

The Sutton Academy **Literary Canon**



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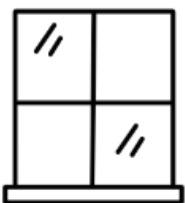
Literary Canon..... Page 15 & 16

Year 7: Black and British (RA 12+ years)



Black and British, the new work by Olusoga, comes with the subtitle: A Forgotten History. But forgotten by whom? The early black presence in Britain was not so much forgotten as suppressed – well, if not suppressed then at least untold. Even 10 years

ago, if such a mainstream work as Olusoga's had been proposed it might well have been rejected at publishers' acquisition meetings with the note: "no commercial prospects". But as Olusoga demonstrates so forcefully in his admirable book, this is a shared history and a reclaiming of a lost past. It builds on the need he felt back in the 1980s for an urgent "uncovering of black British history ... because the present was so contested".



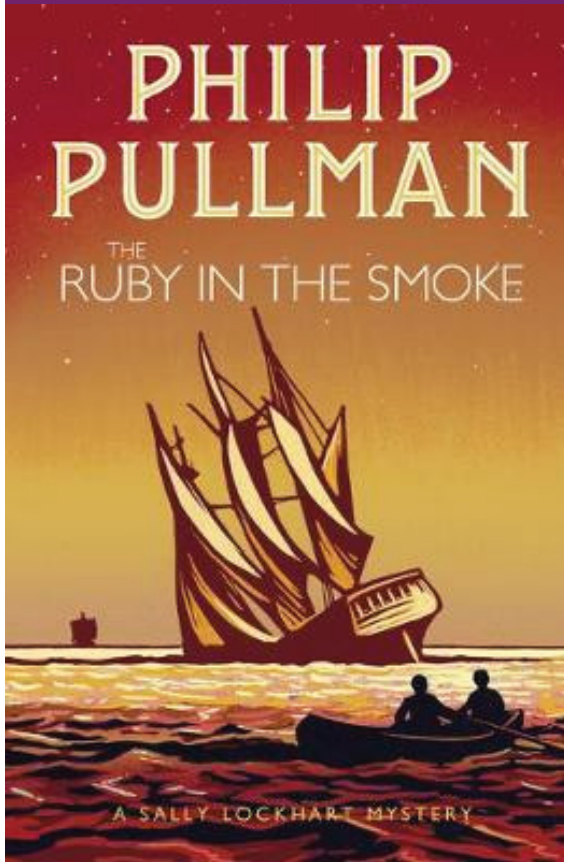
Through Olusoga's authoritative text, students will be exposed to periods of British history which are both shameful and appalling. "It ranges from the first Africans to come to Britain to the shameful Windrush scandal, and takes in the industrial revolution, cotton grown on slave plantations and the black soldiers who fought for Britain in the first world war. Olusoga's book conveys with calm clarity why all British children should be taught black history." (Guardian online)



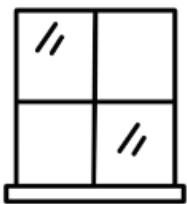
We live in a multicultural country; every day our eyes are opened to the cultural norms and the great diversity of the world around us. Olusoga's book enables students to begin to understand their place in the world community. Boundaries that have been built up over generations of misunderstanding and racial hatred are addressed, exposed, and shown to be outdated, shameful, and without logical foundation.

Year 7:

Ruby in the smoke (RA 12-18 years)



Sally Lockhart tries to find the meaning behind her father's last letter which contained a cryptic message that can strike a man dead with fear. Sally finds herself in a mystery involving assassins, opium dens, Chinese gangs, and the Ruby of Agrapur.

