

GCSE English Reform

Key Changes

- **More demanding** examination which is sat at the end of course.
- **All pupils will study English Language and English Literature (two separate qualifications).**
- **All pupils must complete oral presentations / assessments in front of an audience.**
- **Texts that pupils will study are significantly more challenging (old = Of Mice and Men, new = Frankenstein / Jekyll & Hyde).**
- **Exams will not be tiered (no higher or foundation – all pupils sit the same paper).**

Curriculum Content English Language

- **No Coursework.**
- **Two final exams sat at the end of year 11.**
- **Pupils will achieve grades in number 1-9, not A*-G**
 - Grade 4 is equal to old grade C in 2017;
 - Grade 5 is equal to old grade C from 2018 onwards
- **Only the top 16% of pupils, nationally, will be awarded 7-9.**
- **All exam extracts will be ‘unseen’.**
- **Exams will assess reading and writing skills.**
- **Exams include:**
 - 19th, 20th and 21st Century fiction and non-fiction
 - Imaginative writing
 - Transactional writing.

Curriculum Content English Literature

- **No coursework.**
- **Two final exams sat at the end of year 11.**
- **Literature exams will be ‘closed book’** (the whole text will be studied, an extract will be printed for pupils to answer from).
- **Pupils must study:**
 - **A play by Shakespeare**
 - **A novel written in the 19th Century by an English writer**
 - **A selection of poetry (an anthology collated by the exam board) including Romantic poetry**
 - **A 20th Century text (play or prose) written by an English writer.**

Course Content – regardless of exam board

LANGUAGE

Reading:

- 3 unseen literary fiction and non-fiction texts, one of which is 19th Century.
- 80% of reading mark is for analysis, comparison and evaluation.

Writing:

- Spelling, punctuation and grammar is 20% of the marks.

LITERATURE

- 1 compulsory Victorian novel.
- Compulsory Romantic poetry.
- Compulsory unseen poetry.
- Increase in British literary heritage.
- Spelling, punctuation and grammar is 5% of the marks.

What will pupils need to be able to succeed?

Higher-order reading skills including the ability to make reasonable deductions and inferences when faced with complex or unfamiliar language.

'Cultural capital' – enough experience of a variety of texts to 'place' unseen texts historically and draw on this experience when reading and writing about them.

Ability to analyse texts in relation to their underlying literary features (intention, genre, mood, figurative language, etc).

A greater degree of accuracy, as well as the ability to make appropriate style choice, when faced with unseen writing tasks.

Opportunities to revisit texts and read texts more than once will allow pupils to develop their knowledge and understanding in preparation for the close book exams.

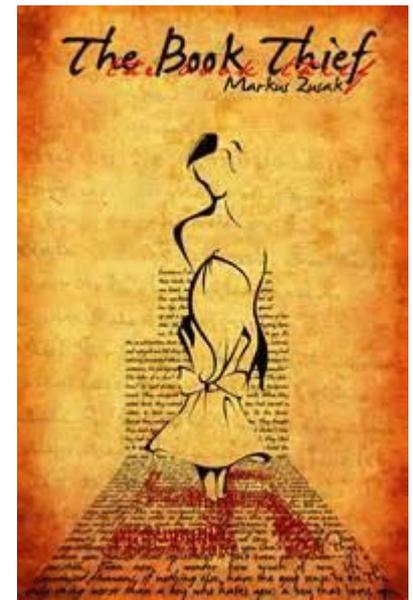
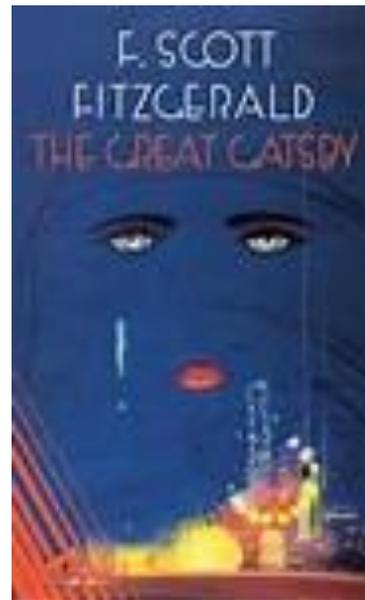
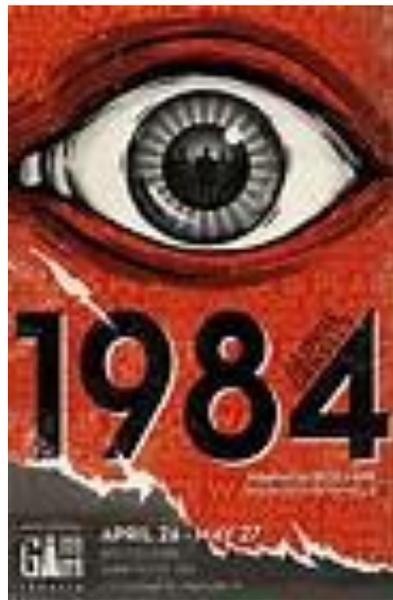
How you can help

Help to increase your child's cultural capital through a variety of activities and multi-media texts.



Welcome to Charles Dickens' Birthplace Museum

Encourage your children to read widely, and ensure that texts are challenging and varied.



Ways to provide reading support:

- Help your child select a book.
- Model good reading habits - share what you are reading.
- Ask your child questions about their reading.
- Encourage your child to visit the library regularly.
- Alternate challenging books with easy reads.
- Read the same book simultaneously and share your opinions and reactions.
- Encourage your child to be a critical and evaluative reader – ***What did you enjoy about it? Why was it so emotional?***
- Watch a film or television adaptation together and compare it to the book.
- Break reading time down into small, manageable chunks if your child is feeling overwhelmed by a text. Set them achievable targets for each day/week.
- Read articles and non-fiction texts on the internet and discuss them with your children.