

Year 8 English – Outline Programme of Study

	Term 1	Term 2	Term 3	Term 4	Term 5	Term 6
Big ideas/ topics	<p>Religion and Literature Blake: Songs of Innocence</p> <p>Grammar and descriptive writing - sentences</p>	<p>Religion and Literature Blake: Songs of Innocence</p> <p>Grammar and descriptive writing - sentences</p>	<p>Shakespeare's Women Shakespeare: Taming of the Shrew, Macbeth and King Lear</p> <p>Article writing</p>	<p>Shakespeare's Women Shakespeare: Taming of the Shrew, Macbeth and King Lear</p> <p>Article writing</p>	<p>The Gothic Tradition and Short Stories</p> <p>Writing a story – developing setting</p>	<p>The Gothic Tradition and Short Stories</p> <p>Writing a story – developing setting</p>
Key Knowledge	<p>The Role of Religion</p> <p>What religion is and how it has influenced literature.</p> <p>What creationism is and the difference between creationism and evolution.</p> <p>The nature of temptation and how this is explored through both religious texts and a range of literature.</p> <p>What an allusion is and how writers use allusions to present different ideas about society and human nature.</p> <p>How gender is presented in the Bible and how these teachings impact literature.</p> <p>The impact of science and the Industrial Revolution on religion.</p> <p>How Mary Shelley uses Frankenstein to expose fears surrounding scientific advancements in the 19th Century.</p> <p>What the period of Romanticism is and how it links to religious ideas.</p> <p>Who William Blake is and what his messages were about religion in the 19th Century.</p> <p>How religion can be used by leaders as propaganda.</p>	<p>Grammar</p> <p>What are the parts of language?</p> <p>What is a clause?</p> <p>How do you create a single clause sentence?</p> <p>What are the different dependent clauses?</p> <p>How do you use commas accurately within a sentence?</p> <p>How do you use a variety of advanced punctuation in your writing?</p>	<p>Shakespeare's Women</p> <p>Who William Shakespeare was.</p> <p>How personal moments in Shakespeare's life impacted his writing.</p> <p>The impact of the plague on theatre in the 15-1600s and how this links to recent experiences.</p> <p>What the stereotypical female was like in the 1500s and how this stereotype is similar / different in today's society.</p> <p>How women were treated in the 1500s by their family and how this was highlighted through Shakespeare's plays.</p> <p>How women attempted to defy the conventions of the time and the messages to wider society about this.</p> <p>The impact of a patriarchal society on women.</p> <p>What a villainous character is and how they are presented.</p> <p>How women were victimised through the witch hunts and how this is presented in literature.</p> <p>The impact of the belief in the supernatural.</p> <p>How modern interpretations of Shakespeare's plays present female characters and why they are presented in this way.</p>	<p>Article Writing</p> <p>What is an article?</p> <p>What are the features of an article?</p> <p>How can you develop a viewpoint?</p> <p>How do you structure an article?</p> <p>How can you engage your reader and persuade them?</p>	<p>The Gothic Tradition and Short Stories</p> <p>What genre is and the ways in which literature crosses genre.</p> <p>What the key conventions of the gothic genre are.</p> <p>What pathetic fallacy is and how it is used by writers.</p> <p>What the narrative and stylistic features of short stories are.</p> <p>How setting is used to contribute to meaning.</p> <p>How ideas about the nature of good and evil are presented.</p> <p>How historical and literary contexts influence gothic literature.</p> <p>Ideas about 'damsels in distress' and their place in narrative.</p>	<p>Writing a story – developing setting</p> <p>What is setting?</p> <p>How can pathetic fallacy be used to create a setting?</p> <p>How do you create a description of setting?</p> <p>How can you use setting to establish the genre?</p>



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 Religion and Literature 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 and Short Stories 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.

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.