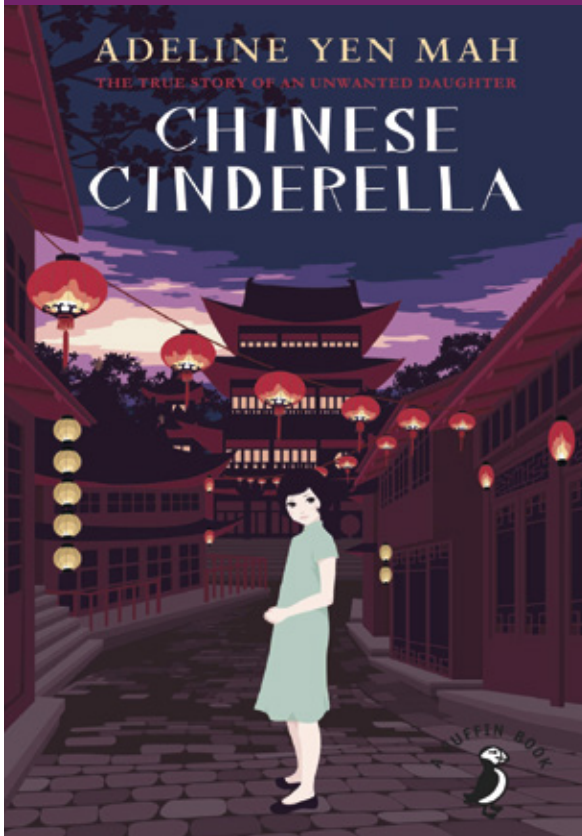


Students will be able see Sally moving from through childhood to adulthood. They will see how life was in Victorian England especially for women and the use of drugs, particularly opium. The use of opium pulls all the different plot elements together and almost all the suffering and evil portrayed in the story somehow caused by it. It is represented as a very dangerous, destructive and evil substance, which will only cause greed, misery and corruption. Students will also see a female excel in mathematics and business as Sally works as an accountant and manager.

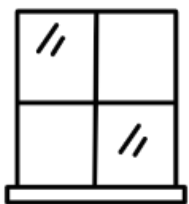


Students will be able to see a feisty female protagonist who is dealing with grief as she has recently been orphaned due to the death of her father. Students will also see that qualities, such as loyalty, are key to any friendships.

Year 8: Chinese Cinderella (RA 12 years +)



Jung-ling's family considers her bad luck because her mother died giving birth to her. They discriminate against her and make her feel unwanted yet she yearns and continuously strives for her parents' love. Her stepmother is vindictive and cruel and her father dismissive. Jung-ling grows up to be an academic child, with a natural ability for writing. Only her aunt and grandfather offer her any love and kindness. The story is of survival in the light of the mental and physical cruelty of her stepmother and the disloyalty of her siblings. Jung-ling blossoms in spite of everything and the story ends as her father agrees to let her study in England.



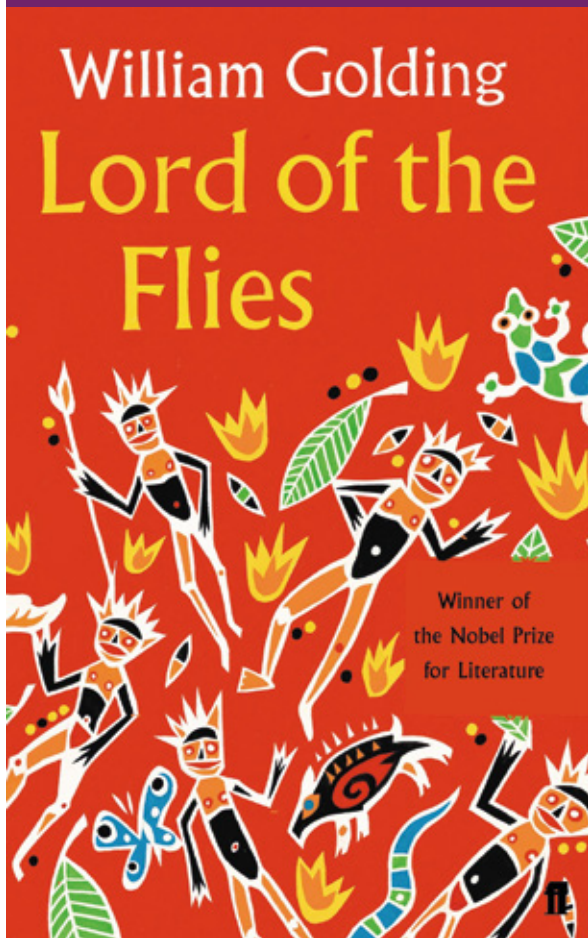
Students will develop an insight into different cultures and traditions. They will be able to discuss issues surrounding abusive family relationships and how love and kindness are powerful and reaffirming qualities. They can examine, discuss and reflect upon how even under the worst of circumstances, young people can make positive choices in life and exceed expectations.



