop their comparative skills by comparing two poems and writing an in depth analysis of how the poets portray a specific theme.</p>
Spring Two			
Summer One	The Tempest		<p>In the final term, Year 8 pupils study the Shakespearian comedic play, <i>'The Tempest'</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 conflict 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 pupils will have a firm understanding of the events of the play and how an audience would respond to them.</p>
Summer Two			