



Year 8 English Learning Outcomes

Autumn: Persuasion and Manipulation

Core reading: Speeches (Pankhurst, MLK, Obama), Julius Caesar, Orwell, opinion pieces, slogans.

Building on Year 7's Origins of Language, this unit traces the development of rhetoric and introduces Ethos, Pathos, and Logos. It prepares students for persuasive writing in Year 9's Language of Reform unit, with continued C25K sentence development.

Spring: Danger and Conflict

Core Reading: Short stories from Conan Doyle to Roald Dahl; a range of modern crime extracts, an anthology of poems from different conflicts and perspectives, including Owen, Pope and Armitage.

Students apply their understanding of writing for audience and purpose to create tension and mystery in crime fiction. They explore rhetorical techniques within detective narratives and build contextual and analytical skills. This leads into the study of war poetry, connecting themes of power and human nature while developing poetic analysis ahead of Year 9.

Summer: Complex Characters

Core reading: Twelfth Night, Frankenstein (the Pullman play adaptation).

Students explore identity, gender, and acceptance through *Twelfth Night* and Pullman's *Frankenstein*. Building on prior character and context knowledge, this unit prepares them for the dramatic complexity of *Romeo & Juliet* and *Macbeth*, while also introducing stagecraft and continuing C25K mastery.