

Year 9 – Short Stories – English Knowledge Organiser

Expectations and content

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

- This unit is preparing students for their GCSE Language Paper 1, Question 2. Analysis of three short stories will guide students through the processes so they feel fully confident in making inferences and using sophisticated expression.

Key Vocabulary taught:

Languid
Lethargic
Stifling
Ominous
Monotonous
Foreboding
Hostile
Juvenile
Impoverished
Distressing
Harrowing
Vengeful
Sinister
Superficial
Deplorable

Key terminology taught:

- ATEASE paragraphing
- Symbolism
- Common Literature themes

If your child needs support

Suggested activities to help:

- This unit is filled with sophisticated and challenging vocabulary. To help, you could create vocabulary cards. Write the term on one side and the definition on the other. You might want to get someone else to test you, or you could test yourself.
- To help you understand the contexts of the stories, you may want to research into them. The three we will be focussing on, are: 'When the wasps drowned', 'Anil' and 'The darkness out there'. These stories are from the GCSE anthology, 'Sunlight on the grass'.
- When it comes to analysing, you may wish to practice on different stories. Read through some others from the anthology. As you read, make some notes. What is happening in this story? Why might it be happening? What writing techniques can you find in the story? What could the author be suggesting by using certain words or techniques?
- Practice using ATEASE by continually writing paragraphs in this style. It might be useful to practice at home on a text you know well.

If your child needs extension

Questions to discuss with your child:

- Can we always tell what is right from wrong? (When the wasps drowned)
- Should we always challenge behaviour we do not agree with? Why / Why not? (Anil)
- Why do we judge people off first impressions? Can our judgements be wrong? (The darkness out there)

Challenging activities to complete:

- Compare all three stories we read during this unit. Can you make any links between them? How are they different / similar?
- Have a go at analysing and writing 3 ATEASE paragraphs for another story in the anthology.
- Create your own short story, like the ones we have read. Ensure there is a subtle 'dark' theme behind it.

Suggested further reading:

- You may wish to read all the stories in the anthology, 'Sunlight on the grass'. We have copies of these in school.
- **Another couple of short stories? The Monkey's Paw perhaps?**