

Scheme of Learning: Crime (Autumn Year 8)

Topic Sequence:

1	2	3	4
Sawbones – a novel by Catherine Johnson	Short stories	Crime poetry	Victorian crime

Topic Overview:

The first topic for English in year 8 is crime. Students will begin with the mandatory text *Sawbones* by Catherine Johnson. Students will be given the opportunity to critically analyse genre, narrative and characters using different sources from the crime topic. Students will study crimes that have been widely reported in the media such as the Stephen Lawrence murder learning about how crimes and criminals can be sensationalised and victims of prejudice.

Throughout the topic, students will also look at short stories such as 'Fly Paper' and 'Lamb to the Slaughter'.

Additionally, they will be provided with a crime themed poetry anthology for them to consider the ways in which poets portray crime through verse.

Lesson Sequence:

The crime themed lessons have been sequenced to capture students' engagement and interest in the topic. The topic allows students to study the ways in which crime can be presented through language and literature.

The first focus of the topic is the novel *Sawbones* by Catherine Johnson. Students will be encouraged to discuss their views and opinions on the narrative along with how each character is presented by the author.

Students will go on to look at the murder of Stephen Lawrence, how it was reported in the press and the impact this has had; they will also look at other non-fiction articles about knife crime so that students have been exposed to a variety of texts that will shed light on crime in different ways so that pupils are able to recognise bias and to discuss emotive topics.

As part of this unit, pupils will explore a series of short stories that have crime at the heart of their stories including stories such as *Fly Paper*, extracts from *Stone Cold* or *Magwitch*.

The third focus will be crime poetry. Students will consider how poets present the perpetrators and victims of crime. They will study poems such as *Hitchhiker*, *Let Him Have It* and *Stealing*. Pupils will explore different perspectives and will begin to read poetry at a deeper level so that they are able to develop their inference skills. In addition to this, pupils will discuss emotive topics such as mental health, the lasting impact of trauma and begin to form impressions of unsympathetic characters.

The final focus for this topic will be Victorian crime. Students will follow the Victorian Villains lessons along with Dickens on Brixton Prison.

Throughout year 8, 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 Learning:

1	Introduction to Crime
2	Class reader: <i>Sawbones</i>
3	Short stories
4	Crime in the media
5	Crime themed poetry anthology
6	Victorian Villains
7	Dickens on Brixton Prison
8	Assessment and Feedback

Topic Resources:

Knowledge Map:	1. <i>Sawbones</i> 2. Crime	Texts	<i>Sawbones</i> Poetry anthology Short stories
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Assessment:

Knowledge:	Multiple choice knowledge test
Application of Knowledge:	Writing Assessment

Supportive Reading:

Novels	<i>The Woman in Black</i> <i>Teacher's Dead</i> <i>Dark Lady</i> <i>Stone Cold</i> Suggested linked reading can also be found on the year 8 'Reading Passport'.
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