This novel allows students to explore abusive relationships, how they come about, their form and consequences. They are exposed to how a character copes with those situations and brings about positive change in her life. Themes of cruelty are counterpointed with love, kindness, and generosity.

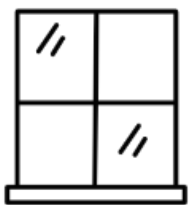
Year 8:

Lord of the Flies (RA 13+)



A plane crashes on a desert island. The only survivors are a group of schoolboys. By day, they discover fantastic wildlife and dazzling beaches, learning to survive; at night, they are haunted by nightmares of a primitive beast.

Orphaned by society, it isn't long before their innocent childhood games devolve into a savage, murderous hunt ...

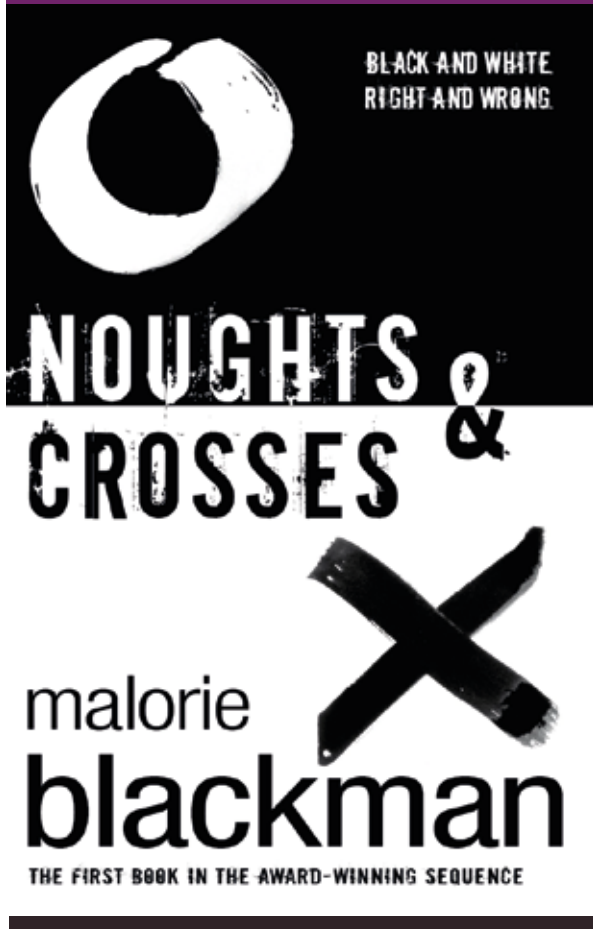


William Golding's powerful novel has stood the test of time and examines the issue of what it means to be a civilised human. How are they formed? How do they live? And, most importantly, can civilised behaviour be taken apart? This novel provides a valuable window on human behaviour. When a group of young boys are stranded on a desert island they try to survive by establishing a hierarchy and rules to abide by. However, as the true nature of their situation gradually dawns on them, they descend into tribal and almost animalistic behaviour. Students will face issues of power, control, manipulation, and the gradual decay of society in this dark and adventurous text.

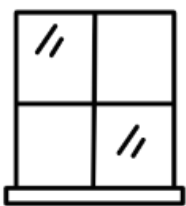


We can learn a lot about our own behaviour and the primal drives which influence how humans behave on a day-to-day basis. Through Golding's challenging text, students will be able to consider how society works, and what can influence our behaviours. They will consider the "pack" mentality, and consider what it is to be an individual in society as well as a part of a larger group. They will be able to critique friendship groups and analyse what "peer pressure" can do at its most extreme.

