

Year 8 English – Outline Programme of Study

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Big ideas/ topics	The Role of Religion -Blake: Songs of Innocence (10 weeks) Grammar (15 weeks)	The Role of Religion Shakespeare's Women Shakespeare: Taming of the Shrew (10 weeks) Grammar	Shakespeare's Women Article Writing (8 weeks)	The Gothic Tradition Stevenson: Jekyll & Hyde (10 weeks) Short Story Writing (9 weeks)	The Gothic Tradition Adventure Literature Defoe: Robinson Crusoe (10 weeks) Short Story Writing	Adventure Literature Leaflet Writing (8 weeks)
Key Knowledge	The Role of Religion What is religion? What is creationism? What is original sin? What is an allusion? What is suggested about gender? How have views on religion changed? What is Romanticism? How is religion used by leaders?	Grammar What are the parts of language? What is a clause? How do you create a single clause sentence? What are the different dependent clauses? How do you use commas accurately within a sentence? How do you use a variety of advanced punctuation in your writing?	Shakespeare's Women What do we know about Shakespeare and his time? How were women regarded and treated when Shakespeare was writing? Who are Shakespeare's feisty women? How did women take on the traits and roles of men in Shakespeare's plays? Who are Shakespeare's villainous women? Who are Shakespeare's dazzling women? Who are Shakespeare's sympathetic women? Article Writing What is an article? What are the features of an article? How can you develop a viewpoint? How do you structure an article? How can you engage your reader and persuade them?	The Gothic Tradition What is genre? What is the gothic genre? What is the key vocabulary associated with the gothic genre? What is the context to Jekyll and Hyde? Who are the characters of Jekyll and Hyde? What is duality? What is pathetic fallacy? How is setting used? How is evil presented? Short Story Writing Setting What is setting? What is pathetic fallacy? How do you create a description of setting? How can you use setting to establish the genre?	Adventure Literature What is adventure? What is colonisation? What is the influence of Robinson Crusoe? What is the danger? Why islands? What is suggested about leadership? What is suggested about gender? What is suggested about children?	Leaflet Writing What is a leaflet? What are the features of a leaflet? How do you structure your writing for a leaflet? How do you present information in a leaflet?

Further information and reading list

Appropriate books

- For grammar support, there are a range of books available through CGP Books, including workbooks and study guides.

- Hodder Education KS3 English anthologies - <https://www.hoddereducation.co.uk/subjects/english/series/ks3-english-anthologies> (Shakespeare and Gothic)
- To support with the Role of Religion unit, reading texts that explore religious allusions, such as Coraline by Neil Gaiman and The Lion, The Witch and The Wardrobe by C.S. Lewis will help to deepen an understanding of these allusions.
- The Shakespeare's Women unit can be supported by reading (or watching) a variety of Shakespeare's texts, including Romeo and Juliet, A Midsummer Night's Dream and The Tempest. There are also a range of Shakespeare Retold stories, which cover the plots of many of Shakespeare's plays in a simple format. To further develop an understanding of the time and of some of Shakespeare's poetry, The Dark Lady by Akala would support.
- Reading further into the Gothic Literature unit could include reading Frankenstein by Mary Shelley, The Woman in Black by Susan Hill, Edgar Allen Poe's short stories or The Graveyard Book by Neil Gaiman.
- To support with the Adventure Literature unit, read Treasure Island by Robert Louis Stevenson, Swallows and Amazons by Arthur Ransome or Island of the Blue Dolphins by Scott O'Dell.

Links to useful websites

- BBC Bitesize - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/subjects/z3kw2hv>
- The British Library - <https://www.bl.uk/>
- BBC Teach - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ks3-english-language/zj3xbdm> and <https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/ks3-english-literature/z47n92p>
- Oak Academy - <https://classroom.thenational.academy/subjects-by-key-stage/key-stage-3/subjects/english>
- Librivox free audiobooks - <https://librivox.org/>

Ways to support and extend student learning in this subject

- Where possible, encourage your child to read independently. If your child struggles to read independently, listening to audiobooks can give them access to literature, bypassing some potential barriers.
- There are a wide range of documentaries available on YouTube and the BBC about different authors, texts and time periods. Supporting your child through watching these documentaries can help them to develop a further understanding of the texts covered.
- Engage in discussions with family members about books and vocabulary. Students are often taught a range of more sophisticated vocabulary - ask them about any new words that they have learnt and try to get them to use these words in conversation.
- If there is a film or TV programme available for the texts that have been studied in school, watching these can support with the understanding of specific plot lines. Some of these will be available through streaming sites, such as Netflix, and through YouTube.
- The British Library enables access to a range of different critical insights into a variety of texts that your child has covered. For example, there is extended information available about gender within Shakespeare's writing, which is covered during the Shakespeare's Women unit (<https://www.bl.uk/shakespeare/articles/shakespeare-and-gender-the-womans-part>)
- Your child can access a range of podcasts through the University of Oxford and the BBC. These podcasts will offer a critical understanding of the texts covered throughout the year.