NHSG Key Stage 3 Unit Overview for Year 9 unit 2 – A Christmas Carol



Year 9 unit 2	A Christmas Carol
Learning outcomes	 Knowledge and understanding of: Dickens' use of language and structural devices to create character and atmosphere The Victorian context – Christmas, the workhouses, etc. Knowledge of the plot of the novella Skill set: Develop confidence and expertise when reading Dickens' novella (both aloud and individually)
Key Question	 Develop the skill set relating to how to write creatively using a range of linguistic, literary and structural devices How does Dickens present aspects of life in Nineteenth-Century London?
Knowledge	 Knowledge: Knowledge of the Victorian context and plot Identification and effect of writer's methods Understanding of how to analyse a nineteenth-century text Understanding of how to write analytically Understanding of how to write imaginatively
	 Skills: Using PETZAL structure to closely examine the text Applying understanding of Dickens' use of devices to own creative writing
	Key Terminology: exposition dialogue denouement genre chronology omniscient narrator perspective climax trajectory

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	pathetic fallacy
	All of these terms are pre-taught and defined on the cover sheet for the students.
Ongoing Assessment	Assessment:
	1 hour assessment based on the text:
	Write a description suggested by a picture showing confident understanding of an aspect of the Victorian context
	 Use of mini white boards, hands down questioning, informal assessment of written work through teacher circulation. Formal assessment, timed, taken in class
	Key misconceptions:
	Dickens' novels are fables: Dickens' novels are not fables or tracts, and readers should not look for morals in them.
	Dickens is a dull or serious writer: Dickens was a vivacious and gregarious person who brought humour to his novels.
	Dickens invented Christmas : Dickens was part of a movement to revive the ancient customs of Christmas, but he was not the sole instigator.
	Dickens is too wordy or descriptive: Dickens style is light, lively, and entertaining
	Homework:
	Learning key terms and spellings
	Research ideas surrounding class divides in the Victorian era
Key Assessment	How will we know that pupils can answer the key question?
	 Assessment: Write a description suggested by a picture showing confident understanding of an aspect of the Victorian context
	What formats/methods are you going to use i.e. in class written assessment?
	Formal assessment, timed, taken in class
Clear sequencing of content	Sequencing:
	This builds on the 19 th -century units studied in years 7 and 8, and prepares students for studying another 19 th -century
	classic text in year 10.

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	 Prior to this year, students learn to write using Gothic characteristics based on their study of a modern adaptation of a 19th-century text, and analyse effects of language in 19th-century short stories, in preparation for the exam unit in Year 8, which builds up to the creative writing assessment in Year 9.
	Key themes/ concepts Character flaws, contrasts between characters Themes: greed, redemption, social justice, regret, moral responsibility
	How does this help students access future learning?
	Studying a 19 th -century text, including examination of linguistic, literary and structural methods as well as application of learning to students' own pieces of creative writing, will help prepare them for all GCSE literature and language units.
Links to Careers	Specific careers: Author, Journalist, Historian, Accountant.
	The presentation of character in literary form, how it has connected to the canon of literature and typical presentation of certain characters in literature links to any career involving cultural capital and the ability to read and infer the presentation of character and what this communicates about its social and historical context.
Diversity and Inclusion	Social injustice being a key theme, study of Dickens' <i>A Christmas Carol</i> shines a harsh and truthful light on adversity suffered by the poor in Victorian England, demonstrating that Christmas was experienced in myriad ways by people from different walks of life.
Support	 Students are provided with a cover page with the key terms defined Resources are available on SharePoint
Challenge	 All student books contain a recommended reading list All students are encouraged to complete the '13 by 13' reading challenge Reading more novels by Dickens Watching a version of the novella on stage or screen