

## Year 8: 2017-2018

As part of each unit, students will complete a number of tasks, although only the starred ones (\*) are formally assessed:

### Term 1.1 (Sept – October Half Term)

#### Short Story Anthology

- study a number of stories from the anthology, looking at aspects of narrative and the way writer's shape meaning
- appreciate our 'rich and varied literary heritage' by studying texts from the 19th century
- create media posters of a text, to illuminate the key themes and ideas of the text
- **Produce the opening to a short story.\***

✓ Writing PDs 1-3

### Term 1.2 (Oct Half Term – Christmas)

#### Shakespearean tragedy

- study a selection of scenes from *Macbeth* and *Julius Caesar*
- use the 30 minute versions of the plays to write a teaser for a TV series of each play
- study the genre of tragedy to understand how the plays fit within the genre
- study the staging of a play to understand how the drama is communicated in performance; study how alternative staging may create different interpretations
- **discuss the merits and limitations of the two plays; compare the differences and similarities between the texts\***

OR

- **compare the two tragedies, looking at key aspects of setting, plot and characterisation in an expository essay\***

AND

- **present a talk on an aspect of the plays, tragedy or context\***

✓ All Reading PDs

✓ Spoken English PD 1

BEWARE THE IDES OF MARCH



### Term 2.1 (Christmas - February HT)

#### Options block

For this half term, the students are able to choose their preferred module from a selection – they are all media-based units, to provide students with a chance to understand the nature of a media GCSE before making their GCSE subjects



*Myths and Legends / Nothing's Changed and Invictus / Dystopian genre / The Gothic*

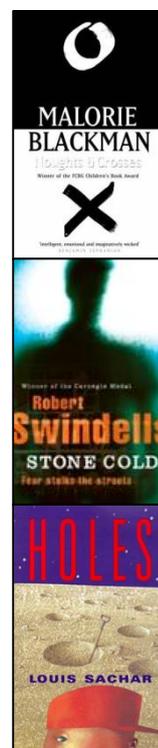
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- read a range of extracts/short texts of the genre, studying the way the writer shapes setting, plot and characterisation
  - **produce an extract of writing, drawing upon the style and linguistic features of the genre\***
  - study film extracts of the genre to consider how the director communicates meaning through staging
  - prepare and produce a film trailer for a chosen extract
- ✓ Writing PDs 1-3

### Term 2.2 and 3.1 (February HT- May HT)

**Study of a novel** (*Holes, Bog Child, Noughts and Crosses, Divergent, The Book Thief*)

- read the whole text, studying setting, plot and characterisation
  - study a text to know how language, including figurative language, vocabulary choice, grammar, text structure and organisational features, presents meaning.
  - study and discuss the context of the novel
  - draft and edit an essay on an aspect of the novel\*
  - study the way the news is presented, in writing and in speech
  - revisit Standard English
  - **produce a news text, based on an issue or aspect of the novel (this could be a ‘high journalism’-style news article (lower ability) or a comment piece (higher ability))\***
  - **participate in a group role play, creating and polishing a script to perform, to present the news, in the light of the novel \***
  - **End of year exam – based on English Language Paper 1**
- ✓ Reading PDs 1-3  
✓ Writing PDs 1-3



### Term 3.2 (May HT - July)

**War and conflict (including world literature)**

- study a range of poems/extracts of text from the anthology of war and conflict
  - recognise a range of poetic conventions and understand how these have been used
  - consider how text structure and organisational features present meaning
  - **Produce a paragraph analysing a text of their choice\***
- ✓ All Reading PDs  
✓ Spoken English

*N.B. Spoken English assessments are deliberately placed at the end of each unit of work, to enable any written assessments to be marked before the end of the unit. This allows for a meaningful and connected ‘Reflect and review’ task, before a new unit begins, allowing for better cohesion and relevance.*