



Content - Big ideas

Autumn 1: Poetry of the Harlem Renaissance Big Question: How do Harlem Renaissance poets challenge social norms and articulate the struggle for justice and identity?

Learning Outcome: Students will analyse how poets of the Harlem Renaissance use imagery, rhythm, and language to express the struggles against racism and the quest for identity and justice.

Further Details: *This unit explores themes of injustice, identity, and cultural pride through the works of poets such as Georgia Douglas Johnson and Claude McKay, examining how their voices challenged societal expectations.*

Autumn 2 & Spring 1: Much Ado About Nothing Big Question: How do Shakespeare's characters navigate societal expectations and personal desires in their rebellion against norms? Learning Outcome: Students will analyse how Shakespeare presents themes of love, deception, and identity through character relationships and conflict, exploring how these elements contribute to the broader themes of rebellion and societal critique.

Further Details: *This unit examines the interplay between societal norms and personal desires, focusing on the complexities of human relationships and characters' rebellion against societal constraints.*

Spring 2 & Summer 1: Frankenstein Big Question: What are the consequences of defying natural boundaries and societal norms in the quest for knowledge?

Learning Outcome: Students will analyse how Mary Shelley explores themes of ambition, isolation, and the consequences of transgression in her narrative.

Further Details: *This unit examines the conflict between science and ethics, the quest for knowledge, and the impact of isolation on the creature and Victor Frankenstein, reflecting on societal fears regarding unchecked ambition.*

Summer 2: American Short Stories Big Question: How do American short stories reveal the relationships, conflicts and rebellion in society?

Learning Outcome: Students will analyse how various authors address themes through character experiences and narrative style.

Further Details: *This unit examines a range of short stories that highlight personal and societal struggles, exploring how characters confront challenges.*

Prior learning

Literary Themes: Understanding of conflict, power dynamics, and human nature within various texts.

Character Analysis: Analysing character motivations and development through the lens of conflict.

Writing and Expression: Proficiency in the Hochman Method for crafting nuanced arguments. Strong vocabulary foundation.

Global/IOM/Subject Links

Global Citizenship: The study of *Frankenstein* and American Short Stories provides insights into themes of rebellion, oppression, and the quest for identity, linking to discussions about social justice and human rights worldwide. Harlem Renaissance poetry highlights the fight against racial injustice, connecting to global movements for equality, while *Much Ado* focuses on patriarchal expectations.

Manx Context: Natural imagery and importance of place; protests and civil rights movements on the IoM.

Cross-curricular links: Music (Harlem Renaissance – Jazz and music of rebellion); Media Studies (portrayal of identities and demographics in media); Drama (theatre and staging).

Subject specific skills development

Curricular Narrative: Y9 explores the complexities of rebellion through diverse literature, advancing from theme identification to character motivation analysis and narrative techniques, using evidence to articulate insights.

Vocabulary Instruction: A focus on rich, versatile vocabulary enables students to express complex ideas surrounding oppression, liberation, and moral dilemmas effectively.

Written Fluency: Grammar instruction refines sentence structure and enhances analytical writing, allowing students to convey nuanced arguments.

Written Craft: Students practice various forms, including poetry and speeches, to develop a distinctive voice while effectively conveying rebellion-related themes. Encouraged to experiment with vocabulary and stylistic choices.

Critical Reading: Y9 engage deeply with narrative voice and context, through diverse texts, ultimately leading to a richer understanding of literary themes.