

Year 8 – Sing Street – English Knowledge Organiser

Expectations and content

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

- This coming-of-age play is about disaffected Irish teenagers in the 1980s dealing with adversity and broken homes. Students are able to see the impact of abusive and manipulative behaviour and how the characters use music and self-belief to mature and learn about compassion, forgiveness and justice.

Key Vocabulary taught:

- Dejected
- Unsupported
- Neglected
- Unfulfilled
- Suppressed

Key terminology taught:

- Symbolism
- Imagery
- Euphemism
- Theme
- Bildungsroman
- Tentative language
- Freytag pyramid story structure
- Metaphor
- Juxtaposition
- Alliteration
- Foreboding

If your child needs support

Vocabulary help:

- Use a dictionary to find definitions of the key vocabulary.
- Create your own examples of the words.
- Put the key vocabulary into sentences of your own and try to use them in sentences with your friends and family.
- Create a list of antonyms (words that mean the opposite) to match the words.

Terminology help:

- Find examples of the key terminology in your current reading book. Ask your teacher for reading recommendations if you aren't reading a book at the moment.
- Look at the terminology mega map and create your own examples.

General help:

- Create a fact file on the context of 1980s Dublin.
- Sing Street is a popular film and you could watch it for further understanding of the plot and characters.
- Where have you experienced compassion, forgiveness and justice before?
- Look at how punctuation is used in play scripts. Note how a new line is used for a new character and stage directions are in brackets. Can you make your own script?

If your child needs extension

Questions to discuss with your child:

- Should you always follow your dreams, even if they seem unrealistic?
- What is escapism and is it necessary?
- Does hardship make the best music?

Challenging activities to complete:

- Research the economic downfall of Ireland in the 1980s and consider the social impact on children in particular.
- Write a letter to the education secretary in defence of music lessons and why they're important for children.
- Create your own lyrics for Conor's new song. What would it be about by the end of the play?

Suggested further reading:

- ***Creature of The Night*** by Kate Thompson
YA novel about Bobby, a fourteen year old who finds himself trapped between two worlds in this moving story about growing up.
- ***One*** by Sarah Crossan
Carnegie medal winning novel about identity and loss with two conjoined twins as protagonists.
- ***The Carnival at Bray*** by Jessie Ann Foley
Sixteen year old Maggie learns the transformative power of music.