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**Year 8 Curriculum Explained**

Our English curriculum intends to cultivate inquisitive readers and imaginative writers. This means that they will be able to:

1. Understand the plot and characters and personas in a range of texts: novels, poetry and a Shakespeare play
2. Read nonfiction texts for information and select suitable evidence to answer questions and summarise
3. Know key aspects of the genre, geographical/cultural context, and historical context of our texts be able to explain how these can be seen in the plot, characters and language
4. Examine excellent models of descriptive writing and replicate the best points e.g. use of senses, contrast
5. Analyse writers’ use of language for description and dialogue
6. Know and identify relevant writer’s methods, including: prologue, dialogue, sonnet, blank verse, regular/irregular rhyme, foreshadowing
7. Understand and be able to use high-level vocabulary relevant to the texts in analysis and creative writing
8. Write to describe using appropriate, challenging vocabulary
9. Refer to events across the whole texts when responding to extracts
10. Evaluate the messages of texts, and explore the response the writers intended readers to have on a contemporary audience and ourselves

The curriculum reinforces key ideas for success in English: writer’s messages, themes conveyed through a narrative, language analysis and the effect of accurate vocabulary and challenges students to understand literature as a writer’s construction.

Term 1 – 2: The Giver (a Dystopian novel)

Term 3: Poetry from around the world

Term 4: Descriptive writing

Term 5 – 6: Romeo and Juliet