

# Curriculum Overview

## Year 8 English - Discoveries

Unit Title	Learning	How can parents best support?
<b>Half Term 1</b>  Nineteenth Century Life and Literature: Mary Shelley's Frankenstein	Developing further knowledge of Gothic vocabulary and its impact Learning how to interpret Gothic language Developing knowledge of Mary Shelley's Frankenstein Learning how to interpret language Learning how to create vivid characters Developing further knowledge of Gothic settings and buildings Developing a wide range of vocabulary	Talk to your children about their learning and support them with their vocabulary home learning tasks. Frankenstein is a famous Gothic text: look out for modern Gothic on the television and in film and ask your children to identify Gothic style characters in soap operas, for example. This unit runs up to Halloween; look out for Gothic style paraphernalia when in the supermarkets and ask your child if it reminds them of any of the literary characters who they have been studying in Frankenstein. Encourage your child to read a range of Gothic fiction independently; speak to English teachers for appropriate titles.
<b>Half Term 2</b>  Mystery Writing	Developing knowledge of famous literary detectives Learning about what makes a successful detective Learning how to use language to create convincing characters Learning about what it takes to become a real life detective and taking part in a murder mystery in the classroom Learning how to use language to engage and hook readers Developing a wide range of vocabulary	Talk to your children about their learning and support them with their vocabulary home learning tasks. Look out for examples of mystery on TV and in film; watch these together and discuss what makes each detective successful. Watch an original mystery featuring Sherlock Holmes; take a visit to Baker Street in London.

<p><b>Half Term 3</b></p> <p>Poetry from Other Cultures: A Whole New World</p>	<p>Developing knowledge of a range of other cultures and traditions across the world</p> <p>Learning tolerance of others' beliefs</p> <p>Learning to value diversity</p> <p>Developing knowledge of how to study and interpret poetry</p> <p>Learning how to appreciate a range of poetic types and techniques</p> <p>Learning how to interpret poetic devices</p> <p>Developing a wide range of vocabulary</p>	<p>Talk to your children about their learning and support them with their vocabulary home learning tasks. Arrange a visit to places of worship in the local area. When on holiday, stray off the beaten path and expose your child to local cultures and traditions. Try out local cuisine and visit local markets or places of interest. Try out a range of new foods at home and visit the world food aisle in the supermarket – discussing what you see.</p>
<p><b>Half Term 4</b></p> <p>Shakespeare Study</p>	<p>Developing further knowledge of William Shakespeare and his work</p> <p>Developing knowledge of Shakespeare's language and its origins</p> <p>Developing knowledge of a full Shakespeare play, its themes and characters</p> <p>Learning how to read a play-script</p> <p>Learning how to interpret themes in plays</p> <p>Learning about how Shakespeare influenced modern literature and culture</p> <p>Developing a wide range of vocabulary</p>	<p>Talk to your children about their learning and support them with their vocabulary home learning tasks. Look out for adaptations of Shakespeare's work on the television and in film. Contact local theatres to see if there are any productions of Shakespeare's work on and take a trip to the theatre to see a live performance. Visit The Globe in London or head to Stratford upon Avon to see where it all began for Shakespeare.</p>

<p><b>Half Terms 5 and 6</b></p> <p>The Modern Novel: A Dystopian World</p>	<p>Developing knowledge of a specific dystopian, literary prose text</p> <p>Learning how to develop setting</p> <p>Learning how to develop convincing and compelling characters</p> <p>Learning how to develop a coherent plot</p> <p>Learning how to read between the lines and identify a writer's motive</p> <p>Learning how to read between the lines and interpret a writer's meaning</p> <p>Developing a wide range of vocabulary</p>	<p>Talk to your children about their learning and support them with their vocabulary home learning tasks. Your child will be reading a novel in class; encourage them to read independently at home too. Try reading the novel at the same time and discussing it with them. They might benefit from having their own copy of the text that they could annotate and make observations in.</p>
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