

Scheme of Learning: Animals (Autumn Year 7)

Topic Sequence:

1	2	3	4
Animal Farm – a novel by G. Orwell	Poetry	Non-fiction	19 th century literature

Topic Overview:

This is the first topic in year 7, and we aim to introduce pupils to the skill of analytical reading that is at the core of English teaching and learning at secondary school. Pupils will be introduced to essential critical vocabulary and be exposed repeatedly to models of analysis using tentative language and embedded quotations as the first layer in our carefully sequenced progression of analytical skills. Animal Farm remains a GCSE set text so challenge is indisputable but it can also be accessed at different levels. We introduce the historical context of the briefly but, as this is not highly relevant here, we focus on considering the novel in relation to our 'theme' for Year 7 – what sort of society do the pupils want? It is a privilege to use this text to increase pupil's awareness of how power can be abused and the importance of developing our critical thinking. The remainder of the topic is a broad and balanced provision of poetry, non-fiction and the introduction of 19th century literature extracts that have been specially selected for KS3.

Lesson Sequence:

The lessons have been sequenced to introduce pupils to the demands of analytical reading at secondary school. We aim to engage pupils immediately at the start of year seven by reading Animal Farm by George Orwell. Lessons progress to pupils' exploring impressions of Mr Jones and an in-depth study of Old Major's speech. Following the study of this, and Dr Martin Luther King's 'I Have a Dream' speech, pupils will complete a baseline assessment in persuasive speech writing.

After this assessment, pupils will continue to read Animal Farm, exploring the plot, characters, themes, and context.

Alongside their study of Animal Farm, pupils will make use of a knowledge organiser to support the teaching and exploration of key ideas in the text. To consolidate their understanding of the text, they will then watch the animated film.

Next, pupils will explore a selection of poems from an anthology created for this topic. As part of the study of poetry, pupils will consider how different poets presents the relationships between animals, humans, and animals.

Following this, pupils will revisit non-fiction texts and consider the ways that writers present their viewpoints before their writing their own views on 'Is it Time to Close Zoos?'; pupils will have the choice of writing a letter to a newspaper or speech for their year group.

The final focus of this topic is a study of extracts from the 19th century (Animals in Adventure Stories) where pupils will consider the ways in which writers present animals.

Throughout year 7, pupils will also complete fortnightly 'Reading Comprehension' lessons through the first half term and fortnightly 'Writing Challenge' through the second. These are designed to improve pupils' ability to read and comprehend a variety of texts and provide regular opportunities for pupils to write creatively, independently, and at length. 'Literary Allusions' are taught as regular lesson starters, in order to build knowledge of those events and characters (both literary and historical) which are often alluded to in English Literature.

Two homework tasks are also included in this topic: a reading passport for students to record regular reading and a 'Toynbee Talks' task to be delivered in class during the first week following the half term break.

Sequence of Topic:

1	Introduction to the opening of Animal Farm
2	A study of persuasive feature of Old Major's speech
2	Baseline assessment – response to 'I Have a Dream...' stimulus
3	Class reading of Animal Farm with creative and analytical responses particularly focused on the behaviour of the pigs
4	Spoken Language Presentations
5	Explore a selection of poems from the anthology and consider how the poet presents the animal/the relationship between humans and animals
6	Non-fiction 'Is it Time to Close Zoos?' plus assessment
7	Animals in 19 th century literature

Topic Resources:

Knowledge Maps:	1. Animals	Prescribed Sources:	1. Animal Farm text
	2. Animal Farm		2. Poetry anthology
			3. Non-fiction texts
			4. 19 th century extracts

Assessment:

Knowledge:	Multiple choice knowledge test
Application of Knowledge:	Transactional writing in response to non-fiction stimulus

Supportive Reading:

Range of fiction texts with 'animals' as characters or subjects	Black Beauty War Horse Watership Down Suggested linked reading can also be found on the year 7 'Reading Passport'
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