

Subject Overview English – Year 8

Students in Year 8 will continue to study a range of texts: gothic fiction, love and relationship poetry, Shakespeare, short stories and non-fiction. They will explore the concept of the 'human condition' through developing reading, writing and oracy skills linked together through the theme of human emotions.

	Half Term 1	Half Term 2	Half Term 3	Half Term 4	Half Term 5	Half Term 6
Knowledge & Skills	Unit 1: The Woman in Black (40 Lessons) Students will learn about: The conventions of gothic fiction and characterisation. Skills Reading: Developing 'What, how, why' –comprehension. Writing: Non-fiction letter writing, describing events to create different atmospheres and elicit different emotional responses.	Unit 2: Gothic writing (35 Lessons) Students will learn about: The gothic genre with a focus on narrative writing. Skills Reading: Explaining the impact of gothic structures and developing 'what how why' approaches to language. Writing: Planning and writing a gothic story. Assessment 1 - Identify and infer - Comprehension - Inference - Language – choice and effects - Considering a reader's opinion	Unit 3: Poetry: Love and Relationships (30 Lessons) Students will learn about: How to explore poetry with a focus on themes and poetic techniques. Skills Reading: Focus on 'how' writers use language and structure. Writing: Expressing personal feelings through letter writing.	Unit 4: Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet (30 Lessons) Students will learn about: The tragic genre and the five-act play structure. Skills Reading: Understanding the form of the play and developing 'what how why' approaches to language. Writing: Writing soliloquys to reflect character's viewpoint and track emotional journey. Assessment 2 - Identify and infer - Structure – choice and effects - Descriptive writing	Unit 5: Short Stories: Family and Community (30 Lessons) Students will learn about: Short stories and their conventions. Skills Reading: Developing 'what how why' approaches to structure. Writing: Planning and refining writing of a short story.	Unit 6: Human emotion sin non-fiction (35 Lessons) Students will learn about: Viewpoints, attitudes and opinions of writers. Skills Reading: Selecting relevant evidence, scanning and skimming skills. Writing: To construct an autobiographical account of an event.
Beyond The Curriculum	School enrichment: Magazine Club Suggested places to visit: https://www.english-heritage.org.uk/visit/place-s/whitby-abbey/history-and-stories/dracula/ Suggested reading: The Power of Dark by Robin Jarvis	School enrichment: Magazine Club Suggested reading: Percy Jackson by Rick Riordan	School enrichment: Magazine Club Suggested reading: The Usbourne Complete Shakespeare – Stories from all the plays by Anna Milbourne	School enrichment: Magazine Club Suggested reading: Michael Rosen's A-Z: The best children's poetry from Agard to Zephaniah	School enrichment: Magazine Club Suggested reading: Asha and the Spirit Bird by Jasbinder Bilan	