



Subject: English Year 8

Summer Half Term 2, Poetry: *The Pen is Mightier than the Sword*

Overarching Topic:			
<p>Why is this topic being studied at this time?</p> <p>How does it fit into the wider subject curriculum?</p>	<p>Step into the trenches of the Great War, the complex sectarianism of Northern Ireland right through to the impact of 9/11 on modern society. In this unit, students will be exposed to a range of poetry that focuses on the theme of conflict and explore in close detail how poets use language, structure and form to engage and challenge our perspectives through the power of poetry. This journey will also see students delving into the rich back catalogue of poets and literary movements to ponder why it is that poetry remains so culturally significant.</p> <p>Skills in analysis are absolutely vital across the curriculum. Our texts will support the study of key historical events such as World War One and The Troubles in Northern Ireland as well as issues such as discrimination, nationalism, politics and sociological identity as studied in History and PSHE. This unit will also require students to recite poems in French and German as part of our KS3 Poetry Anthology to further support studies in French and German. This unit prepare students to think more critically and conceptually - a skill required throughout the curriculum.</p>		
	Essential	Core	Ambitious
<p>The Big Questions (What questions will students be able to answer upon mastery of the topic?)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What are form, language and structure? • What poetic techniques are there? • Why is poetry culturally important? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How has poetry changed over the centuries? • How does poetry observe, reflect and refract society? • How is meaning created in poems? • How do poets portray the theme of conflict? • How do I compare two poems? • What is the historical, cultural and literary significance in each poem? • How can we and why should we learn poetry by heart? 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • How can we discuss ambiguity of meaning? • How do poems play on literary tradition? • What role did poetry play in literary movements? • What is poetry's purpose? • What happens when a poem is learnt by heart and read out loud and why will this remain with us for years to come?
<p>The Key Skills/ Techniques</p>	<p>The sophistication and application of skills will become more advanced as students' progress through the essential, core and ambitious knowledge</p>		
	<p>Skill/Technique</p>	<p>How will this skill be developed?</p>	

	Developing analytical skills – Skills in discussion, critical analysis and forming a personal voice in responses (written and verbal)	Annotating poems, writing analytical paragraphs on form, structure and language, modelling responses, discussion and debate
	Understanding poetic techniques	Vocabulary organisers, technique spotting, practising writing techniques, discussion and debate
	Understanding contextual relevance	Researching Literary, historical and cultural changes over the centuries, discussion and debate