

ABC Links to literacy

We develop literacy through reading and writing and through exposure to a wide variety of texts. We encourage discussion of texts and ideas through the use of versatile vocabulary.

AUTUMN - 2

Topic name: **Antigone**

Building off of the previous half-term unit students are now introduced to the genre of tragedy, through the Greek play *Antigone*. This unit provides an insight into how contextual links present themselves through literature and begin to identify the conventions of a Greek tragedy. The introduction and study of these conventions links to students later study of Shakespeare's plays, such as *Othello* in Year 9.

2

SPRING - 2

Topic name: **Abrahamic Allusions**

The stories of the three main Abrahamic religions, Judaism, Christianity and Islam, have had a huge impact on the culture and ideas of the world we live in. The popularity of these stories means that they are regularly used or alluded to regularly in English to show us something important about a person or situation. By learning these stories, students can both understand what writers intended messages are and also allude to them in their own writing.

4

SUMMER - 2

Topic name: **A Wrinkle in Time-Madeleine L'Engle**

In the summer term students focus on a singular piece of literature, *A Wrinkle in Time*. The main characters—Meg Murry, Charles Wallace Murry, and Calvin O'Keefe—embark on a journey through space and time, from galaxy to galaxy, as they endeavor to save the Murrys' father and the world. The novel offers a glimpse into the war between light and darkness, and good and evil, as the young characters mature into adolescents on their journey.^[4] The novel wrestles with questions of spirituality and purpose, as the characters are often thrown into conflicts of love, divinity, and goodness.

6

1

AUTUMN - 1

Topic name: **Greek Myths**

Why study this topic?

Students begin the year by studying a range of stories from Greek mythology. These stories present very clear messages and morals allowing students to engage with a range of characters and plots which have been incredibly influential on Western literature throughout time. This unit also provides an introduction to archetypal story conventions.

3

SPRING - 1

Topic name: **Beowulf**

Applying their knowledge of religious allusions and heroic conventions within writing, students now begin studying the epic poem *Beowulf*. Students begin to explore complex themes of good and evil, and engage with an influential piece of literary history. Connections can be seen within well-known fantasy books, such as *The Lord of the Rings*.

5

Summer 1

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Curriculum Principles:

- Retrieval practice: lessons contain repeated quizzing and interleaved recall Do Nows
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- Explicit writing instruction using The Hochman Method: the writing curriculum builds students' writing at a sentence level before progressing to a paragraph level

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AUTUMN - 2

Topic name: **Romeo and Juliet**

Why study this topic?

Students will develop an understanding of the methods with which Shakespeare responded to his own political and social context. Students will be encouraged to make cross-curricular links with their study of religious ideas and the role of religious expectation within Elizabethan society and the unit will build their understanding of the basic elements of English writing and how sentences are formed.

2

SPRING - 2

Topic name: **Binti**

Why study this topic?

Binti is an Africanfuturist Sci-Fi novella by Nigerian American author Nnedi Okorafor (*Ned-eeh Ok-or-ah-for*), first published in 2015. It depicts the moral complexities of identity, the pervasive nature of conflict and family loyalty as the protagonist, Binti, leaves her community for the first time to attend university on another planet. Students build on their knowledge of heroes vs. villains, conformity vs. defiance and the duality of characters that they began exploring throughout their year 7 texts.

4

SUMMER - 2

Topic name: **Things Fall Apart – Chinua Achebe**

Why study this topic?

Things Fall Apart is the debut novel by Nigerian author Chinua Achebe, first published in 1958. It depicts pre-colonial life in the southeastern part of Nigeria and the invasion by Europeans in the late 19th Century. It is seen as the archetypal modern African novel in English, and one of the first to receive global critical acclaim. The novel follows the life of Okonkwo, and Igbo ("Ibo" in the novel) man and local wrestling champion in the fictional Nigerian clan of Umuofia.