Year 9: Noughts and Crosses (RA: 13-16 years of age)



Against a background of prejudice and distrust, intensely highlighted by violent terrorist activity by Noughts, a romance builds between Sephy and Callum - a romance that is to lead both of them into terrible danger. By reversing traditional racial stereotypes and presenting the White population as the oppressed race, Blackman has cleverly shown racial prejudice from a different perspective.

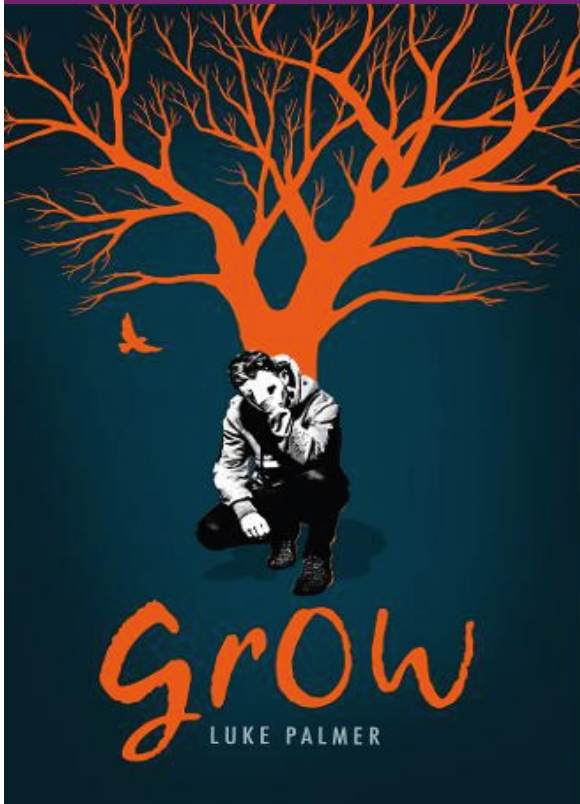


Through this text students will be able to see racism and how segregation affects both sides. They will also see the effects of terrorism and be given an insight into the mind of a character who justifies these actions. Students will also be introduced to the concept of forbidden love based on race.

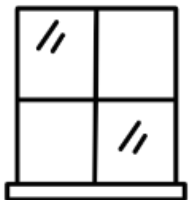


Students will see how young people negotiate their way through childhood, overcoming obstacles, and striving to make a better life for themselves and others around them. Students will also be able to see the views of the privileged reversed from what is the norm.

Year 9: Grow (RA: 13-16 years of age)



A white supremacist group and its violent leader targets teenage Josh, who is struggling to cope with his father's recent death at the hands of terrorists. Will he find the strength to resist, or will his unlikely relationship with Dana give them both the escape that they so badly need? An unflinching and muscular exploration of grief, and what we plant in the spaces that loss leaves inside us, *Grow* is a tense and compelling novel of our current social landscape.



We all pray never to be exposed to the harsh realities of terrorism and its consequences. Josh, in Luke Palmer's "*Grow*" encounters just that – and more. Whilst coping with the death of his father, he is targeted by a white supremacist group as a potential recruit. This gripping novel provides a powerful opportunity for students to see how quickly our "normal lives" can deteriorate and be shattered by unexpected events. Palmer enables students to look out into an unforgiving world where not everything is predictable. This is a tale of strength over grief which will provide students with a gritty realism of the psychology of terrorism and its terrifying consequences.

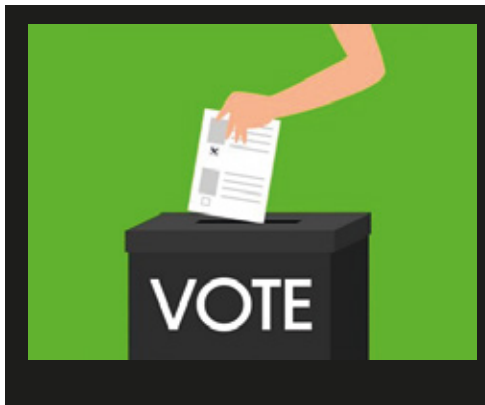


Looking back at ourselves every day, we can feel perfectly safe and protected in our daily lives. Danger is something we think little of, or suppress to concentrate on getting on with the daily task life presents. Josh is a football-playing teenager with plenty of friends – much like any other teen. However, his world is shattered and through his first person narrative, he guides us through his thoughts, nightmares, hopes, and struggles. Students will be able to empathise with Josh and his wish for an ordinary life. They will be able to see how grief can be used as a source of strength. They will also become aware that there are those who seek to manipulate and control us. "*Grow*" in the best sense of the word is about how individual strength can conquer terrorism.

