

## Year 8 Overview

In Year 8, students develop reading and writing skills through varied texts and themes. In Autumn, they study *Journey's End* and war poetry, focusing on summarising ideas, language, symbolism, and historical context, while improving planning, vocabulary, and structure in writing. In Spring, they read *Animal Farm* and speeches, analysing persuasive techniques, character, and political themes. In Summer, they explore *The Yellow Wallpaper* and other extracts, comparing texts and refining clarity and organisation. By year's end, students produce more complex analytical and persuasive writing.

| Half Term | Curriculum Plan                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 1         | <b>Words of War:</b><br><i>Key Texts: Journey's End, War Poetry</i><br><br><b>Reading Skills:</b> Summarise key ideas, Analyse and interpret fiction, Select and embed evidence, Understand word connotations, symbolism, and figurative language.<br>Explore writer's methods, intent, and links to context<br><b>Writing Skills:</b> Plan and structure ideas clearly. Use effective vocabulary and figurative language. Apply cohesive paragraphs and clear organisation |
| 2         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 3         | <b>The Art of Rhetoric:</b><br><i>Key Texts: Animal Farm, Famous Speeches</i><br><br><b>Reading Skills:</b> Develop understanding of persuasive techniques and character construction. Evaluate intent and link to historical/political context<br><b>Writing Skills:</b> Continue to refine clear planning, vivid language use, and cohesive, well-structured writing.                                                                                                     |
| 4         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 5         | <b>Wayward Women:</b><br><i>Key Texts: The Yellow Wallpaper, Various Extracts</i><br><br><b>Reading Skills:</b> Compare texts using literary methods and concepts<br><b>Writing Skills:</b> Continue to develop the ability to plan and structure ideas clearly, use effective vocabulary and figurative language, and apply cohesive paragraphs with clear organisation                                                                                                    |
| 6         |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |

### Homework:

All homework is set on Sparx Reader from Wednesday to Wednesday. Students are expected to complete 30 minutes of independent reading a week and achieve 300 SRP

### Useful links:

[Sparx Reader Login](#)  
[Journeys End Script](#)  
[KS3 Bitesize – Animal Farm](#)  
[OAK National Academy - English](#)

### Assessments:

In each unit, there will be a midpoint knowledge check and an endpoint knowledge check and analytical writing task. Students will also complete a 'big write' in each unit.

There are two main formal assessment points during the year:

**AP1 w/c 19th January** – formal assessment covering key aspects of grammar

**AP2 w/c 22nd June** – formal assessment reviewing students understanding of grammar taught throughout the year