

Year 8 – Atmospheric Writing – English Knowledge Organiser

Expectations and content

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

This Atmospheric Writing unit is dedicated to exploring and appreciating literature. We teach a love of reading in all units but this unit explores the skills of great writers whilst learning to adopt these techniques into our own writing.

Key Skills taught:

- Creating effective immersive settings through use of language devices, vocabulary and mood.
- How to use sentence lengths and structures to create different effects.
- Create 3 dimensional characters and make them interact with the setting

Key terminology taught:

- Immersive setting
- Tone
- Setting
- Mood
- Pathetic fallacy
- Word class
- Sentence structure
- Narrator (omniscient, unreliable)
- Archetypes
- Hooks and Openings
- Dialogue
- Denouement (endings)
- Characterisation

If your child needs support

Suggested activities to help:

- One way to improve your creative writing is by experiencing the work of great writers. You should increase your reading and try out some of the recommendations.
- Take a look at TedEd lessons for Fiction Writing available here :<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=RSoRzTtwgP4>
- Increase your vocabulary. Look in a thesaurus at synonyms for words that you may use too often like: sad, scary, bright, depressing.
- Practice using language devices (find these on the MEGA MAP)
- Practice planning your writing (using the models used in lessons)
- Practice editing - great writers do not become great writers from their first draft. They recreate their work constantly until it is just right. You could do this by changing the sentence structures you've used, add in punctuation, add sophistication with vocabulary. Plan extended metaphors and parallels.

If your child needs extension

Questions to discuss with your child:

- What makes creative writing special?
- What genre of fiction interests you the most?
- Discuss your favorite fiction novels.

Challenging activities to complete:

- HG Wells short story competition available here: <https://hgwellscompetition.com/competition-rules-2020/?v=79cba1185463>
- Young Writers Short Story Competition available here: <http://www.outletpublishinggroup.com/2019/11/26/young-writers-short-story-competition-2019-2020/>
- The Walter Scott Prize for Creative Writing: <https://www.walterscottprize.co.uk/young-walter-scott-prize/>

Suggested further reading:

- **The Haunting of Hill House-Shirley Jackson**, a psychological thriller with an unreliable narrator.
- **The Great Gatsby - F. Scott Fitzgerald**, a magnificent story of Jay Gatsby and his opulent lifestyle - a fantastic example of characterisation.
- **Stephen King - On Writing**. If you are a passionate writer, Stephen King let's some of his secrets of the trade slip in this fantastic memoir on writing.
In addition, keep a look out for what your teacher is reading.