

English Curriculum Information Year 8

- Each year is broken into 6 units exploring fiction and non-fiction texts.
- Each unit ensures students gain and consolidate a range of skills and knowledge.
- Most units comprise both analytical and creative assessments.

Unit title	Skills	Knowledge	Assessing Understanding
Autumn 1: Novel: <i>The Merrybegot Or Skin of the Sea</i>	Analyse language and narrative techniques Convey own opinion Compose topic sentences Structure paragraphs Use discourse markers Use analytical phrases Embed multiple quotations Integrate context Recreate character in diary entry Use sensory language to establish setting Use literary techniques Use consistent tense Use accurate SPaG	<i>The Merrybegot</i> by Julie Hearn Or <i>Skin of the Sea</i> by Natasha Bowen Narrative devices and structure Context: Witchcraft, Civil War, Charles 1, Puritans or West African mythology	Each unit is assessed with a final analytical and/or creative piece of writing Knowledge is assessed every lesson through verbal and written work to check for understanding
Autumn 2: See Autumn 1	See Autumn 1	See Autumn 1	
Spring 1: Poetry: Conflict Poems	Building on the skills of Autumn 1 Close analysis of language and structure Comparison of two poems	Jessie Pope's 'The Call', Wilfred Owen's 'Dulce et Decorum Est' and 'Disabled' etc. Poetic techniques Context: WW1 and other conflicts	
Spring 2: Dystopia genre study	Building on the skills of Autumn 1 Understanding of genre and tropes Plan a convincing, considered and well-structured narrative Use ambitious and apt vocabulary	Extracts from George Orwell's <i>1984</i> , Margaret Atwood's <i>Handmaid's Tale</i> , Malcolm Bradbury's <i>Fahrenheit 451</i> , Aldous Huxley's <i>Brave New World</i> , Suzanne Collins' <i>The Hunger Games</i> , Cormac Macarthy's <i>The Road</i> etc. Specific genre conventions	
Summer 1: Drama: <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> or <i>Much Ado About Nothing</i>	Respond critically to a drama text and its adaptations Analyse Shakespeare's language Consider actor/directorial choices Consider audience responses Performance/drama skills/debate	Shakespeare's <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> or <i>Much Ado about Nothing</i> Technical vocabulary for drama Context: tragedy, comedy, Shakespeare's Globe, Elizabethan / Jacobean period, presentation of women on stage and social expectations of women	
Summer 2: Poetry and non-fiction: Natural World	Building on the skills of Autumn 1 and Spring 1	A range of Romantic poetry and more recent non-fiction e.g. Keats' 'Ode to a nightingale' Tennyson's 'The Eagle' Wordsworth's 'The Prelude' Coleridge's 'Rime of the Ancient Mariner' etc. Context: 18-19th century Romantics, climate crisis, environment, nature	