



Content - Big ideas

Autumn 1: Wilfred Owen's War Poetry Big Question: How does Wilfred Owen depict the realities of war and its impact on humanity?

Learning Outcome: Students will analyse Owen's use of language, structure, and imagery to explore the harsh realities of war and challenge romanticised views of conflict.

Further details: *This unit covers themes of sacrifice, the brutality of war, and the psychological toll on soldiers, connecting past and present attitudes towards conflict.*

Autumn 2: Edgar Allan Poe's Short Stories Big Question: How does Edgar Allan Poe explore the darker side of human nature and the supernatural?

Learning Outcome: Students will understand how Poe uses symbolism and the supernatural to explore guilt, fear, and punishment in his characters' psychological journeys.

Further details: *Themes include guilt, sin, and redemption, with a focus on characters' struggles and internal conflict, as well as their encounters with the supernatural.*

Spring 1 & 2: Animal Farm Big Question: How does *Animal Farm* explore power, control, and the corruption of ideals?

Learning Outcome: Students will analyse Orwell's use of allegory to critique political systems, focusing on power, manipulation, and betrayal through the lens of societal conflict.

Further details: *Themes of power, manipulation, betrayal, and Marxist theory are explored, revealing the consequences of corrupt leadership and societal hierarchies.*

Summer 1 & 2: Romeo and Juliet Big Question: How does *Romeo and Juliet* depict conflict between individuals and societal expectations?

Learning Outcome: Students will explore the conflict between love, fate, and societal pressures, analysing how these tensions lead to tragedy.

Further details: *Themes include love, defiance, fate, and the consequences of subversion within a patriarchal society.*

Prior learning

Literary themes: understanding of heroism and morality; power and manipulation.

Character analysis: archetypes, character flaws.

Writing and expression: Hochman method; solid foundation in powerful and versatile vocabulary.

Global/IOM/Subject Links

Global Citizenship: The study of *Animal Farm* provides insights into totalitarianism and revolution, linking to discussions about global power structures and societal justice. Owen's war poetry connects to global discussions about the impact of war on soldiers and civilians.

Manx Context: Explore the IOM's cultural identity through its unique political history, including the significance of Tynwald; engage with contemporary social issues affecting local youth, such as mental health and identity.

Cross-curricular links: History (World War I, Russian Revolution), Citizenship (politics, power, and governance), and Philosophy (moral dilemmas in *Romeo and Juliet* and Poe's stories).

Subject specific skills development

Curricular Narrative: Y8 explores the complexities of conflict through diverse literature, examining themes of power, control, and human nature, which fosters deeper comprehension and critical thinking.

Comprehension to Critical Thinking: Students advance from identifying themes to analysing symbolism and character motivations, using textual evidence to articulate insights about conflict.

Vocabulary Instruction: Emphasis on rich, versatile vocabulary enables students to express complex ideas surrounding conflict and moral dilemmas effectively.

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

Developing Voice: Structured oracy activities empower students to articulate thoughts on conflict, facilitating experimentation with vocabulary and stylistic choices.

Written Craft: Students practice various forms, including poetry and monologues, to develop a distinctive voice while effectively conveying conflict-related themes.

Critical Reading: Engagement with diverse texts enhances critical reading skills through direct vocabulary instruction and focused thematic analysis.