

YEAR 8 ENGLISH LEARNING JOURNEY

Deepening understanding. Developing skills. Expressing ideas with confidence.



AUTUMN 1

MY TOPICS:

Modern Novel Study:
Noughts & Crosses
by Malorie Blackman
(Part 1).

MY SKILLS:

- Understand, describe, select, and retrieve explicit information and ideas using quotation and reference to text (AO1).
- Deduce, infer, or interpret information, events, or ideas from texts (AO1).
- Construct paragraphs and build cohesion within and between paragraphs (AO5).

WHY THIS, WHY NOW?

I am moving beyond simple linear reading. Exploring a contemporary novel across two terms challenges me to track a sustained plot line, analyse how language choices construct character viewpoints, and master clear paragraph structures.



AUTUMN 2

MY TOPICS:

Modern Novel Study:
Noughts & Crosses
by Malorie Blackman
(Part 2).

MY SKILLS:

- Explain and comment on a writer's use of language and structural techniques to create a specific effect on the reader (AO2).
- Identify and comment on writers' purposes and viewpoints (AO2).
- Plan and write in clear structures with logical sequencing (AO5).

WHY THIS, WHY NOW?

I am developing a deeper understanding of plot, character involvement, and themes. Comparing the novel across two terms helps me build confidence in analysing how writers present ideas and perspectives.



SPRING 1

MY TOPICS:

Shakespeare Study:
Romeo and Juliet
(Part 1).

MY SKILLS:

- Analyse how writers use language, structure, and dramatic techniques (heavily focused on AO2).
- Identify themes and symbols and their significance (AO2).
- Begin to evaluate a writer's perspective and presentational choices (AO3).

WHY THIS, WHY NOW?

I am building my critical voice and exploring how Shakespeare presents ideas about love, conflict and society. This prepares me for more complex analysis and independent thinking.



SPRING 2

MY TOPICS:

Shakespeare Study:
Romeo and Juliet
(Part 2).

MY SKILLS:

- Explore how language, structure, and dramatic techniques create meaning (AO2).
- Analyse the effects of Shakespeare's choices (AO2 and AO3).
- Write analytical and comparative paragraphs using clear structure (AO5).

WHY THIS, WHY NOW?

I am refining my analytical voice. Comparing different extracts and perspectives helps me explore the themes, characters and context in greater depth and with more confidence.



SUMMER 1

MY TOPICS:

Non-fiction Study:
Media and Society
(Articles & Essays).

MY SKILLS:

- Identify and comment on text type, audience and purpose (TAP).
- Evaluate writers' methods and techniques (AO2).
- Plan and write for a clear purpose and audience (AO5).

WHY THIS, WHY NOW?

I am developing my ability to analyse non-fiction texts and understand how writers shape meaning. This prepares me for real-world writing and critical evaluation.



SUMMER 2

MY TOPICS:

Literary Studies and
Composition:
Relationships Poetry.

MY SKILLS:

- Compare poems and explore connections between ideas (AO3).
- Analyse structure, form and language for effect (AO2).
- Write thoughtful evaluations (AO5).

WHY THIS, WHY NOW?

I am consolidating my Year 8 reading profiles. Comparing themes and ideas across poems helps me trace contextual changes and link related ideas across texts.

