

Year 8 English Curriculum Overview

HALF TERM 1	
<p>VICTORIAN VOICES</p> <p>Is society better now than in the Victorian era?</p>	<p>Students will know/learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The historical context of the 19th century• The development of the novel (Oliver Twist, Jane Eyre and The Speckled Band)• Conventional and non-conventional narrative structure• How writers structure their stories and non-fiction for impact• How to write successful narrative fiction
HALF TERM 2	
<p>CONFLICT POETRY</p> <p>Why do poets feel the need to write about war and conflict?</p>	<p>Students will know/learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The historical and social context of conflict poems• How to read a poem and explain first impressions• Key poetic devices• How to pick out key quotations and complete quotation analysis• How to compare different poems from different eras
HALF TERM 3 & 4	
<p>THE ART OF RHETORIC</p> <p>How can I change the world?</p>	<p>Students will know/learn:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• The origins of rhetoric• Aristotelian Triad – ethos, logos, pathos• Key conventions of persuasive writing• How writers use rhetoric successfully• How Orwell uses rhetorical devices through plot and character in Animal Farm• How writers use language to impact the reader/listener• How metre, tone and gesture can influence an audience

HALF TERM 5 & 6

MAKE 'EM LAUGH

How do playwrights make people laugh?

Students will know/learn:

- The historical and cultural context of Shakespeare's writing
- The conventions of Shakespearean theatre
- An introduction to the genre of comedy – satire, farce, mistaken identity, sarcasm, irony
- The key plot details in Shakespeare's **A Midsummer Night's Dream** and Russell's **Our Day Out**
- How writers use language to create comedy
- How metre, tone and gesture can influence an audience