

Scheme of Learning: Literature Through the Ages (Summer Year 8)

Topic Sequence:

1	2	3	4	5	6	7
Development of the English Language	Classical Era Literature	Medieval Literature	Renaissance Literature	Victorian Literature	Modern Literature	The Tempest

Topic Overview:

A study of English Literature through time – followed by the detailed study of Shakespeare’s play ‘The Tempest’.

The overall aim of this unit is to build on pupils’ knowledge of the English literary heritage, further their understanding of the ways that texts reflect the context in which they are written, as well as developing their skills of analytical reading through engaging and challenging literature texts.

During this unit, pupils will return to the stories of Medusa and Beowulf (in their earlier forms) which they first encountered during the Y7 Myths and Monsters scheme. This meets the NC requirement for pupils to revisit texts.

Pupils will also study their second Shakespeare play of KS3. This meets the NC requirement for pupils to study two Shakespeare plays during this Key Stage, as well as beginning their preparation for the Shakespeare element of GCSE English Literature.

Lesson Sequence:

The lessons have been sequenced to purposely build pupils’ knowledge of the English literary heritage, to make links between stories and to be able to consider texts in context.

We begin with an introduction to the timeline of literature and the development of the English language from Old to Modern English. This will enable pupils to place in context the archaic language of the various texts they will study.

With this background in place, we then move on to the study literature through various periods of history – moving through the Classical, Medieval, Renaissance, Victorian and Modern eras chronologically. The aim of this is to help pupils understand the ways that literature changes with the times – and the extracts have been carefully selected to facilitate this historical journey, offering several opportunities to identify allusions to earlier texts as we move through time.

Once our timeline is complete, we then move on to a more detailed study of one text from the English Literary Heritage: Shakespeare’s ‘The Tempest’. Pupils will use the skills they have practised to analyse a character from the play – linking their ideas to the historical context and what it may teach us about Shakespeare’s viewpoint.

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 Topic:

1	The Development of the English Language
2	Classical Era - Genesis
3	Classical Era - Ovid
4	Medieval Era – Old English - The Lords Prayer and Beowulf
5	Medieval Era – Middle English – Chaucer’s Canterbury Tales
6	Renaissance Era – Shakespeare’s Sonnets
7	Renaissance Era – Marlowe/Blake
8	Victorian Era – Selection of extracts from across the era
9	Victorian Era – The Rise of the (Female) Novelist
10	Modern Era – A selection of 20th Century texts, alluding back to earlier stories
11	Modern Era – 20 th /21 st Century Dystopias
12	The Tempest by William Shakespeare
13	Literature Assessment – Analysing a Character from The Tempest

Topic Resources:

Knowledge Map:	1. Literature Through the Ages	Prescribed Sources:	1. Literature Through the Ages Anthology
	2. The Tempest		2. ‘The Tempest’ by William Shakespeare

Assessment:

Knowledge:	Multiple choice knowledge test of 20 questions.
Application of Knowledge:	Literature Assessment – The Tempest

Supportive Reading:

Range of texts from the English Literary Heritage	The Greek Myths by Robert Graves Beowulf: A New Verse Translation by Seamus Heaney Pride and Prejudice by Jane Austen Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë The Lion the Witch and the Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis Lord of the Flies by William Golding Nineteen Eighty-Four by George Orwell The Help by Kathryn Stockett Noughts and Crosses by Malorie Blackman
	Suggested linked reading can also be found on the year 8 ‘Reading Passport’.