



## Year 8 English



What have students at St. Crispin's been taught to understand and be able to do?

### Core Knowledge

As they begin Year 8, St. Crispin's pupils will have been given every opportunity to establish or consolidate the essential literacy habits for academic success. As they enter Year 8, pupils are more excited by discussion and interaction, so lessons are designed to capitalize on their burgeoning interest in discussion and group activities. Year 8 is a time when pupils are developing the maturity to engage with slightly more weighty themes. They are given the opportunity to read about and discuss demanding ideas. As their ability to make inferences and interpretations develops, Year 8 pupils are supported to explain the conscious choices made by writers and to deploy these techniques in their own writing.

### Core Skills

- **Writing with skill and accuracy** is a constant focus. Pupils are introduced to key vocabulary lists and glossaries in each unit of work. They are encouraged to use the new vocabulary in their own writing allowing them to express more sophisticated ideas as they write in increasingly ambitious ways. Spelling and punctuation skills are reinforced throughout year eight, with specific revision of relevant skills prior to assessment. The ability to construct more elaborate and ambitious texts is encouraged through the study of challenging texts and close analysis of the techniques within them
- **Reading for pleasure** continues to be monitored throughout year eight using the same mechanisms with which the pupils have become familiar: library lessons, Accelerated Reader and private reading at the start of a lesson. As the children become more independent, we expect them to assume responsibility for their choices and it is important that year eight pupils are guided to become more ambitious in their reading choices and not plateau. Class readers such as *Private Peaceful* allow pupils to engage with our history and see how authors can inspire powerful feelings through the use of narrative perspective and other techniques
- **Reading classic English Literary texts** pupils will have opportunities to read famous texts from our literary history, such as *Dr Faustus* and *The Lady of Shalott*. They will be shown how to cope with the challenges of older texts
- **Reading texts that explore diversity** pupils study work by Mahatma Ghandi, Michelle Obama and Malala Yousafzai.



## Year 8 English continued



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### Core Skills

- **Poetry is read and written** with a focus on sonnets. Pupils will respond to poetry using a basic form of the what, how, why structure
- **Non-fiction texts are read and written** with an emphasis on the art of rhetoric
- **Creative writing** revises the use of genre features such as the use of stock characters and conventions of plot
- **Speaking and listening** skills are developed with an emphasis on paired presentations, allowing pupils to support each other and express their ideas in a controlled and effective way.

### How has learning been assessed?

Students will be assessed in a variety of ways e.g. verbally through questioning in class, through multiple choice quizzes, comprehension questions, short written responses and formal assessments completed in class that are accessible and proportionate to Year 8 pupils' level of maturity. Tasks are 'scaffolded' as necessary and pupils will complete them in a supportive environment. Assessments will only be set after students have been taught the knowledge and skills needed to complete them successfully.

### What is coming up in the following year?

The study of the Gothic tradition, Victorian Literature, Non-fiction texts, War Poetry and Social Political Protest Writing - *Of Mice and Men*.