

Year 7 – A Twist in the tale– English Knowledge Organiser

Expectations and content

What is this unit about and why do we teach it?

This unit teaches students to explore and compare two short stories both containing an unexpected twist.. The lessons explore historical context, grammar skills with sentence variation and punctuation for effect. Students should be able to confidently compare elements of the two with an emphasis on being able to transfer these comparison skills to other genres in the future.

Key vocabulary:

- **Manipulative** (controls other people to their advantage)
- **Benevolent** (generous and kind to others)
- **Devoted** (very loving and loyal)
- **Traumatised** (suffering from shock)
- **Pernicious** (having a harmful effect in a gradual or subtle way)

Possible new terminology: :

- Foreshadowing
- Convey
- Dual narrative
- Flashback for effect
- Mood juxtaposition
- Direct address
- Stereotyping

If your child needs support

Suggested activities to help:

- Consider watching clips of 1950s movies and focus on the gender roles of the relationships then consider the following questions:
 - *What is different?*
 - *Was it better or worse?*
 - *What stands out most in the different attitudes?*
- Talk your child through the concept of a twist in an ending of a story. Discuss with them why this would be effective and how subverting a reader's expectations can be humorous.
- Read more of Roald Dahl's twisted tales as these are often humorous, readable and short.
- Discuss with your child the differences you have experienced in your lifetime of changes in attitude to sexism.
- Discuss how to compare different stories. Look at similarities and differences, perhaps starting with a table of observations before finding common themes.

If your child needs extension

Questions to discuss with your child:

- To what extent do you think dark humour is successful in a story?
- How might the writer have portrayed Mary or Dora in a modern setting?
- What examples have you come across of archaic topics/ subjects in a novel?

Challenging activities to complete:

- What needs to change to make a fairer tomorrow?
- How could the government improve the life for modern day people?
- Why would the modern day people accept this ?

Suggested further reading:

If We Were Villains by M.L. Rio

The Necklace by Guy de Maupassant

The Hitchhiker by Roald Dahl

People Kill People by Ellen Hopkins

Sadie by Courtney Summers

We Were Liars by E. Lockhart

The Wicker King by K. Ancrum