

Year 7 English

Terms 5-6 Love Through Time



In this unit, students will:

1. Study a Shakespeare play (Romeo & Juliet)
2. Compare how love is presented in a variety of extracts/poems
3. Create their own staging design for an adaptation of Romeo & Juliet

Students are studying these topics at this point in Year 7, because this will enable them to build on their understanding of language and the effects of this that has been covered in the previous writing units. Studying a Shakespearean text automatically increases the level of challenge, as well as looking at extracts/poems from a range of time periods. A key focus of the first two topics in Year 7 is identifying how writers present a specific idea (in this case, a place); so this unit will build on those skills, but with the addition of teaching them how to link these ideas to key contextual information. All three 'strands' have the concept of context at the forefront - providing students with a range of opportunities to identify how this impacts writer's ideas and intentions.

In the third strand of this topic, students will have the opportunity to create their own adaptation of Romeo & Juliet and will design how they intend to stage this, using their knowledge of the play. This will enable students to become familiar with a range of dramatic techniques, which will prepare them for studying the play version of *Dracula* in Year 8.

Previous topic:

The Art of Storytelling (a series of short stories; the novel *A Monster Calls*; writing their own short story)

Next topic (in year 8):

Gothic Fears (the play version of *Dracula*; 19th cent. extracts about Gothic characters; writing their own Gothic character and setting description)

Core knowledge/skills/concepts

As part of this (and all KS3 English topics) we have split our thematic focus into two or three 'strands' which usually focus on: 1) a key text (novel or play), 2) extracts from a range of texts and 3) creative writing. All three strands link together under the topic title of Love Through Time.

	Romeo & Juliet	Love Through Time	Stage Craft
Skills	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To explore how Shakespeare presents love to his audience. 2. To link relevant contextual information to the plot of the play. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To identify how the presentation of love in texts has changed over time. 2. To compare how love is presented in a range of texts. 	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. To understand techniques used by stage directors. 2. To create and explain your own staging choices.
Knowledge / Concepts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding what context is and why it is important. • Learning about Shakespeare and life in Elizabethan England. • Understanding the historical context of Romeo & Juliet. • Understanding the characters and events of the play. • Forming opinions about how a character or event is presented. • Learning how to select quotes from a text. • Making links between how characters/events are presented and relevant contextual information. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning about different time periods, relevant to the texts • Learning about societal conventions in relation to love at different times (e.g. courtly love) • Forming opinions about how an certain idea/concept is presented in a text • Understanding how writers make specific choices to create a certain impression of an idea/concept • Comparing how an idea/concept is presented in two texts • Linking how an idea/concept is presented to relevant contextual information 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning about theatre in Shakespeare's time. • Learning key dramatic terminology about staging, lighting, costume and props. • Learning about a range of film and theatre adaptations of Romeo and Juliet. • Understanding how the choices film and theatre directors make with the above impacts the audience/viewers. • Designing their own staging of Romeo and Juliet and explaining their decisions.

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Essential vocabulary (from knowledge organiser)

Sonnet	Aside
Elizabethan	Costume
Oxymoron	Scenery
Staging	Adaptation
Lighting	Director
Up stage	Stage directions
Down stage	Commitment
Soliloquy	

Threshold concepts

- Reading comprehension skills
- A basic understanding of time periods (e.g. Shakespeare lived a long time ago!)
- Understanding the format of a playscript and how to read one
- Have some confidence with identifying similarities and differences (between texts/productions)
- Some knowledge of what a theatre is and that a play is performed on stage
- An understanding of how writer's use particular words to create particular effects (Y7 Terms 1-2 writing schemes).

Opportunities for reading

Reading will be part of every lesson:

- Shakespeare's *Romeo & Juliet*
- Reading example responses as models for analytical writing
- Extracts and poems from a range of time periods that are focussed on the presentation of some form of love
- Reading homework remains as part of library lessons

How and when will the core learning be assessed?

Pupils will complete two extended writing 'assessments' for this topic; one for strand one and one for strand two.

Strand 1 Assessment: How does Shakespeare present commitment in the play?

Strand 2 Assessment: Summarise and Compare how two different writers explore love.

Pupils will receive verbal feedback on their final staging design.

Links to other topics/subjects

Links with previous Year 7 schemes:

Identifying how an idea or character is presented to an audience

Identifying methods which are used to create this presentation

Forming opinions about a text/image

Links to other subjects:

History - information about the Elizabethan era

Drama - knowledge of dramatic techniques; staging; theatre format

Art - set, costume, props design for Strand 3