

Key Stage Three Curriculum

Year Seven					
Tales Through Time		Journeys of Discovery		Growing Up	
1.1 Heroic Stories and <i>Girl, Boy, Sea</i>	1.2 Storycraft	2.1 Travel Writing	2.2 The Tempest	3.1 The Fire Eaters	3.2 Writing About Childhood (Transition to Year 8)
Content					
A study of narrative tropes, archetypes, setting and character focused around <i>Girl, Boy, Sea</i>	Short story focus based around the <i>Iridescent Adolescent</i> anthology and a selection of other stories.	Exploring a range of forms of travel writing, including literary non-fiction, blog and advertisement.	William Shakespeare's <i>The Tempest</i> .	<i>The Fire Eaters</i> by David Almond	Literature that explores the theme of childhood and coming of age
Genre Knowledge					
Myths; legends; epic; quest narrative; archetype; civilisation vs chaos.	Ghost story conventions; short story structures; flash fiction; magic realism; ambiguity.	Travel writing; literary non-fiction; travel blog; advert; digital writing.	Shakespearean drama; Jacobean theatre; tragedy elements; stagecraft; dramatic form.	Coming of age novel; narrative structure.	Coming-of-age narrative; poetry; memoir-style writing; film narrative; short story structure
Writer's Craft					
Description; setting; imagery; sensory language; verbs; first-person; narrative voice.	Suspense; tension; dialogue; viewpoint; structure; ambiguous endings.	Sensory description; imagery; figurative language; imperative verbs; adverbs; conditional tense; persuasion; structure; sequencing; captions.	Dramatic structure; dialogue; soliloquy; stage directions; imagery; symbolism; characterisation.	Characterisation; imagery; symbolism; dialogue; dialect; setting; narrative voice; motif; structure.	Narrative structure (equilibrium/disruption/quest /climax/resolution); symbolism; setting; imagery; viewpoint; voice; tension.
Contextual Knowledge					
Oral storytelling; folklore; epic tradition; ancient civilisations.	Folklore; oral storytelling; supernatural tradition.	Travel literature; digital media; blogging; travel journalism.	Jacobean England; theatre conventions; colonial perspectives.	Cuban Missile Crisis; Cold War tensions; 1960s Britain; working-class life.	Childhood representation in literature; nostalgia; American coming-of-age narratives.
Conceptual Understanding					
Archetype; symbolism of the sea; heroism; survival; identity; transformation; fear.	Interpretation; reader response; identity; fear; ambiguity.	Audience; purpose; persuasion; representation; experience; voice; place; authenticity	Power; control; authority; civilisation vs nature; revenge; forgiveness; magic; colonisation	Coming of age; identity; fear; conflict; morality; justice; community; redemption; fragility; activism.	Coming of age; memory; childhood; identity; transformation; innocence; loss; journey; perspective
Formative Task					
Exploration of the opening chapter of 'Girl, Boy, Sea' and the description of the sea.	A 'typical' ghost story.	Travel Itinerary	How is Prospero presented at the start of the play?	Descriptive account of Newcastle quayside.	Exploration of 'When the Wasps Drowned.'
Assignment					
An extended piece of descriptive writing inspired by the sea.	Flash fiction inspired by a ghost story.	A travel blog about a camping trip.	Exam (using extract from 'Girl, Boy, Sea.')	A character study through a Missing Voice narrative.	Creative writing about childhood inspired by film and prose

Year Eight					
Imagining the Future		Struggle for Survival		Visionaries	
4.1 Robert Swindells' <i>Brother in the Land</i>	4.2 Speculative Fiction	5.1 The Great Wilderness	5.2 The Bone Sparrow	6.1 People With Big Ideas	6.2 Voices (Transition to Year 9)
Content					
Robert Swindells' <i>Brother In The Land</i>	Short stories from <i>Iridescent Adolescent</i> , <i>Sweet Tooth</i> by Jeff Lemire 'Sound of Thunder' by Ray Bradbury	Literary non-fiction; survival feature articles	Zana Fraillon's <i>The Bone Sparrow</i>	The Romantic poets Persuasive speeches about community and environment	Blogging Comic writing Review of <i>The Truman Show</i> (dir. Peter Weir)
Genre Knowledge					
Dystopian fiction; post-apocalyptic fiction.	Speculative fiction; science fiction; graphic novel; environmental fiction; short story form.	Feature article; survival narrative; narrative non-fiction; interview writing.	Contemporary YA fiction; refugee narrative; social realism; dual narrative structure.	Romantic poetry; persuasive speeches; ideological narrative; contemporary non-fiction argument	Non-fiction; opinion writing; review writing; blog writing; media texts; feature writing; brand communication; reality TV discourse.
Writer's Craft					
First-person narrative; character voice; tension and structure; dialogue; setting; symbolism; contrast; foreshadowing.	Visual storytelling; panel structure; imagery and sensory description; symbolism; characterisation; dialogue; juxtaposition; perspective.	First-person / third-person narration; descriptive language; tension; perspective; lexical fields; chronological structure.	Imagery and symbolism; setting as confinement; flashback; dialogue; structural shifts between perspectives; motif (sparrow, stories, desert).	Rhetoric; symbolism; contrast; argument; multimodal presentation; speech structure; emotive language; repetition and emphasis.	Rhetoric; tone of voice; audience; purpose; persuasion; humour; anecdote; credibility; register.
Contextual Knowledge					
Cold War; nuclear threat; propaganda (<i>Protect and Survive</i>); 20th-century Britain.	Climate crisis; technological anxiety; environmental collapse; cultural responses to the future.	Real-life disasters; aviation history; wilderness survival; Andes/Himalayas expeditions.	Refugee crisis; immigration detention centres; displacement; human rights issues; 21st-century global migration.	Industrial Revolution; Romantic movement; ecocriticism; activism.	Media representation; social media communication; branding and advertising; consumer culture.
Conceptual Understanding					
Power; fear; control; morality; community; innocence vs experience; propaganda; resistance; resilience.	Identity; human impact on nature; power and control; environmental consequence.	Heroism; risk; human endurance; empathy; nature vs human limits; storytelling and authenticity.	Freedom and confinement; identity; voice and silencing; belonging; injustice; memory and storytelling.	Nature vs industry; power; morality; society; responsibility; sustainability; change.	Authenticity; persuasion; influence; audience manipulation.
Formative Task					
Exploration of the opening of 'Brother in the Land.'	A dramatic retelling of Ray Bradbury's 'A Sound of Thunder.'	Narrative of imagined plane crash.	Newspaper article about Beaver's actions in the camp	How is nature presented in John Clare's 'Sonnet'?	Room 101 - writing to entertain and argue.
Assignment					
Dramatic monologue from the perspective of Kim.	A sequence from a graphic novel and exploratory commentary.	A non-fiction feature article.	A recreative response to the novel/critical analysis.	Exam (extract from 'A Sound of Thunder')	'The Truman Show' Film Review

