



## PLUME ACADEMY - LEARNING OVERVIEW

Year	8
Subject	English

### Prior Learning

*The Year 8 programme of study in English builds on the KS2 experience and the Year 7 curriculum by developing techniques in reading comprehension, verbal discussion, analysis, evaluation and creative writing. This is all designed with a clear vision in mind: to enhance a love of learning and a love of reading.*

At KS2, students should have been taught to maintain positive attitudes to reading a wide range of texts; at Year 7 we continued fostering these skills with increasingly more challenging texts, ideas and discussions. Where students study texts in Year 7 like *The Breadwinner* by Deborah Ellis, in Year 8 they will study more challenging literature like *Face* by Benjamin Zephaniah. Just as they have done in Year 7, students will use texts like this to inspire discussion and analytical writing. We also push independent reading skills and reading resilience further in Year 8 by studying *Romeo and Juliet* and *A Midsummer Night's Dream* by William Shakespeare in full. Students should be familiar with Shakespeare, having already been introduced to popular plays at KS2 like *The Tempest* and *Macbeth* (the latter of which they will study in depth at GCSE level in Year 10).

With regards to analysis and evaluation, students should have already been introduced to language techniques and figurative language at KS2 and this knowledge should have been expanded in Year 7. Again, we aim to develop the complexity of these ideas, pushing students to explore more layers of understanding with even more complex texts like those in our Myths and Legends unit.

Creative writing is often a core Key Stage 2 skill, and this is further developed in Year 7 and throughout Year 8. In Year 8, we continue to use a range of increasingly challenging texts to inspire writing different styles for different audiences.

### Curriculum Intent – What are the curriculum aims?

To develop an understanding of key genres and writers, and to broaden understanding of wider literary movements. Students will make connections across centuries, understanding how modern day literature is influenced by older and canonical texts. Core texts will be complemented by supporting units which will include poems and other extracts to provide context. Key skills include evaluating and comparing texts, comparing writers' ideas, and analysing language and structure of texts to understand the writers' methods and their effects. Student will also develop their ability to 'craft' their writing – choosing their vocabulary and methods for more deliberate effect.

### Curriculum Implementation – What my child will be learning?



Term 1	<p><u>Identity</u> Main text – <i>Face</i> by Benjamin Zephaniah, Selection of poetry and non-fiction texts linked by the theme of identity.</p>
Term 2	<p><u>Legends, Myths and Mysteries</u> A new novel <i>The Immortal Games</i>, studied alongside a variety of poetry, short stories and non-fiction writing, all connected to Myths and Legends.</p>
Term 3	<p><u>'Shakespeare-ience'</u> Main texts – <i>Romeo and Juliet</i> and <i>A Midsummer Night's Dream</i> by William Shakespeare.  Also, a diverse selection of poetry, sonnets and extracts of other Shakespearean plays linked by themes of love and violence.</p>

### Curriculum Impact – How will progress be assessed?

Class work will be assessed through a combination of self, peer and teacher assessment. Feedback will be both written and verbal, depending on the task.

Where students carry out self and peer assessment, framework and guidance will be provided by the teacher to make sure feedback and the experience of assessment is effectively completed and valuable.

To help assist focus, students will be given personalised reading and writing targets by their teacher every few weeks – helping them to master skills before moving on.

Once a term, students will have formal reading and writing assessments to be marked by the teacher – these will help to inform progress review data.

### Super-Curricular Opportunities – Extending Learning

Useful supporting resources:	If a student is really passionate about this subject, they could:	As a parent/carer, I can assist my child in this subject by:
<p>Accelerated Reader program – this is available both through the LAIC and via online websites to be accessed at home</p> <p>After you have read a book, Accelerated Reader quizzes in the library can enhance your understanding of a novel</p> <p><a href="https://ukhosted51.renlearn.co.uk/1893491/Public/RPM/Login/Login.aspx?srcID=s">https://ukhosted51.renlearn.co.uk/1893491/Public/RPM/Login/Login.aspx?srcID=s</a></p> <p>Seneca (a free online revision tool for students):</p>	<p>Complete English Faculty competitions as advertised throughout the year</p> <p>Read books from a variety of topics, genres and forms</p> <p>Get involved with extra-curricular clubs – subject to change each academic year</p> <p>Read texts from the suggested reading list below:</p>	<p>Create a culture of reading at home by reading to and reading with your child</p> <p>Attending plays or visiting museums and other institutions such as the V&amp;A, Natural History Museum, Science Museum, The British Library (or local libraries) – all of which can provide great sources of imagination and inspiration for creative writing</p>



<https://app.senecalearning.com/courses?Price=Free&Subject=English&Subject=English+Language&Subject=English+Literature&Age+Group=KS3>

Completing Accelerated Reader quizzes at home

Keeping an eye out for live theatre screenings, such as National Theatre Live, at local cinemas or even internet broadcasts.

### Recommended Additional Year 8 Reading List

- *Gangsta Rap* by Benjamin Zephaniah
- *The Life and Rhymes of Benjamin Zephaniah* by Benjamin Zephaniah
- *The Fault in Our Stars* by John Green
- *The Percy Jackson Series* by Rick Riordan
- *The Hunger Games Series* by Suzanne Collins
- *His Dark Materials Trilogy* by Phillip Pullman
- *A Walk to Remember* by Nicholas Sparks
- *Warm Bodies* by Isaac Marion
- *The Shakespeare Stories Collection*, Andrew Matthews
- *Tales from Shakespeare* by Michael Morpurgo
- *What's So Special About Shakespeare?* by Michael Rosen