

KS3 English Curriculum

Year 7: Rebellion and Conformity

A Midsummer Night's Dream



Parental Guide

Our intent through this topic:

To introduce students to the importance of Shakespeare in the study of English literature and to celebrate his work as one of the key writers in the literary canon. Students will understand the influence Shakespeare has had on modern language. They will see that themes explored by Shakespeare are timeless connecting the past to the present. This unit is intended as an introduction to Shakespeare and will lay the foundations for the study of Romeo and Juliet in Year 8.

English Key Concepts

Content	A Midsummer Night's Dream <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Shakespearean Comedy - Extracts presenting rebellious and defiant female characters in Shakespeare - Writer's choice of setting and intention of setting choice - Secondary Material: On Reverence for Parents Zhao Ban (https://www.commonlit.org/en/texts/on-reverence-for-parents) Dreams by Langston Hughes Hour by Carol Ann Duffy Sonnet 43 Elizabeth Barrett Browning How Shall I love thee? The Crucible – Opening Scene Act 1 Scene 1
Context	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Understand Elizabethan society in terms of hierarchy, patriarchy and the restrictions placed on women. - Conventions of Shakespearean Comedy - Patriarchy with links to Egeus and Theseus - Gender roles and attitudes to arranged marriage - Hierarchy and social class, authority with links to Theseus - Shakespeare's women – female rebellion. - Courtly love linked to non-physical love
Universal Suffering and the Human Condition	Inequality, relationships, healthy vs toxic, duty, tradition, servitude, familial expectations, suffering, deception, betrayal, class
Methods have Meaning	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Simile - Metaphor – use of tenor, vehicle, ground as a way of explaining a metaphor - Soliloquy - Semantic field- light and nature imagery - Stage directions - Dramatic Irony. - Prose and verse related to class (workmen of Athens). - Allusion. - Juxtaposition of setting - Characterisation
Criticism and critical interpretation	Receptions of the play at different times. Feminism – criticism of patriarchal structures

Students will know:

- When Shakespeare lived
- What a patriarchal society is and how this links to Elizabethan society
- How hierarchy and social class are presented in the play
- How Hermia as a rebellious female character links to other defiant females created by Shakespeare such as Titania
- What a matriarch is and how this is portrayed in the play
- Concept of marriage in the context of a Shakespeare comedy through a happy ending.
- What is meant by courtly love and how this is shown in A Midsummer Night's Dream
- What is meant by dramatic irony
- How stage craft is used in A Midsummer Night's Dream
- How Shakespeare uses metaphors to create meaning eg the use of nature/serpents
- Why the workmen of Athens speak in prose and its link to social class
- How gender influenced the roles in the play

Students will be able to:

- Explain how setting can influence the behaviour of characters through the exploration of juxtaposed settings (Athens and the Woods)
- How context influenced comedy
- Compare the similarities and differences between rebellious and defiant female characters from A Midsummer Night's Dream through Hermia and Titania
- Identify examples of prose and explain their impact
- Use excellent epithets to write thesis statements
- Use thesis statements to write three topic sentences
- Embed textual detail to support arguments

Revision questions to help support your child:

Encourage your child to speak through their subject knowledge. By taking on the role of the student, ask your child to explain a topic from one of their subjects. Listen carefully and don't be afraid to ask them a question if you do not fully understand what they are saying. This will help them to understand the topic themselves through the process of telling you what they know and help with the transferal of knowledge from their short term to long term memory.

- What do you know about William Shakespeare?
- What do you know about the time in which Shakespeare was writing?
- What are the conventions (features) of a comedy play?
- What does the word:
hierarchy/patriarchy/inequality/duty/deception/betrayal/rebellion/conformity mean?
- What is courtly love/symbolism/a stage
direction/simile/prose/juxtaposition/soliloquy/semantic
field/enjambment/caesura/rhyming couplets/allusion?
- Can you give me an example of each of the above?
- In a metaphor, what is the tenor, vehicle and ground?

- How do you structure a thesis statement?
- How do you turn a thesis statement into a topic sentence?
- Can you tell me about the plot of the play you have been reading? (A Midsummer Night's Dream)
- What has been your favourite moment in the play and why?
- Which characters are rebellious?
- How are the character rebellious?
- Which characters conform to what society or other people want? Why do they conform?
- What do you think will happen next in the play?

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