English@ WBS Year 13 Roadmap

Our syllabus and our ethos very much echo the intent of the course:

'Students can engage in what's really interesting about literature — considering how different meanings arise, thinking about and debating different interpretations of texts, having views, expressing opinions, **feeling that their own interpretations are valid.**

Topic 1 Paper 2 Elements of Crime: Unseen extracts

This will be students' opportunity to consolidate and extent their analysis skills when presented with unseen texts. This unit of work will help students develop what they have already learned about 'Elements of Crime' through their study of Atonement and apply it to a range of extracts from poetry, prose and drama texts across time. During this unit, we will give students the opportunity to consider:

- How does this text conform to or subvert the conventions of crime writing?
- What narrative methods has the writer used and what meaning does this create?
- How does context inform my understanding of the narrative trajectory of the extract?

Topic 2 Elements of Crime: Browning's poetry.

This unit will develop students' confidence to independently analyse poetic methods through the generic lens of Elements of Crime. Students will be encouraged to analyse the way Browning constructs voices of criminals or those with murderous intent. We will consider:

- How the writer presents victims and villains
- How successfully the writer gives insight into the criminal psyche.
- The absence of punishment or moral resolution.
- How settings are used for effect
- The extent to which the poems provide social commentary

Topic 3 When Will There Be Good News

In this unit students will be encouraged to discuss and debate the extent to which Atkinson is pushing the boundaries of the traditional crime novel. 'Atkinson seems particularly interested in the effects of crime in this text, how individuals cope with crime in modern Britain and how the grim world can be softened and redeemed by love.' (AQA overview). Along with the elements of crime in the previous texts studied, this novel will give students insight into how writers have invented and reinvented the figure of the detective in fiction with a focus on the characterisation of both Jackson Brodie and the police.

Topic 4 Crabbe and Wilde's Poetry

Students will be encouraged to analyse the way 'Crabbe's narrator is censorious, condemning Peter for his ghastly crimes though giving him a long confessional in which some sympathy is established for the fallen and hopeless man. Wilde's speaker, so easy to identify as the poet himself given that his personal story of his own imprisonment in The Ballad of Reading Gaol is interwoven in the narrative, writes elegiacally and sympathetically not about the victim of crime but about the criminal who is punished by incarceration and then hanged.' (AQA overview)

Assessment

In the Autumn Term you will be developing the knowledge and skills required to revise and practice for Paper 2: Elements of Crime. There will be ab unseen extract which will test your ability to apply your analysis more independently drawing on your knowledge of a range of text types and styles you will have encountered both through study of set texts and wider reading. In the Spring Term, class time will be focussed on exam essay writing skills, consolidating your knowledge of both Aspects of Tragedy and Elements of Crime in order to prepare for a Full Mock on Paper 1 and Paper 2 in February.

Homework and Revision

Homework will be set by your class teacher for each of your set texts. This will involve reading, independent analysis, questions and annotations of your set texts; you will sometimes be asked to complete group work and prepare presentations too. In order that you come to lessons prepared to share and debate your individual research, analysis and interpretations of the texts you are studying, it is vital that you keep up to date with your homework tasks.

Homework will also involve written analysis and practice miniessays which will help you build the skills required for your final assessed pieces each half term.

Enrichment themes

You will be invited to contribute to the student led newspaper either as a member of the editing team or by contributing your own journalistic writing; attend trips to the theatre or watch online streaming of plays in performance, including your set texts when possible; attend our series of internal department lectures to further your knowledge of literary critical theory and meet professional writers. You will also be encouraged to attend external lectures provided by local universities, study days relating to your set texts and open days relating to the study of English.

Where Next?

University, a higher level apprenticeship – up to you! In the past students have chosen to study Literature at University, have branched off into Law, Public Relations or even Advertising. Literature is a great proving ground for whichever discipline you choose to follow.