

SMWCA English Curriculum Overview

Year 7 – Classical Antiquity to Middle English

Year 7 focuses on the origins of story-telling, the oral tradition, and the beginnings of Western literature as we know it, moving from Greek mythology and classical literature, through to middle-English and the first recognisably 'English' literature.

1 - Autumn Term 1a	2- Autumn Term 1b
Stories from Greek Mythology and Aesop's Fables Including: Write a story/ myth. Write a playscript. Take part in a debate.	Homer's <i>Odyssey</i> (extracts) Including: Write a diary entry. Write a letter. Group discussion task. Memorise and perform/ deliver a short extract.
3 - Spring Term 2a	4 - Term 2b
Homer's <i>Odyssey</i> (continued)	Ovid's <i>Metamorphosis</i> – (extracts) (Ted Hughes Translation) Including: Newspaper article / opinion piece. Formal debate.
5 - Summer Term 3a	6 - Term 3b
Beowulf (extracts) (Heaney Translation) Including: Write a vivid description. Formal presentation task.	Chaucer's <i>Canterbury Tales</i> (Prologue, extracts) Including: Write a prose description. Hot-seating in role or performing a section of the text.

Year 8 – The Renaissance to The Romantics

In Year 8 the chronological study of literature continues, focusing on the Renaissance, rhetoric, the Regency period, prominent nineteenth century black British writers, and Romanticism. We aim to include understanding of key historical events and perspectives which have directly impacted English literature, thinking and culture.

1 - Autumn Term 1a	2 - Term 1b
Renaissance Literature: Shakespeare's <i>Macbeth</i> (whole text) Including: An introduction to Shakespeare. The conventions of tragedy (Aristotle's <i>Poetics</i>).	

Write a tragic narrative. Memorise and perform a dramatic reading of a short scene/ monologue/ soliloquy.	
3 - Spring Term 2a	4 - Term 2b
Rhetoric (selected speeches) Including: Write a speech on an important issue and formally deliver it.	Regency – Jane Austen (extracts) Including: Writing satire (letter). Group discussion.
5 - Summer Term 3a	6 - Term 3b
C18th Black British Writing (Non-Fiction) Including: Writing to persuade. Formal and informal English. Performative reading.	The Romantic Era (poetry and prose) Including: Writing poetry. Explanatory writing. Formal presentation.

Year 9 – The Victorian Era to the Present Day

Year 9 continues the chronological exploration of literature, from the Gothic tales of the Victorian era, through to contemporary literature, bringing in writing from the wider world and modern classics.

1 - Autumn Term 1a	2 - Term 1b
19th Century Gothic Short Stories Including: Write a short gothic description. Write a complete gothic short narrative. Formal presentation.	19th Century Novel: <i>The Strange Tale of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde</i> (Whole novel) Including: Explanatory writing. Group discussion task.
3 - Spring Term 2a	4 - Term 2b
Poetry of Conflict (war poetry) Including: Write a newspaper article (using bias). Formal debate.	Modern World Fiction: <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> by Harper Lee (whole novel) Including: Write an explanation. Write a script and perform.
5 - Summer Term 3a	6 - Term 3b
Modern World Fiction: <i>To Kill a Mockingbird</i> by Harper Lee (whole novel) (continued)	Contemporary World Poetry Including: Write a poem containing a classical allusion. Group discussion task.

Year 10 and 11 - The GCSE Course

Students follow the AQA GCSE English Language and Literature courses. At this point, the teaching of Language and Literature is separated into two distinct courses, since we have found this helps students to gain a better understanding of the nuanced requirements of each course.

Year 10 Language

1 - Autumn Term 1a	2 - Term 1b
Explorations in creative reading and writing	
3 - Spring Term 2a	4 - Term 2b
Writers' viewpoints and perspectives	
5 - Summer Term 3a	6 - Term 3b
Spoken Language and revision of terms 1 & 2	

Year 10 Literature

1 - Autumn Term 1a	2 - Term 1b
Shakespeare – <i>The Merchant of Venice</i> or <i>Romeo and Juliet</i>	
3 - Spring Term 2a	4 - Term 2b
19th Century Novel – <i>Frankenstein</i> by Mary Shelley or <i>The Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde</i> by Robert Louis Stevenson	
5 - Summer Term 3a	6 - Term 3b
Modern drama/ prose – <i>Animal Farm</i> by George Orwell or <i>An Inspector Calls</i> by J B Priestley	

Year 11 Language

1 - Autumn Term 1a	2 - Term 1b
Explorations in creative reading and writing	
3 - Spring Term 2a	4 - Term 2b
Writers' viewpoints and perspectives	
5 - Summer Term 3a	6 - Term 3b
Revision/ exam preparation	

Year 11 Literature

1 - Autumn Term 1a	2 - Term 1b
Poetry – Anthology (Love and Relationships) and Unseen	
3 - Spring Term 2a	4 - Term 2b

Revision of all texts	
5 - Summer Term 3a	6 - Term 3b
Revision of all texts	

Year 12 and 13 – the A-Level Course

Students follow the AQA A English Literature A-Level syllabus, following Option 2 (Modern Times) for Paper 2. The text choices again build upon the prior learning of the students, enabling them to draw upon the wealth of cultural, literary and linguistic knowledge that they have gained throughout their time as English students at SMWCA.

Year 12

1 - Autumn Term 1a	2 - Term 1b
Teacher 1 – 19th Century Prose : Emily Bronte’s <i>Wuthering Heights</i> Teacher 2 – Shakespeare : <i>The Taming of the Shrew</i> or <i>Othello</i>	
3 - Spring Term 2a	4 - Term 2b
Teacher 1 – Unseen Poetry and Anthology (Love Through the Ages) Teacher 2 – Modern drama : Tennessee Williams’ <i>A Streetcar Named Desire</i>	
5 - Summer Term 3a	6 - Term 3b
Teacher 1 – Anthology Poetry (continued) and Unseen 20th Century Prose Teacher 2 – 21st Century Poetry : Owen Sheers’ <i>Skirrid Hill</i> or Carol Ann Duffy’s <i>Feminine Gospels</i>	

Year 13

1 - Autumn Term 1a	2 - Term 1b
Teacher 1 – Non-exam assessment (coursework) – Oscar Wilde’s <i>The Picture of Dorian Gray</i> plus open choice of comparative text. Teacher 2 – 20th Century Prose : Alice Walker’s <i>The Color Purple</i>	
3 - Spring Term 2a	4 - Term 2b
Teacher 1 – Revision of all texts Teacher 2 – Revision of all texts	
5 - Summer Term 3a	6 - Term 3b
Teacher 1 – Revision of all texts Teacher 2 – Revision of all texts	