Year 10: Non-Fiction Reading

At regular intervals across Year 10, students will be exposed to a range of topic non-fiction articles which will enable them to learn a great deal more about the world around them. In alignment with our Cultural Capital curriculum, students will encounter texts on subjects as diverse as:

Democracy



Anti-Bullying



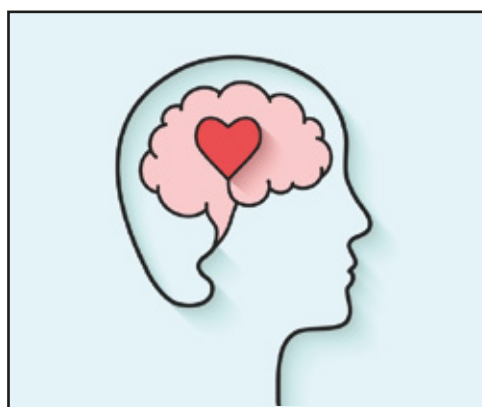
Charity



Yom Kippur



Mental Health



Black History Month



Students will be invited to vote for one of the three novels to be read in Ready to Learn

Year 10: The Poet X (RA 13+)



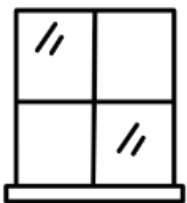
A young girl in Harlem discovers slam poetry as a way to understand her mother's religion and her own relationship to the world. The Poet X is the debut novel of renowned slam poet Elizabeth Acevedo. Xiomara Batista feels unheard and unable to

hide in her Harlem neighborhood. Ever since her body grew into curves, she has learned to let her fists and her fierceness do the talking.

But Xiomara has plenty she wants to say, and she pours all her frustration and passion onto the pages of a leather notebook, reciting the words to herself like prayers—especially after she catches feelings for a boy in her bio class named Aman, who her family can never know about. With Mami's determination to force her daughter to obey the laws of the church, Xiomara understands that her thoughts are best kept to herself.

So when she is invited to join her school's slam poetry club, she doesn't know how she could ever attend without her mami finding out, much less speak her words out loud. But still, she can't stop thinking about performing her poems.

Because in the face of a world that may not want to hear her, Xiomara refuses to be silent.

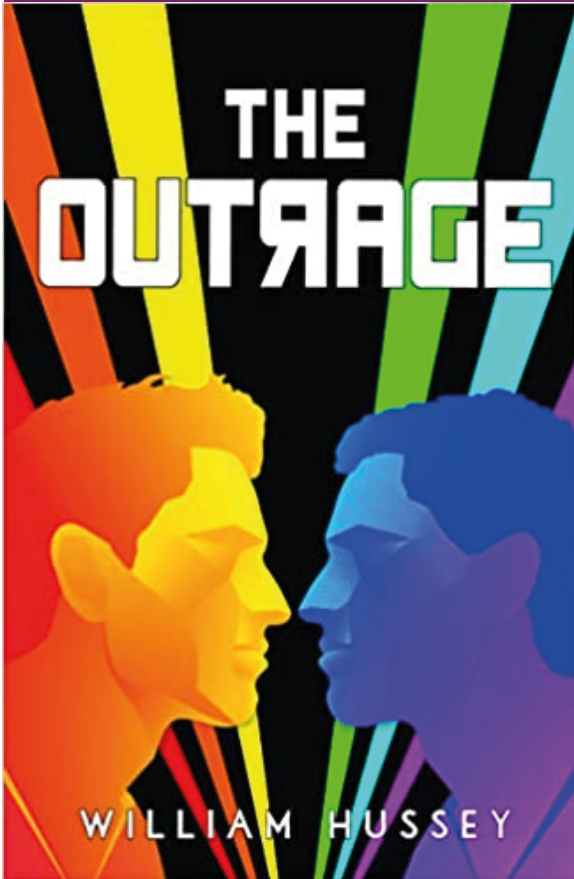


Coming of age. Religion. Generation gaps. Poetry and the power of words. Feminism. Individual Choice.

