

YR7

Y7 UNIT 1

## Ancient Origins

### Men and monsters

Why is Homer's **Odyssey** such an important text?  
How did humans use **myths** and stories to make sense of the world around them?  
Is Odysseus a **hero**?  
Can a hero be flawed?  
How are women presented in this ancient text? How have **modern retellings** told the story from women's point of view?

**Context:** What was life like in ancient Greece? What is  **Xenia**? Who was Homer? Was life different for men and women? Was ancient Greece a **patriarchal society**?

Take part in a debate

## African Tales

### Heroes and Rebels

What makes someone heroic?  
Are rebels bad people?  
What motivates people to break rules?  
What do European and African gods, myths and monsters have in common?  
How does author Natasha Bowen present the character Simidele and the setting of the sea in **The Skin of the Sea**?

**Context:** What was it like to live in West Africa in the 1500s? Why did slave ships exist and what was it like to be on one? What did England have to do with the slave trade? When and why did it end?

Perform to an audience

Y7 UNIT 3

## Shakespeare

### Mischief and Mayhem

How does William Shakespeare present the complexity of relationships in his magical comedy 'A Midsummer Night's Dream'?  
How is the harsh city of Athens **juxtaposed** with the magical freedom of the forest?  
How does Shakespeare use language to present **character**?  
What **techniques** are used to create humour?  
How is **gender** shown?

**Context:** Was Athens a strict, **patriarchal society**? What was family life like in Athenian and Elizabethan culture? How does Shakespeare **subvert social expectations** of the time?

See a Shakespeare play in performance

YR8

Y8 UNIT 1

## Pursuing the Dream

### Great Expectations

How does Dickens present the young vulnerable Pip in his most famous novel, 'Great Expectations'?  
How does Dickens use **pathetic fallacy** and **figurative language** (metaphor, simile and personification) to create memorable **settings, characters and events**?  
How do authors create **sympathy** in a reader? Can we ever feel sorry for a **villain**?  
Why do some people act **immorally**?  
Is the **right thing to do** always the **right thing to do**? Is it ever justifiable to lie in order to accomplish something?  
Do traumatic events of the **past** influence the **future**?  
How do poets present social class throughout history?  
How is a debate structured? Is money important in life?

**Context:** What was life like in Victorian England? What is different for rich and poor people or between men and women? Who was Charles Dickens and why is he such an important figure in literary history?

Write an email to your head of year about your ambitions for the future.

Stand up when answering a question in class.

Y8 UNIT 2

## Laughter and Love:

### Shakespeare

How does William Shakespeare present the battle of the sexes in his comedy 'Much Ado About Nothing'?  
Are **men and women** presented differently in the play?  
How are relationships in **families** shown?  
How does Shakespeare use contrast, or '**foils**' to show the complexity and depth of a character?  
If a person is hurt through **humour**, is it still funny?  
How does Shakespeare **dialogue, wit and banter** to create funny scenarios?  
What are the differences between **satire, parody and slapstick**?  
How do poets throughout history present love?

**Context:** What was **Elisabethan life** like for men and women? Have things changed very much? How has the genre of comedy changed over time?

Read a passage from your favourite book and explain why it is your favourite.

Write a letter to the senior leaders at school about something you really like in school and about something you would really like to change, explaining why and giving possible solutions.

Y8 UNIT 3

## Rebellions and revolutions

### Animal Farm

Does George Orwell show power as a force of corruption in his novel 'Animal Farm'?  
What is an '**allegory**'?  
Does Orwell use **zoomorphism** or **anthropomorphism** in his novel?  
Is the farm a **microcosm / symbol** for society?  
What is **foreshadowing** and how does Orwell use it?  
What is a social **hierarchy**?

**Eco Futures:** How do **non-fiction authors** present our responsibility to the environment?

**Context:** What happened during the Russian Revolution? What is the difference between socialism and communism?

Y9 UNIT 1

## Moral Responsibility

### Frankenstein

What are the **conventions of Gothic** writing and why is this still such a popular genre of fiction?  
How are **personification, pathetic fallacy** and **figurative language** used to create horror and terror?  
In what ways is Mary Shelley's 'Frankenstein' a classic example of gothic and Romantic fiction?  
Is Victor Frankenstein a good person?  
Is Frankenstein's creature a bad person?  
To what extent does rejection account for moral corruption?  
**Eco Futures:** How did the **Romantics** view nature and what can we learn from this for today?  
What is the sublime? What is our responsibility to each other and to the planet? What could happen if we don't take care of each other?  
How do poets and non-fiction writers convey Gothic themes and ideas such as terror and horror?  
Why does the poetry of Edgar Allan Poe endure to this day?

**Context:** Was life the same for men and women or rich and poor in Victorian England? Who were the Romantics? Who was Mary Shelley and why is still important today?

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Be actively involved in a class debate and offer suggestions and ideas that might support or disagree with an idea?

Y9 UNIT 2

## Violent love

### Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet

Are Romeo and Juliet destined to be together?  
How does Shakespeare present conflict, love and violence?  
What purpose does a prologue serve?  
How is stage craft used to present the story?  
How have sonnets been used throughout the years to portray different kinds of love (family, romantic, friendship).  
How does Shakespeare use dramatic irony?

**Eco Futures:** How does Shakespeare use **natural imagery** to present love and hate?

**Context:** What was life like for women in the Elisabeth period (review)? What are the consequences of a **patriarchal society**?



## Belonging

### The Outsiders

How does SE Hinton show the human need to belong in her iconic classic 'The Outsiders'? Is the story still relevant today?  
How does Ponyboy Curtis' narration of the story show insight and compassion?  
How does Hinton use description to develop characters? How is foreshadowing used to help readers make predictions?  
How does Hinton explore social class and the need for belonging using motif and theme?

**Context:** What was it like to live in 1950s America? How did life differ for rich and poor people?



Write a letter of complaint.

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