

Scheme of Learning: Romanticism and The Gothic Genre (Autumn Year 9)

Topic Sequence:

1	2	3	4
Romantic Poetry	Gothic Literature (Frankenstein)	Development of the Gothic (short stories)	Gothic Writing

Topic Overview:

The Romantic and Gothic Period: late 18th – (first half) 19th Century. The Gothic genre emerged from the literature of dark romanticism.

This is the first topic in year 9, and the main aim is to develop pupils' skills of analytical reading and creative writing through engaging and challenging literature texts. Exposing pupils to romantic poetry and gothic prose will provide a wider reading experience for many. The close study of these texts will develop pupils' awareness of writers' techniques in preparation for the creative writing outcome for this unit. The study of Frankenstein (abridged) allows pupils to revisit this seminal text from the gothic period, as the play version is taught in the year 7 Myths and Monsters unit. In addition, by increasing the level of challenge that pupils face through the texts in this unit, pupils are being prepared for the Victorian novel (GCSE English Literature) which is taught in the autumn term of year 10.

Lesson Sequence:

The lessons have been sequenced to purposely build pupils' understanding and knowledge of the romantic and gothic periods.

The topic starts with an introduction to the context of romantic literature and the development of romanticism as a social movement in the late 18th century. Once pupils have a secure comprehension of this context, they will study a series of romantic poems allowing them to apply their knowledge and understanding of the romantic period. Poems are accessed via an anthology created for this unit.

From the poetry we move onto the study of Frankenstein. Using an abridged version of the text allows us to study this challenging story in some depth (which is ideal preparation for the GCSE study of the 19th Century novel). The National Curriculum: English programme of study states that pupils should "read increasingly challenging material independently through re-reading books encountered earlier to increase familiarity with them and provide a basis for making comparisons." Pupils will read a play of Frankenstein in year 7 (adapted by Philip Pullman) and then the abridged version of the novel in year 9. Bringing an understanding of the plot from this year 7 study will allow pupils' development as critical readers.

The final sequence of lessons in this unit focuses the development of the gothic genre through a selection of short stories which are also accessed via an anthology of specially chosen texts. These stories were selected for their levels of challenge as well as for illustrating the development of gothic ideas through the latter half of the 19th and early 20th centuries.

Each week, throughout year 9, pupils will complete one 'Weekly Writing Challenge' which are designed to provide regular opportunities for pupils to write creatively, independently, and at length as preparation for GCSE English Language.

Homework: each term, pupils are required to research, prepare, and deliver a presentation in class as part of 'Toynbee Talks'. Content and length of these presentations increase in challenge through year 9 before the GCSE Spoken Language assessment in the summer term.

Sequence of Topic:

1	Introduction to Romanticism
2	Chimney Sweeper – Blake
3	London – Blake
4	I Wandered Lonely... - Wordsworth
5	Excerpt from The Prelude (extract from boat stealing) – Wordsworth
6	Excerpt from the Prelude (extract from Ice Skating) – Wordsworth
7	Frankenstein (abridged) – Shelley
8	The Tell Tale Heart – Poe
9	Wuthering Heights (extract) – Bronte
10	The Signalman – Dickens
11	Dracula (key chapters) – Stoker
12	The Monkey's Paw – Jacobs
13	The Woman in Black (extract) - Hill
14	Narrative writing assessment preparation
15	Narrative writing assessment
16	Narrative writing assessment feedback

Topic Resources:

Knowledge Map:	1.	Romanticism and Gothic	Prescribed Sources:	1.	Poetry anthology
	2.	Frankenstein		2.	Frankenstein (abridged)

Assessment:

Knowledge:	Multiple choice knowledge test
Application of Knowledge:	Creative writing – continuation of a gothic story, crafting content, style, and structure

Supportive Reading:

Range of texts in the gothic genre	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Wuthering Heights • Twilight • The Picture of Dorian Gray • Bleak House • Northanger Abbey • The Hound of the Baskervilles
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