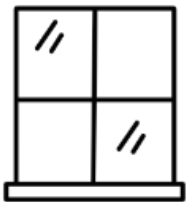


Youth and growing up. Life. Sexuality. Courage – finding your voice. Relationships.

Year 10: The Outrage (RA: 14-17 years of age)



Welcome to England, where the Protectorate enforces the Public Good. Here, there are rules for everything - what to eat, what to wear, what to do, what to say, what to read, what to think, who to obey, who to hate, who to love. Your safety is assured, so long as you follow the rules. Gabriel is a natural born rule-breaker. And his biggest crime of all? Being gay. Gabriel knows his sexuality must be kept secret from all but his closest friends, not only to protect himself, but to protect his boyfriend. Because Eric isn't just the boy who has stolen Gabriel's heart. He's the son of the chief inspector at Degenerate Investigations - the man who poses the single biggest threat to Gabriel's life. And the Protectorate are experts at exposing secrets.



Should we be afraid of who we are? In William Hussey's powerful dystopian novel "The Outrage" students are transported to a world where being "different" is not only vilified but also illegal. The world is ruled by "The Protectorate" - designed to promote public good and well-being. However, the public good also means destroying all those who do not conform. We meet Gabriel who, by being gay, is a natural born rule breaker. He must keep his identity a secret to avoid the worst of punishments. Students will investigate a world where being yourself can be lethal: where injustice and prejudice are not only tolerated; they are encouraged.



Identity, personal choice, tolerance, equality. These are all dearly valued parts of our society. People must be free to be who they are; to express their identities and live peacefully in an accepting world. Through reading "The Outrage" and learning about the personal struggles of Gabriel and his boyfriend Eric, students begin to appreciate what a world where individual liberties are stripped away would be like. They will evaluate their own freedoms and consider the struggles of those who have gone before to provide them with the liberty they enjoy in the Twenty First Century.

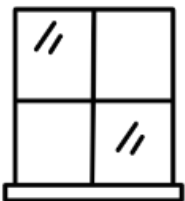
Year 10: More Than This (RA 14-16 years of age)



From two-time Carnegie Medal winner Patrick Ness comes an enthralling and provocative new novel chronicling the life – or perhaps afterlife – of a teen trapped in a crumbling, abandoned world.

A boy called Seth drowns, desperate and alone in his final moments, losing his life as the pounding sea claims him. But then he wakes. He is naked, thirsty, starving. But alive. How is that possible? He remembers dying, his bones breaking, his skull dashed upon the rocks. So how is he here? And where is this place? It looks like the suburban English town where he lived as a child, before an unthinkable tragedy happened and his family moved to America. But the neighbourhood around his old house is overgrown, covered in dust and completely abandoned. What's going on? And why is it that whenever he closes his eyes, he falls prey to vivid, agonizing memories that seem more real than the world around him? Seth begins a search for answers, hoping that he might not be alone, that this might not be the hell he fears it to be, that there might be more than just this...

What happens to us after we die? Where do we go? Patrick Ness, in his post-apocalyptic novel "More



Than This" offers the reader a strange and distorted view of what hell might be.

We meet Seth at the

end of his life, drowning in the ocean. After his death, he awakes in a strangely distorted vision of his old home in the south of England. The world he encounters and the people he meets will open the eyes of students to possible alternative worlds filled with intrigue and danger. It provides darkly sinister answers to some of the biggest questions in life – but also takes us on an adventure to the very limits of life itself!

