

# Whitworth Community High School

## English Department

Teacher in Charge/Faculty Leader: P.Williams

### Year 8 Learning Overview

#### Organisation of the classes:

We have 5 sets in English.

Sets are agreed upon based on: KS2 data and target; Baseline assessment (yr.7); reading and spelling ages; CAT scores; performance in assessment; progress in class

#### Key Concepts

- Understanding written texts
- Exploring the writer's craft
- Writing for different audiences and purposes
- Literary analysis and criticism
- Enjoyment and appreciation of written and dramatic texts
- Speaking and listening

#### What skills do I use in this subject?

##### Reading

- Selecting and retrieving information
- Inference and deduction
- Analysis of language and structure
- Evaluation
- Comparison
- Synthesis

##### Writing

- Technical accuracy (Spelling, punctuation and grammar)
- Structuring and organising ideas
- Writing for different audiences and purposes
- Using language for effect

##### Speaking and Listening

- Group discussion
- Research skills
- Giving a speech
- Responding to questions

#### What will you be learning?

English is a skills based subject. This means that you will be learning to develop your ability in these skills throughout your time at Whitworth High School. You will apply the same skills to a wide variety of texts and contexts. In year 9 you will be covering the following in the order presented:

- Gothic Literature – **Analysing Language** and **writing description and narrative** – You will look at a range of extracts from gothic literature including The Red Room, Frankenstein, the Woman in Black, Dracula and others. You will learn to analyse language closely looking at the effects of word choice, language techniques and sentence structure. You will also learn to structure and write your own gothic descriptions and short stories

#### How will you be learning?

- Discussion
- Written responses
- Group activities
- Drama activities
- Assessment for learning and feedback

<p>using the conventions of gothic literature.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Seminal World Literature – <b>Comparison</b> – You will study a range of literature that addresses issues of culture and identity. From poetry and extracts about the slave trade to contemporary poetry and articles about immigration and multi-cultural Britain. You will learn to compare ideas, attitudes and the methods writers use.</li> <li>• Animal Farm/Of Mice and Men – <b>Evaluate/Structure</b> and <b>Writing Opinion</b> – You will read one of the above texts and study the cultural historical background as well as some of the big ideas that inspired the writing. You will learn to write an evaluative response to statements made about the text and to consider how the writer uses structure and language to create effects. You will also be learning to construct and write persuasively and to create convincing arguments.</li> <li>• Exam Preparation – <b>All skills</b> – You will learn how to approach an English Language Paper 1 exam. The exam will follow the same structure as the exam you will sit in year 11. The exam will be based on an unseen extract from a 20<sup>th</sup> century literature text. You will also learn to write description and narrative.</li> <li>• Persuasive writing – You will learn to write persuasively on a topic of your choice and build speaking and listening skills ready to give an effective speech.</li> </ul>	
<p><b>How will your learning be assessed?</b></p> <p>You will be assessed through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Written responses</li> <li>• Giving a speech</li> <li>• Examination</li> </ul> <p>You will have:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Formative assessments (where the teacher will support you in the development of a skill and give you advice on improvements)</li> <li>• Summative exams (both mock exams and terminal exams)</li> </ul>	<p><b>Home Learning</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Home learning will be set through a half-termly Home-learning booklet.</li> <li>• You will be expected to prepare a speech or presentation including <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Research</li> <li>○ Effective language choices</li> <li>○ Demonstration of the use of standard English</li> <li>○ Preparation of visual aids to enhance your presentation of ideas</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Your home-learning will be based around the topic of study for that term or half-term.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Equipment needed?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pen and pencil</li> <li>• Highlighter</li> <li>• Ruler</li> </ul>	<p><b>How can your parents support your learning?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Read the same texts or encourage students to read similar texts to those studied during the year, so you can share experiences</li> <li>• Ask the student to teach you what they have learned and how to pass an English exam</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Buy texts for home study and reading</li> <li>• Encourage reading of fiction and non-fiction texts and listen to your child read</li> <li>• Discuss topical issues</li> <li>• Encourage students to use accurate grammar or support them in using internet based programs to develop these skills</li> <li>• Revise English language features, terms and literary techniques</li> </ul>
<p><b>SMSC Links – Focus on Aspirations</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Issues relating to the texts we study this year will include, power, conflict, war, responsibility, class, education, identity, ambition, the supernatural, judgement and consequences to name but a few. The nature of the texts studied allows for the consideration of very different moral, political, social, cultural and historical areas of interest. When studying non-fiction and preparing for giving a speech new hot topics will arise through the reading material.</li> <li>• In English we have high expectations and our lessons are designed to develop skills to reach and surpass target grades.</li> <li>• The novel and plays studied are chosen to give students the knowledge and cultural capital to become engaged in complex ideas and have the confidence to express views.</li> <li>• We have had visiting authors and the development of wider reading provides students with aspiration in their reading material.</li> </ul>	<p><b>What extra-curricular activities or enrichment opportunities are available?</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• These change year on year based on what theatre productions are available.</li> <li>• Every year we offer booster sessions on a Thursday after school, during the Easter Holiday and in the half-term before the exam season.</li> </ul>