

## Fairfield High School Curriculum Overview – English Year 7

Studying English at Fairfield enables pupils to: develop their literacy skills, improve imaginative writing, enhance vocabulary, perform close reading analysis and express their viewpoints with confidence.

The Year 7 English curriculum is focused around the idea of ‘exploration’. All units of work explore an aspect of history, culture, feeling, desire or imagination. As the school year progresses, we journey from the ‘other worldly’ (**Fantasy**) to the Elizabethan times, (**Shakespeare**). **Travel Writing** takes us across the globe, ranging from Herodotus in Egypt to Rory Stewart in Afghanistan. We remain in Afghanistan for our reader **The Breadwinner**, then on to **Poetry** with a focus on nature and the environment. Term 6 takes us back to Ancient Greece for a unit on **Greek Myths** and **The Odyssey**.

**Pupils have 6 lessons of English in class over a fortnight.** All pupils in Key Stage 3 also have a dedicated reading lesson which will take place in the school library. They will read a further two fiction texts, ‘Tyger’ by S.F. Said, and ‘The Sword in the Stone’ by T.H. White. These are popular with students and aim to increase reading for pleasure – not assessed as separate units. They are read at the start of lessons, with a focus on improving vocabulary and reading ages.

Term	Unit title	Knowledge and Understanding/content	Skills	Assessment
1	Fantasy	Understanding of the conventions of the Fantasy genre and how writers use them.	Being able to identify and use a range of literary devices to narrate and describe. Creating your own description of a fantasy setting.	Descriptive or narrative writing using a fantasy setting.
2	Introduction to Shakespeare	Introduction to Shakespearean vocabulary, context and conventions of his plays	Learning by rote, analysing language, commenting on writer's intentions.	Memorised performance of a section from a Shakespeare play with accompanying analysis.
3	Travel Writing	Awareness of a non-fiction writing conventions; knowledge of global cultures through a range of travel writing texts.	Explaining how language choices and techniques influence meaning and interpretation. Creating voice	Write an account of a trip to an interesting location.

			through your own travel writing.	
4	The Breadwinner	Knowledge of cultural & historical context of Afghanistan, narrative style, character and empathy.	Reading comprehension and decoding. Recognising links between context and meaning. Analysing writer's craft through focus on a chapter of the novel	Reading: How does the writer Shauzia's feelings in this chapter?
5	Poetry	Awareness of poetic techniques and conventions.	Analysing poetry; creating your own poetry linked to the style model.	Reading - In 'Blessing,' how does the poet present ideas about poverty and wealth?
6	Greek Mythology and The Odyssey	Awareness of a range of literary devices as well as an understanding of purpose, genre and audience.	Skimming, scanning, retrieval. Summarising. Descriptive writing techniques.	Descriptive writing assessment, inspired by The Odyssey.

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