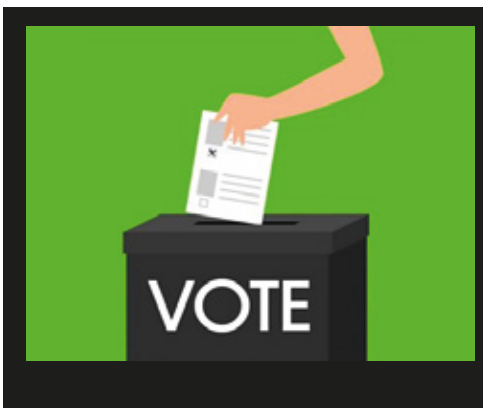


Mortality, or the nature of life is something people rarely think about consciously. In Patrick Ness' "More Than This" he awakens some of the most fundamental questions human must face. What is life? What is death? What might happen to me after I die? At 16, Seth is a totally relatable character for students to engage with. His hopes, dreams, and fears will mirror those of our students and enable them to engage with some difficult and seemingly impossible questions. Relationships are explored and secrets uncovered.

Year 11: Non-Fiction Texts

At regular intervals across Year 11, students will be exposed to a range of topic non-fiction articles which will enable them to learn a great deal more about the world around them. In alignment with our Cultural Capital curriculum, students will encounter texts on subjects as diverse as:

Democracy



Anti-Bullying



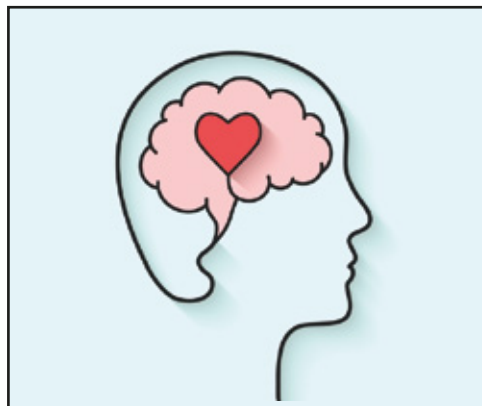
Charity



Yom Kippur



Mental Health



Black History Month

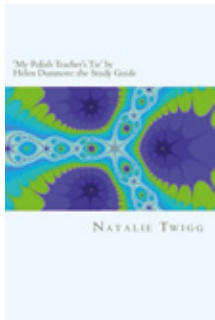


Year 11: Literary Short Stories

Literary Short Stories

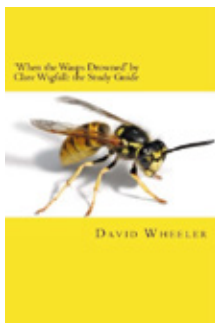
As students prepare for their GCSE examinations, they will be exposed to a range of literary short stories which have been recommended by the AQA board.

In half term two, they will read:



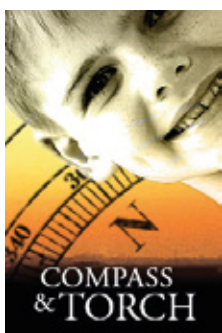
My Polish Teacher's Tie – Helen Dunmore

The narrative follows Carla Carter from her decision to become a Polish teacher's penfriend until their meeting in the school canteen. The main character of the story is Carla Carter – a half-Polish woman who works as a part-time catering assistant. The story follows her connection with Stefan Jeziorny – a Polish teacher. The story's focus is on their written interaction and on their face-to-face meeting.



When the Wasps Drowned – Clare Wigfall

Three children are left to look after themselves at home during the summer holidays while their mother is at work. One of the children, Therese, steps on a wasps' nest and is attacked by the wasps. This foreshadows further danger that the children have to deal with in the summer. Later in the story, they discover a teenager's hand buried by their garden fence.



Compass and Torch – Elizabeth Baines

The short story, Compass and Torch, tells the experience of a father and son who go on a camping trip, to try and form a relationship, after being distant for "one year." In this story, many relationships are evident: between the boy and his mother, the boy and his step-father and the boy and his biological father.



On Seeing the 100% Perfect Girl One Beautiful April Morning – Haruki Murakami

This is a love story about a man in Japan who walks down the street one morning and walks past the girl who is perfect for him. He walks past this girl but does nothing and then in the second half he explains a story about what he wished he had done.

