

Westfield Academy - Curriculum Information

In year 8 English, students will learn to compose a short story in its entirety - that is, a story that must have a beginning, middle and end in order to be successful. Students will examine texts with political messages and begin to think about the link between politics and individual liberties. Later in the year students will strengthen their understanding of poetry by looking at alienated figures and narrative voices. The year closes with students furthering their understanding of the generic conventions of Shakespearean tragedies, histories and comedies.

English

Head of Department	N Cowell	
Head of Department email	nmc@westfield.academy	
Lessons per 2 week cycle	7 lessons across 2 weeks, 1 of which is a library lesson	
Specification/Board details/Key stage	Key stage 3 - year 8	

Term by term

Autumn 1	Autumn 2	Spring 1
Iridescent Adolescent - Diverse Literary Short Stories	Writing Inspired by Modern Fiction	Character and Voice Poetry
Spring 2	Summer 1	Summer 2
Animal Farm by George Orwell	Animal Farm by George Orwell	Study of Shakespearean Extracts

Key Skills developed

The year 8 curriculum equips students with a range of skills. The writing units at the beginning of the year build upon the writing skills that were crafted at the end of year 7 - except now they come with the added challenge of writing a complete story, rather than emulating aspects of a story e.g. writing about setting, writing to create fear. In year 8 there is a greater challenge in terms of the sequencing of a short story and students learn to understand different writing styles (poetic, graphic novel, dystopian, symbolic). Later in the year, the reading units develop students' reading comprehension skills and their ability to retrieve quotations to support an interpretation of a text and their ability to write a sustained interpretation about different parts of a text (i.e. write about different moments in a poem and their effects). Students end the year by refining their ability to understand and interpret Early Modern English.

Useful Websites	BBC Bitesize YouTube																						
Reading/Literacy requirements /Key Words	<table> <tr> <th>Key word</th><th>Definition</th></tr> <tr> <td>Symbolism</td><td>An artistic and poetic movement or style using symbolic images and indirect suggestion to express mystical ideas, emotions, and states of mind</td></tr> <tr> <td>Graphic novel</td><td>A novel in comic-strip format.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Alienation</td><td>The feeling that you have no connection with the people around you or that you are not part of a group.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Satire</td><td>The use of humour, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose and criticise people's stupidity or vices, particularly in the context of contemporary politics and other topical issues.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Fable</td><td>A short story, typically with animals as characters, conveying a moral.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Communism</td><td>A theory or system of social organisation in which all property is owned by the community and each person contributes and receives according to their ability and needs.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Comedy</td><td>A branch of drama that deals with everyday life and humorous events, intended to amuse and entertain.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Tragedy</td><td>A branch of drama that treats in a serious and dignified style the sorrowful or terrible events encountered or caused by a heroic individual.</td></tr> <tr> <td>History</td><td>A dramatic work where the events of the plot are either partially or entirely drawn from people and events of the past.</td></tr> <tr> <td>Oppression</td><td>Prolonged cruel or unjust treatment or exercise of authority.</td></tr> </table>	Key word	Definition	Symbolism	An artistic and poetic movement or style using symbolic images and indirect suggestion to express mystical ideas, emotions, and states of mind	Graphic novel	A novel in comic-strip format.	Alienation	The feeling that you have no connection with the people around you or that you are not part of a group.	Satire	The use of humour, irony, exaggeration, or ridicule to expose and criticise people's stupidity or vices, particularly in the context of contemporary politics and other topical issues.	Fable	A short story, typically with animals as characters, conveying a moral.	Communism	A theory or system of social organisation in which all property is owned by the community and each person contributes and receives according to their ability and needs.	Comedy	A branch of drama that deals with everyday life and humorous events, intended to amuse and entertain.	Tragedy	A branch of drama that treats in a serious and dignified style the sorrowful or terrible events encountered or caused by a heroic individual.	History	A dramatic work where the events of the plot are either partially or entirely drawn from people and events of the past.	Oppression	Prolonged cruel or unjust treatment or exercise of authority.
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Homework requirements	Students will be set homework via Google Classroom amounting to 30 minutes per week.																						
Personal Development Links	There are various personal development links throughout this curriculum. For instance, the Iridescent Adolescent																						

	<p>collection of short stories encourages students to reflect on various coming-of-age scenarios and the tragedy of difficult or even impossible decisions. The writing unit inspired by modern fiction begins to look at more mature themes than other parts of the curriculum - encouraging discourse around characters who are stigmatised or often feel oppressed, themes developed in the 'Character and Voice' poetry afterwards. Animal Farm meanwhile begins to get students thinking about the link between politics and individual liberties and the rule of law. Lastly, students build their cultural capital by examining different Shakespearean extracts from his comedies, tragedies and histories, arranged by theme.</p>
Trips/Visits (If applicable)	<p>In previous years we have arranged trips to The Harry Potter Studios to participate in a creative writing workshop and the department continues to look for opportunities like this. Other opportunities might include career events.</p>