

# Scheme of Learning: Culture and Identity in Modern Texts (Spring Year 9)

## Topic Sequence:

1	2	3	4
Short stories/extracts	Non-fiction (including memoir)	Poetry	20th century text – Of Mice and Men a novel by J. Steinbeck

## Topic Overview:

This is the second topic in year 9. This topic was created from a need to broaden pupils' reading experiences and balance the curriculum to include a wider range of writers from different cultures and backgrounds. Pupils will study a collection of short stories and extracts in a 'Diverse Voices' anthology, a collection of non-fiction texts and extracts focusing on modern British society, poetry from other cultures and traditions, and the valued text 'Of Mice and Men' which is re-contextualised within the unit.

The unit was informed by the article Teaching Race in Schools in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century by Douglas Edelstein [Teaching Race in Schools in the 21st Century • \(blackpast.org\)](#) and the TED talk by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie which encourages pupils to consider one narrative from a range of perspectives and viewpoints.

## Lesson Sequence:

To begin this topic, pupils watch the TED talk by Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie on the importance of hearing from diverse voices to tackle prejudice to understand why it is important to consider ideas of culture and identity. Pupils then study a selection of engaging short stories and extracts which will broaden their reading experience. Next, the non-fiction and memoir component sets this reading within the broader context of Black History, in particular British Black History from the 1940s and this is brought right up to date with contemporary writings regarding the Windrush scandal and racism in Britain today, in order that pupils can write on the subject from an informed viewpoint.

Moving on, pupils study a poetry anthology which includes a mix of 20<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> century American and British poetry, and which introduces GCSE style poetry comparison as the assessment for this topic. The anthology is a clear bridge to the Power and Conflict anthology at KS4, with the students introduced to the assessment model that is required in the GCSE Literature exam. The American poetry allows for contextual study of the Civil Rights movement that informs the subsequent study of Of Mice and Men, which concludes the topic. Additionally, during the term pupils, will undertake an independent spoken language project on an aspect of human rights as part of their homework.

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 topic using TED talk on the danger of a single story (Chimamanda Ngozi Adichie)
2	Exploration of a series of short stories/extracts from English Media Centre's 'Diverse Voices' anthology - fiction
3	Exploring the experience of the Windrush generation – non-fiction
4	Poetry Anthology – exploring a range of modern poems – series of lessons
5	Introduction to poetry comparison (pupils will be assessed on this skill)
6	Spoken Language project – opportunity to research and present on aspect of human rights
7	Context and background to Of Mice and Men
8	Class reader: Of Mice and Men – focusing on characterisation and the portrayal of marginalised groups as represented in the text

## Topic Resources:

<b>Knowledge Map:</b>	Culture and Identity	<b>Any other Resources:</b>	Diverse Voices anthology Poetry anthology Of Mice and Men
-----------------------	----------------------	-----------------------------	---

## Assessment:

<b>Knowledge:</b>	A Knowledge Quiz of 20 questions
<b>Application of Knowledge:</b>	Pupils will compare how identity is explored in two poems from the anthology.

## Supportive Reading:

<b>Any supported reading listed here</b>	Noughts and Crosses – M. Blackman I Know Why The Caged Bird Sings – M Angelou Ghost Boys – J Parker-Rhodes The Hate U Give - A Thomas Windrush Child – B Zephaniah
--	--