Literary Canon

Year 7

English Curriculum

Clockwork - Pullman

The Tempest - Shakespeare

Oliver Twist - Dickens

Ready to Learn Set Texts (Fiction/Non-Fiction)

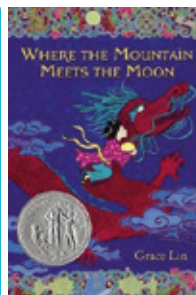
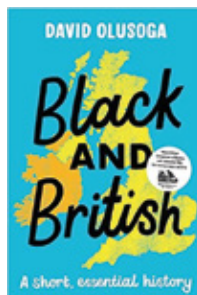
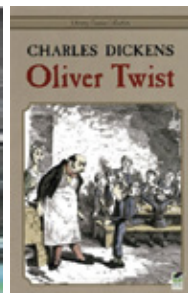
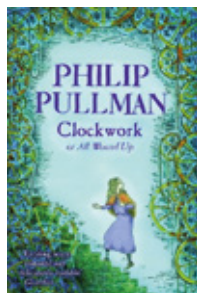
Ruby in the Smoke - Pullman

Black and British - Olusoga

Reading Interventions

Where the Mountain Meets the Moon - Lin

Over the line - Palmer



Year 8

English Curriculum

Frankenstein (play) - Shelley

Long Way Down - Reynolds

The Hunger Games - Collins

Romeo & Juliet - Shakespeare

Ready to Learn Set Texts (Fiction/Non-Fiction)

Chinese Cinderella - Yen Mah

Lord of the Flies - Golding



Year 9

English Curriculum

Blood Brothers - Russell

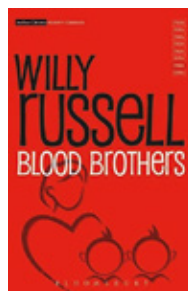
The Hate U Give - Thomas

Othello - Shakespeare

Ready to Learn Set Texts (Fiction/Non-Fiction)

Noughts & Crosses - Blackman

Grow - Palmer



Literary Canon

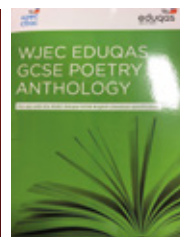
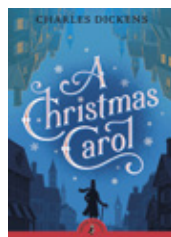
Year 10

English Curriculum

A Christmas Carol - Dickens

Macbeth - Shakespeare

Eduqas Anthology - Various



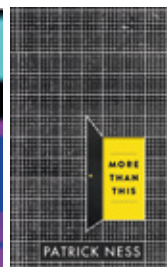
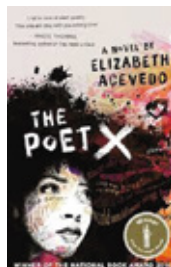
Range of non-fiction articles linking to cultural capital topic areas

Student Choice of:

The Poet X – Acevedo

The Outrage – Hussey

More Than This – Ness



Year 11

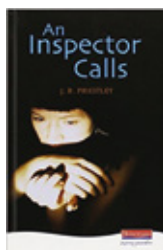
English Curriculum

An Inspector Calls - Priestley

Ready to Learn Set Texts (Fiction/Non-Fiction)

The Outrage - Hussey

More Than This - Ness



Year 12

English Curriculum

The Handmaid's Tale - Atwood

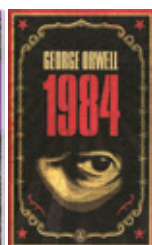
A Streetcar Named Desire - Williams

Ready to Learn Set Texts (Fiction/Non-Fiction)

The Colour Purple - Walker

1984 - Orwell

Fahrenheit 451 - Bloom



Year 13

English Curriculum

The Great Gatsby - Fitzgerald

Ready to Learn Set Texts (Fiction/Non-Fiction)

Tender is the Night - Fitzgerald

Grapes of Wrath - Steinbeck

Catcher In The Rye - Salinger

