

Year 7

Autumn 1	Ancient Origins: Men and monsters Why is <i>Homer's Odyssey</i> such an important text? How did humans use myths and stories to makes 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?
Autumn 2	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?
Spring 1	A journey to greatness: <i>Sir Gawain and the Green Knight</i> What makes someone heroic? Is there more to a villain then their failures? Is there more to a hero than their successes? What motivates someone to break the rules? How do the authors present Sir Gawain and Beowulf?
Spring 2	
Summer 1	Mischief and Mayhem: <i>Shakespeare</i> How does William Shakespeare present the complexity of relationships in his magical comedy ' <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> '? 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?
Summer 2	
	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?

Year 8

Autumn 1	Pursuing the Dream: <i>Great Expectations</i> How does Dickens present the young vulnerable Pip in his most famous novel, ' <i>Great Expectations</i> '? 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?
Autumn 2	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?
Spring 1	Laughter and Love: <i>Shakespeare</i> How does William Shakespeare present the battle of the sexes in his comedy ' <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i> '? 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 use dialogue, wit and banter to create funny scenarios? How do poets throughout history present love?
Spring 2	Context: What was Elisabethan life like for men and women? Have things changed very much?
Summer 1	Rebellions and revolutions: <i>Animal Farm</i> Does George Orwell show power as a force of corruption in his novel ' <i>Animal Farm</i> '? What is an 'allegory'? Does Orwell use zoomorphism or anthropomorphism in his novel? What is foreshadowing and how does Orwell use it? What is a social hierarchy? What is rhetoric and how is it used in <i>Animal Farm</i> and beyond? How are ethos, pathos and logos used in rhetoric?
Summer 2	Context: What happened during the Russian Revolution? What is the difference between socialism and communism? Eco Futures: How can we use rhetoric to encourage a collective responsibility for our relationship with nature?

Year 9

Autumn 1	Moral Responsibility: <i>Frankenstein</i> 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 ' <i>Frankenstein</i> ' a classic example of gothic and Romanic fiction? Is Victor Frankenstein a good person? Is <i>Frankenstein's</i> creature a bad person? To what extent does rejection account for moral corruption? 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 Allen Poe endure to this day?
Autumn 2	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? Eco Futures: How did the Romantics view nature and what can we learn from this for today?
Spring 1	Violent love: <i>Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet</i> 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?
Spring 2	
	Context: What was life like for women in the Elisabeth period (review)? What are the consequences of a patriarchal society? Eco Futures: How does Shakespeare use natural imagery to present love and hate?
Summer 1	Belonging: <i>The Outsiders</i> 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?
Summer 2	
	Context: What was it like to live in 1950s America? How did life differ for rich and poor people?