

SUBJECT: English

UNIT: Year 9 Literary Heritage



-Social and Historical Context

Exploring the origins of tales and how the English Language has evolved over time. From BC, Greek mythology, Anglo Saxon and Medieval times.

Old Testament: Biblical tales were believed to have been written around 1450BC in biblical Hebrew.

Greek Mythology: is a body of stories concerning the gods, heroes, and rituals of the ancient Greeks.

Anglo Saxon: (Old English) lasted for 600 years, from 410 to 1066 – The Battle of Hastings. The Anglo-Saxon settlers were their own masters in a new land after the fall of the Roman Empire. During this time Christianity was established in Britain and the language they spoke gave rise to the English spoken today – over half of the words in the modern English Language originate from this time.

- Language Techniques

Nouns: a word that identifies a person, place or thing e.g. teacher, school etc.

Verbs: a word used to describe an action, state, or occurrence e.g. run, walk etc.

Adjectives: words that are used to describe or modify nouns or pronouns e.g. red, happy, big etc.

Pronouns: a word that takes the place of a noun e.g. he, she, it etc.

Metaphor: comparing things by saying something is something else e.g. she had a heart of gold.

Personification: making something seem alive and therefore doing something on purpose e.g. the sun smiled at us.

Alliteration: words starting with the same letter – sound them out and analyse the sound, e.g. Wicked Witch of the West.

Simile: a way of describing something comparing it to something else e.g. her cheeks are red like a rose.

Repetition: when one word or phrase is repeated, e.g. let it snow, let it snow, let it snow.

Imperatives: a verb used to deliver a command e.g. look at me.

Natural Imagery: use of animals, landscapes, etc to help the reader picture the scene at a multi-sensory level e.g. The fragrance of spring flowers made her joyful.

Rhetorical Question: a question asked in order to create a dramatic effect or to make a point rather than to get an answer e.g. You didn't think I would say yes to that, did you?

Sibilance: specific type of alliteration that relies on the repetition of soft consonant sounds in words to create a whooshing or hissing sound e.g. Sally sells seashells by the seashore.

Rule of three: trio of words as a reader is more likely to consume the information if it is written in threes e.g.

Blood, sweat, and tears.

Double entendre: a word or phrase open to two interpretations.

- Key Texts

Adam and Eve – biblical tale from the Old Testament. A cautionary tale of how sin entered the world.

Perseus and Medusa – Greek Mythology Perseus defeating the gorgon Medusa.

Medusa by Carol Ann Duffy – Poem about jealousy and insecurity.

The Iliad by Homer – Trojan/Greek Mythology – the battle of Troy.

Beowulf – Anglo Saxon Epic Poem first composed in 650AD and it is the oldest British story of which we have a record.

The Canterbury tales by Geoffrey Chaucer – General Prologue and descriptions of The Miller and The Wife of Bath - collection of stories told by fictional pilgrims on the road to visit the shrine to St Thomas Becket at the Cathedral at Canterbury.

-Subject Terminology

Atmosphere, mood and tone: Can you identify the emotions described in a text and the feelings the text creates for the reader? Can you identify which techniques are used to create this effect?

Writer's purpose: Can you identify the reason/s a non-fiction text has been written? Can you recognise the techniques used in order to fulfil its purpose successfully?

Protagonist: the leading character in a story.

Plot: the main events of a story.

Development: the movement from one event to another or the changes in the characters/story.

Themes: dominant idea, motif, etc. in a story.

Connotations: an idea or feeling which a word invokes for a person in addition to its literal or primary meaning.

Dramatic Monologue: a narrative poem where the speaker inadvertently reveals aspects of their character while describing a particular situation.