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SPRING - 1

Topic name: **Romantic Poetry**

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This topic will give an introduction to the Industrial Revolution and the impact this had on society feeds forward to the study of Dickens. Students will learn of Romantic Poets such as Blake and Shelley. They will understand Romanticism as a concept and how this was influenced by changes in society. Develop knowledge of how society's religious beliefs change/the rise of atheism and how this affected the Romantic Poets. This also feeds back to study of key Biblical stories and the influence they have on Literature.

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AUTUMN - 2

Topic name: **Othello by William Shakespeare**

Introduction to Shakespearean language; a pillar of cultural heritage and a key unit of GCSE literature in KS4. Pupils explore Elizabethan culture, themes of race and gender; justice and power; good and evil. They develop their critical analysis of ambiguous characters and their analytical writing skills.

2

SPRING - 2

Topic name: **The Harlem Renaissance**

This topic celebrates the beauty, diversity and power of art made by black Americans in New York City in the early 20th Century. African Americans of all social classes joined together in Harlem, which became the focal point of a growing interest in African American culture: jazz, blues, dance, theatre, art, fiction, and poetry. African American artists reclaimed their identity and pride in defiance of widespread prejudice, racism and discrimination. Pupils will explore how the genre remains hugely influential in contemporary culture, prose and poetry.

4

SUMMER - 2

Topic name: **Anita & Me Meera Syal**

Meena Kumar, a 11-year-old Sikh girl, lives with her family in the predominantly white, working class, fictional mining village of Tollington in the Black Country in 1972. Meena meets Anita, a white, 14-year-old girl whom Meena comes to idolise. However, Meena finds it harder and harder to fit in as her Indian heritage keeps on resurfacing, and Anita's new boyfriend proves to hold strong racist attitudes.

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AUTUMN - 2

Topic name: **Macbeth by William Shakespeare**

Why study this topic?

Shakespeare's famous tale of witchcraft, betrayal and political ambition. Pupils study the play in context, considering modern interpretations and engaging in forensic analysis of Shakespeare's language and intent. Links to Shakespeare at KS3. Pupils learn to appreciate and understand Shakespeare's craft and his impact and influence as the 'father of modern English'.

This unit is assessed by examination: Pupils need to know the whole play including interpretations, themes and quotations.

2

SPRING - 2

An Inspector Calls Lit 1

Priestley's famous play explores themes of social justice, class and inequality in a 20th Century context. Links to Oliver Twist (social inequality) and Greek Myths and Antigone (allegorical / political tale) at KS3. Pupils learn that we all share a collective responsibility for each other. They also apply discursive writing skills, language analysis and evaluation.

4

SUMMER-2

GCSE : Language Papers 2 Reading & Writing skills unit. Explicit teaching of exam skills and exam content. Pupils study a wide variety of non-fiction fiction texts. They focus on the skills of language analysis, summary and comparison. Students also learn to refine their skills in writing non-fiction texts.

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SPRING - 1

A Christmas Carol Lit 2

Dickens' famous novella explores themes of social justice, class and inequality in 19th Century London. Links to Oliver Twist unit at KS3 and ideas of redemption and change. Pupils study the text within the context in which it was written as well as considering its' modern relevance.

5

SUMMER -1

GCSE : Language Papers 1 Reading & Writing skills unit. Explicit teaching of exam skills and exam content. Pupils study a wide variety of fiction texts. They focus on the skills of language analysis, structural analysis and evaluation. Students also learn to refine their skills in writing fiction texts.

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AUTUMN-2

Poetry Conflict 1 & Unseen Lit 2

Pupils study an anthology of poetry both old and modern on the theme of Power and Conflict. Pupils are encouraged to study poetry as an art form, as well as to apply skills in language analysis and comparison. Pupils also learn to read and analyse 'unseen' poetry.

2

SPRING - 2

Revision Units

Revision Units representing a culmination of skills / knowledge taught throughout both KS3 & 4. Pupils revise all their Literature texts (Macbeth / An Inspector Calls / A Christmas Carol). Pupils study both content and skills and engage in extensive exam practice to ensure they are fully prepared for their Literature GCSE.

4

SUMMER - 2

GCSEs completed.

6

1

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