Year Nine

The Supernatural		Outsiders		Subversion	
7.1 The Gothic	7.2 The Woman In Black	8.1 Writing from the Outside	8.2 Arthur Miller's The Crucible	9.1 Shakespeare's Romeo and Juliet	9.2 Transition Unit Unfolding Stories: Texts and Adaptations (Transition to Year 10)
Content					
Learning about the codes and conventions of the Gothic genre.	<i>The Woman In Black</i> by Susan Hill; the conventions of the ghost story genre and deep layers of meaning in language.	Literature from different traditions that explores life on the 'outside' of power and privilege.	Arthur Miller's play set in Salem, Massachusetts during the 17th century witch trials.	William Shakespeare's <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> .	A range of film clips and fiction extracts.
Genre Knowledge					
Gothic fiction; ghost stories; supernatural fiction; psychological horror; short stories; ambiguity; uncanny.	Victorian ghost stories; Isolation and liminal spaces; Fear as genre; Pastiche	Poetry conventions; voice and perspective; poetry as social commentary; war and conflict poetry; re-creative writing	Historical drama and tragedy stage play conventions; moral drama.	Traditional interpretations of Shakespeare Postmodern interpretations of Shakespeare	Narrative fiction; short story structure; film adaptation; thriller genre; horror conventions; opening sequences; episodic narrative; cinematic narrative techniques;
Writer's Craft					
Atmosphere; tension; suspense; setting; imagery; symbolism; viewpoint; narrative voice; structure; dialogue; ambiguity.	Setting as symbolism; Story-within-a-story; Structure and suspense; Foreshadowing; Contrast and juxtaposition	Poetic techniques; language for effect; imagery and symbolism; structure and form; voice and viewpoint; tone and mood.	Dramatic dialogue; stage directions; symbolism; dramatic irony; tension building; characterisation through speech; structure of acts.	Dramatic dialogue; soliloquy and monologue; imagery; symbolism; foreshadowing; structure of scenes; stagecraft; cinematography.	Structural choices; narrative opening and endings; shifts in focus; foreshadowing; juxtaposition.
Contextual Knowledge					
Victorian Gothic; fear and superstition; industrialisation; Romantic influence; psychological interpretations of fear; cultural anxieties	Victorian spiritualism; Gothic ; Industrial Revolution anxieties; Edwardian society and beliefs.	Social and political context; Apartheid; Civil Rights movement and inequality; cultural identity; poetry as protest	Puritan New England; Salem witch trials 1692; McCarthyism allegory; religious authority; gender and power in colonial society.	Changing context of Shakespeare; Elizabethan England; patriarchal society; Renaissance ideas of love; social hierarchy.	Film and literary adaptation; popular culture narratives.
Conceptual Understanding					
Fear; the unknown; isolation; identity; madness; morality; the supernatural; nature vs human; reality vs illusion.	Fear; liminality; memory; supernatural belief; control and uncertainty.	Voice and identity; power and control; conflict and inequality; social justice and protest.	Power; justice; gender oppression; control through fear; moral conflict; reputation; mass hysteria.	Love; conflict; choice vs fate; masculinity.	Innocence vs evil. Power and chaos.
Formative Task					
Gothic inspired narrative using the 'drop, zoom...' method	How does Hill create a sinister and tense atmosphere?	Analysis of 'Belfast Confetti.'	Analysis of opening stage directions and commentary.	What is the purpose of the prologue? A response.	How has the writer structured the text 'It'?
Assignment					
Essay focused on Edward Scissorhands but which references other Gothic texts.	How does Hill use different settings to create fear?	Exam (Poetry)	How is the character of Abigail Williams presented? An essay response.	How does Shakespeare present different types of love in the play?	How has the writer structured the text to... 'Jaws'?

