

English

Year 8

TERM 1 PROGRAMME OF STUDY

Unit 1: *'Exploring the Novel'* - a unit that develops reading and drama skills.

Content and Learning: Students will read one of the following Year 8 novels: *House of Stone* by Christina Lamb, *War Horse* or *Private Peaceful* by Michael Morpurgo and *Holes* by Louis Sachar. This unit guides students towards the reading of other texts that deal with similar themes written at different times to encourage students to make links and connections.

Key Assessments: Students will write an essay focusing on how the writer develops a character or a theme in the novel. Students will also complete an IB group project where they will write an additional chapter as a group, write a rationale for their work, explaining their language and structural choices and they will then act this out and film their work.

Unit 2: *'Discuss that issue'* - a unit that encourages students to discuss and debate current global topics of interest.

Content and Learning: Students will learn how to organize and structure discursive essays with a focus on researching skills, fact and opinion as well as other features of this style of writing.

Key Assessments: Students will write a discursive essay about a current topic that has caused mixed feelings and thoughts across the world. Students will then take part in a speaking and listening IB project where they will deliver an individual presentation to five other students delivering both views on a chosen topic.

TERM 2 PROGRAMME OF STUDY

Unit 2: *'All About the Drama'* - a unit of work where students read one of our class plays.

Content and Learning: Play texts include: *The Three Musketeers*, a selection of Shakespeare's Villains and *Brother in the Land* by Robert Swindells.

Key Assessments: Students will be assessed on their ability to compare the presentation of two characters in the play and will also act out a monologue to one other person to deepen their understanding of character.

TERM 3 PROGRAMME OF STUDY

Unit 5: *'Rhythm Poetry'* - a unit of work that explores a variety of poems by a selection of poets.

Content and Learning: Students explore a range of themes as well as poetic techniques, different forms of poetry, and varying structures.

Key Assessments: Students will be assessed in their reading skills, focusing on their ability to compare and contrast two unseen poems. Students will also write and deliver their own poetry and rationale for their language and structural choices.

Unit 6: *'Myths and Legends'* - a unit that looks at a variety of mythical short stories

Content and Learning: Students explore the influences of place and time, as well as the features and character of mythical tales.

Key Assessments: Students will produce a piece of creative writing either describing their mythical character or writing their own mythical story. Some groups will also be assessed in retelling their myth without a script and just using pictures as a prompt.

Examination preparation and Summer examinations

Homework:

- ◆ Homework is set once a week and should take students a minimum of 60-90 minutes to complete

Assessment:

How will learning and progress be assessed?

Students will be formally assessed at the end of every unit and this work will be filed in a personalized portfolio and kept at school. Students will have a series of pieces of work leveled in their English book leading up to their formal assessments which will support students in their final assessment.

How parents can support learning:

- ◆ Regular monitoring of how long your child spends on homework tasks
- ◆ Proof-reading work
- ◆ Reading to and listening to your child read on a regular basis

Learning resources:

It is important that your child purchases a copy of the novel they are reading in class so that they can be familiar with highlighting, labeling and annotating key sections of the novel.