



Armfield Academy – Department of English – Key Stage 3

2025-26 Year 8 Curriculum Overview



Half Term 1	
Date	Viewpoint Writing
	Animal Welfare
Week 1	Analyse an emotive article about the moral and ethical implications of sow stalls.
Week 2	Plan and write an emotive and persuasive speech on the topic of sow stalls. [application]
Week 3	Partake in a debate on how humans use animals whilst in role as a given member of society. Revise the correct use of commas.
Week 4	Understand, summarise and analyse an article portraying the issues surrounding tusk-poaching.
Week 5	Learn about persuasive devices and how they can be successfully embedded in transactional writing.
Week 6	Craft an emotional and persuasive letter on the topic of fur fashion. [application]
Week 7	Write a persuasive article synthesising humans' treatment of animals. [application]
	* [feedback] all independent applications are subject to peer / self-reflection, whole-class feedback and / or teacher assessment
Half Term 2	
Date	Shakespeare Play
	Macbeth
Week 1	Revise the context of the Elizabethan and Jacobean eras. Annotate details on the play's plot, themes and characters
Week 2	Discuss and write about the significance of the witches in the play. Read Act 1. [application]
Week 3	Analyse Lady Macbeth's soliloquy and the language use therein. Begin reading Act 2. [application]
Week 4	Consider how Shakespeare's structural devices are used to build tension in Act 2. Read Act 2
Week 5	Begin reading Act 3. Summarise and analytically discuss how Macbeth's duplicity is beginning to fracture in the Banquet scene
Week 6	Plan and write an extended essay response to a given scene from the play. [application]
Week 7	Decipher meaning within Shakespearean language and discuss interpretations when completing a reading of Acts 3-5
	* [feedback] all independent applications are subject to peer / self-reflection, whole-class feedback and / or teacher assessment
Half Term 3	
Date	Creative Writing [Descriptive]
	The Hound of the Baskervilles
Week 1	Research and investigate the crimes of Victorian England. Learn and apply ambitious vocabulary in a descriptive writing task [application]
Week 2	Read an abridged copy of The Hound of the Baskervilles to comprehend the plot and characters, deducing implicit meaning where possible
Week 3	Practise correct use of technical and grammatical skills to improve descriptive writing output
Week 4	Write an imaginative and descriptive portrayal of the Hound using the previously learnt technical skills [application]
Week 5	Solidify descriptive writing technique with a description of Baskerville Hall
Week 6	Plan and write an extended descriptive response to the given stimulus [application]
	* [feedback] all independent applications are subject to peer / self-reflection, whole-class feedback and / or teacher assessment
Half Term 4	
Date	Poetry Anthology
	Relationship / Identity Theme
Week 1	Show an existing knowledge of poetry and poetic devices and develop a knowledge of additional techniques
Week 2	Through annotation and discussion, identify how methods are used to present the theme in a range of poems [application]
Week 3	Link contextual awareness to each analysis of the poems in the anthology
Week 4	Compare and contrast how a theme is conveyed across two poems. [application]
Week 5	Further explore the similarities and differences of the poems in the anthology in relation to the theme and develop analytical writing skills
Week 6	Plan and write a poetry comparison essay which analyses the theme within two poems [application]
	* [feedback] all independent applications are subject to peer / self-reflection, whole-class feedback and / or teacher assessment
Half Term 5	
Date	Literary Non-fiction Writing
	Travel
Week 1	Develop vocabulary and understanding of non-fiction through the exploration of The Orient Express
Week 2	Analyse persuasive language used in travel brochures and develop key writing skills through further exploration of The Orient Express.
Week 3	Plan and produce a non-fiction writing piece in the form of a travel review based on The Orient Express. [application]
Week 4	Explore the use of satire in travel writing and produce a satirical review of an undesirable holiday. [application]
Week 5	Further explore non-fiction writing through a series of travel articles and the skills required to produce non-fiction writing pieces
Week 6	Plan and write an extended non-fiction writing piece to the given stimulus. [application]
	* [feedback] all independent applications are subject to peer / self-reflection, whole-class feedback and / or teacher assessment
Half Term 6	
Date	Novella Study
	Animal Farm
Week 1	Explore the context surrounding the Russian Revolution and the inspiration for the novella 'Animal Farm'
Week 2	Read the early chapters of 'Animal Farm' and complete comprehension activities to consolidate understanding of the text [application]
Week 3	Plan and produce a pamphlet to demonstrate knowledge of the core theme of the novella and continue reading 'Animal Farm' [application]
Week 4	Analyse the language used by Orwell in 'Animal Farm' and develop analytical writing skills. [application]
Week 5	Explore the characters of 'Animal Farm' in depth and consider the key differences in character between Snowball and Napoleon
Week 6	Summarise the final chapter of 'Animal Farm' and consolidate knowledge of plot, theme and character
Week 7	Plan and write an extended creative writing piece from the perspective of a character in the novella [application]
	* [feedback] all independent applications are subject to peer / self-reflection, whole-class feedback and / or teacher assessment