

Key Stage Three English - Unit Overview

Year 8 – Spring – 'The Gothic'

Main - Macbeth

- Resources – available in J drive



Unit rationale

- 1. This unit will be used to develop pupils' critical reading of Shakespeare's plays. The Y7 'Introduction to Shakespearean Comedies' unit aims to develop students' familiarity with Shakespeare and develop pupils' strategies for accessing the language. The reading demand now increases: **inferences and analysis of language and structure** (a shift in emphasis towards analysis now in Year 8)
- 2. The unit prepares pupils for studying a whole Shakespearean text (future KS4 demands). Pupils are not required to read the whole text, but pupils should track the relationship between Macbeth and Lady Macbeth via key extracts across the whole of the play. This increased exposure will prepare pupils for future KS3/4 demands
- 3. Studying the play alongside 'Nineteenth-century Gothic Fiction' will develop pupils' understanding of genre and associated conventions

Assessment (this unit's outcome IS formally assessed)

Unit outcome:

Warm task (extract analysis) – How does Lady Macbeth persuade Macbeth to kill King Duncan in this extract from Act 1, Scene VII?

Assessment attached

Informal assessment and low-stakes testing:

- Students are to be encouraged to self and peer assess their analytical writing throughout the unit on a regular basis. Success criteria to be made available by teachers.
 Students must engage with this, redrafting their work on a regular basis
- Students are to use their knowledge organisers for the unit to develop core knowledge retention and learn the unit's key vocabulary in order for it to be

		applied independently	
Core knowledge	1. Contextual knowledge:		
	The Divine Right of Kings		
	Witchcraft		
	King James I		
	Gender roles		
	Unit vocabulary (see below) Developing knowledge recall from memory (see knowledge organiser)		
	1. Application of core reading strategies independently: questioning, predicting,		
	clarifying, summarising, skimming and scanning		
	2. Retrieval skills: selecting precise, selective evidence to support responses, with a focus on embedding this within written responses		
	3. Reading development – developing analytical skills when reading a		
	Shakespearean play: staging, character, plot, themes, context and language		
	features		
	4. Develop pupils' analytical writing further. Focused use of the what/how/why approach when approaching extracts. A focus on developing layers of		
	understanding and interpretation		
	understanding and interpretation		
Key questions for	What inspired Shakespeare to warms.	rite the play?	
Key questions for the unit			
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= =	 What inspired Shakespeare to w How is the opening to the play e Is Macbeth a hero? What motivates Macbeth? How does Macbeth change in t Who is powerful in the play? What is the role of Lady Macbeth How does Lady Macbeth change What happens to Banquo? Why are the witches important? 	engaging? The play?	
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	6. Regicide	6. Metaphor	
	7. Treason	7. Blank verse	
	8. Sceptical	8. lambic Pentameter	
	9. Betrayal	9. Prose	
	10. Prophecy	10. Motif	
Homework	Macbeth menu tasks		
opportunities	 Knowledge organisers to prepare for in class quizzes – core knowledge as vocabulary 		
	 Spellings to address high frequency 		
		ntified gaps and to consolidate skills	
Wider English	1. Reading		
curriculum links	this unit, creating a transition to prose texts. Pupils are to imple approaching Shakespeare to retrieving precise, selective te Students are to continue to do the main Autumn unit – 'The Noindependence Pupils move beyond reading of character developments across Themes of ambition and the research improvements.	the main Autumn unit – 'The Modern Novel' – to increase confidence and independence • Pupils move beyond reading extracts from Shakespeare to tracking character developments across a whole play	
	between previous and subsectionStudying the play alongside 'N	Vineteenth-century Gothic Fiction' will develope and associated conventions. Students can	

How does Lady Macbeth persuade Macbeth to kill King Duncan in this extract from Act I, Scene VII?

Enter LADY MACBETH. LADY MACBETH enters. What news do you have? How now! What news? **LADY MACBETH** LADY MACBETH He has almost finished dinner. Why did you leave the

He has almost supped. Why have you left the chamber?