



**Topic: Poems and Short stories
from other cultures**

Year: 8

NC Strand:

What should I already know?

A selection of war poems were studied last term. You should already have background knowledge of poetic techniques familiar with poems such as similes, metaphors, personification, sibilance etc. You will now apply these to poems from a range of different cultures. You will apply comprehension and retrieval skills used in previous novel studies to explore the author's intent within a piece of writing. You will explore how a writer's culture has influenced their writing.

What will I know by the end of the unit?

I will be able to:

- Recall the key characters, their actions in the play and their characteristics
- Summarise the key events, themes and ideas of the novel
- Identify key quotations on key characters and explain what I can interpret about their character as a result
- Use a range of strategies to decode and learn new vocabulary,
- Examine how language, vocabulary choice, grammar and text structure presents meaning
- Explore how culture can influence and shape writing
- Analyse a text, selecting relevant quotations to support my views in answer to a set question
- Comment on the impact of the author's language and structure on differing audiences
- Comment on how dramatists work is communicated through performance and how staging can allow for different interpretations
- Make comparisons between a range of texts, identifying and tracking themes across the texts
- Write a critical essay on a set question, commenting on characters, themes and events from across the texts
- Reflect on my own work, considering how it reflects the audience and purpose for which it was intended
- Adapt my own use of vocabulary, grammar and structure to improve the overall effectiveness of my work.

Vocabulary

Apartheid	a policy or system of segregation or discrimination on grounds of race.
Culture	the ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or society.
Dramatic irony	when the audience knows information the characters do not.
Foreshadowing	to give an indication of what is to come.
Metaphor	a figure of speech, which is not literal.
Semantic field	a group of words, which relate to a common theme or motif.
Stereotype	a standardized and usually oversimplified and inaccurate conception held in common by many people.
Subverting Gender	when the character acts in a way that challenges the usual gender attributes.

Key Themes

Culture Clash	Conflict between cultures , or a disagreement arising between two parties of different beliefs, values and practices	Poverty	The state of being poor or inferior in quality.
Education	The process of receiving or giving systematic instruction, especially at a school or university.	Ceremony / Traditions / Customs	A formal religious or public occasion, especially one celebrating a particular event, achievement, or anniversary.
Authority	The power or right to give orders, make decisions, and enforce obedience.	Community & Family Life	The importance of family and how being part of a local community can foster this feeling of being in a family.
New Ways Vs Old Ways	The conflict that often occurs when someone wants to bring in a new way of doing something compared to the traditional ways.	Conflicts & Divisions	Arguments and ways that people end up separated.



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**Religion
and
Beliefs**

The belief in and worship of a superhuman controlling power, especially a personal God or gods.

**Luck &
Fortunes**

How important is luck to fortune? Can you make your own?

Context

Dead Man’s Path: A “progressive” African headmaster (principal) takes on a new job in a village where the people are superstitious and cling to traditional tribal ways. The story addresses the cultural conflicts between “new” British ideas and “old” African customs.

Snapshots of a Wedding: It presents a story of young people in an African village dealing with forces of tradition and change in the latter part of the twentieth century. Botswana is a republic in central southern Africa, located north of South Africa. It became independent in 1966. Much of its territory consists of the Kalahari region, an area of desert and grassland. Cattle-raising, the traditional source of wealth and sustenance, continues to be a mainstay of the economy. The Tswana people who make up most of the population tend to reside in large villages in which extended families live together in their own compounds. Tribal institutions and customs remain strong. Nonetheless, as in the rest of Africa, modern ways are beginning to disrupt the traditional way of life.

The Train from Rhodesia: It takes place shortly after apartheid, or "separateness," became the law of the land in South Africa. This story, published in 1952, reflects the system of racial segregation instituted by the National Party in 1948.

The Gold Legged Frog: Set in Thailand, Asia, this story is about the lives of rural Thai villagers. The writer describes the social problems these villagers face and suffer.

Two Kinds: “Two Kinds” is concerned with the complex relationships between mothers and daughters. In particular, Tan’s subject is the distance between mothers who were born in China before the communist revolution and thus have been cut off from their native culture for decades, and their American born daughters who must negotiate the twin burdens of their Chinese ancestry and American expectations for success.

The Tall Woman and Her Short Husband: In 1966, China’s Communist leader Mao Zedong launched what became known as the Cultural Revolution in order to reassert his authority over the Chinese government. Believing that current Communist leaders were taking the party, and China itself, in the wrong direction, Mao called on the nation’s youth to purge the “impure” elements of Chinese society and revive the revolutionary spirit that had led to victory in the civil war 20 years earlier and the formation of the People’s Republic of China. The Cultural Revolution continued in various phases until Mao’s death in 1976, and its tormented and violent legacy would resonate in Chinese politics and society for decades to come.

Homework Tasks

Week 1: Create a guide / culture map about your own personal culture.

Week 2: Create a comic strip/storyboard of the events of Dead Man’s Path

Week 3: Create a comic strip/storyboard of the events of Snapshots of a Wedding

Week 4: How do the two stories looked at so far compare?

Week 5: Create a comic strip/storyboard of the events of The Train from Rhodesia

Week 6:

Week 7: Create a comic strip/storyboard of the events of The Green Legged Frog

Week 8: Create a poem using a style we have studied so far about your own culture

Week 9: Create a comic strip/storyboard of the events of Two Kinds

Week 10: Develop a multiple choice quiz on the stories studied so far

Week 11: Create a comic strip/storyboard of the events of Tall Woman and her Short Husband