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Year 8

# Department of English

# OVERVIEW

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## Skills Developed

Creative skills are further developed and pupils experiment with writing in genre. They are encouraged to consider the purpose and audience of their writing and adapt their style and content accordingly. Oral work includes a formal presentation to be delivered to the class. Formal grammar work continues with a focus on vocabulary, sentence construction and cohesive use of paragraphing. The end of year examination will focus on the reading skills that the pupils have developed throughout the year and will be comprised of responses to an unseen extract.

## Topics covered

In Year 8, pupils read a range of literature, including nineteenth century stories, a Shakespeare play and a wide variety of poetry. All Year 8 pupils are issued with a recommended reading list and work independently, selecting texts written in different eras and genres. As they continue to analyse the literature they are reading, they are taught some more advanced literary terms.

## How we assess your daughter's progress

Pupils' work is assessed using the Nonsuch High School for Girls Assessment Criteria. Assessed work will be marked out of 20, and three key assessments will be graded with a colour – Purple, Blue, Green, Yellow or Orange – with most of the students expected to be working at a Green.

## How we support and develop your daughter

Material will be made available to pupils on the SharePoint pages.

## How you can help your daughter

Encourage your daughter to select a range of reading material, including newspapers and other non-fiction pieces, as well as recommendations from the Year 8 Reading List. Watching the news and listening to radio discussion programmes and dramatisations of texts will also be helpful. Make sure she has access to a good dictionary and thesaurus to use when completing homework tasks. Remind her to act upon the specific developmental advice she is given when her work is marked.