



Thomas Mills
High School & Sixth Form

Thomas Mills High School & Sixth Form – English Literature Curriculum (Year 10)

The English Literature curriculum at Thomas Mills High School aims to foster a lifelong appreciation of literature through the study of diverse texts from different time periods. Pupils are supported to become critical, thoughtful and articulate readers and writers, with a strong foundation in textual analysis and interpretation.

The curriculum is structured around three key areas of development:

- Substantive knowledge: knowledge of literary texts, forms, contexts and conventions

Pupils study key set texts from the AQA English Literature specification: a modern drama or prose text (*An Inspector Calls* or *Animal Farm*), a Shakespearean tragedy (*Macbeth*), and a selection of poems from the *Power and Conflict* anthology. They learn about plot, character, theme, structure, and how texts reflect social, historical and political contexts.

- Ways of knowing: pupils learn 'how to know' about literature

Pupils are taught how to respond analytically to literary texts, using evidence to support interpretations and exploring the writer's craft. They learn how to annotate, structure essays, and plan comparative responses. Emphasis is placed on exploring language and structure, evaluating interpretations and developing independent insights.

- Personal knowledge: pupils reflect on their own responses to texts

Pupils are encouraged to form and express personal interpretations of texts, considering how their views are shaped by their own values and experiences. They explore the emotional, philosophical and ethical dimensions of literature, and are supported to discuss and debate different viewpoints with empathy and confidence.

Exploration, debate and critical engagement underpin the English Literature curriculum. Pupils are challenged to think deeply about human experience, society and the power of language, while gaining the academic skills they need for GCSE success and beyond.



| Year 10 | | | |
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| Term | Topic | Knowledge and Skills | Useful Links |
| 1 | <p>Modern Text: An Inspector Calls or Animal Farm</p> <p>Power and Conflict Poetry (Set 2)</p> | <p>Knowledge: Understanding character, theme and context. Pupils will learn the conventions of drama and how meaning is created through stage directions. They will learn how context influences interpretation and how writer's methods shape meaning. Pupils will learn to draw inferences and interpret critically.</p> <p>Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysing dramatic or narrative structure • Exploring political and social commentary • Introducing poetic form, language and meaning • Studying 5 poems from the 'Power and Conflict' cluster • Making connections between texts and contexts | <p>https://www.yorknotes.com/gcse/english-literature/type/guides</p> <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/topics/zqxc7hv</p> <p>https://www.thenational.academy/teachers/programmes/english-secondary-ks4-aqa/units</p> |
| Assessments | | <p>Understanding context of modern text. Timed essay on Modern Text on a theme or character.</p> | |
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| 2 | Shakespeare: Macbeth | <p>Knowledge: Exploring Shakespearean tragedy and structure. Pupils will learn about the context of Shakespearean times and the period in which the play is set and how both contexts influence their understanding of the text. They will explore the genre of tragedy and complex characters. They will practise extract and whole-text analysis.</p> <p>Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysing character arcs (Macbeth, Lady Macbeth, Banquo) • Investigating themes of ambition, guilt and fate • Understanding Jacobean beliefs and context • Developing close analysis of language and form | <p>https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/articles/zvksjhv</p> <p>https://www.rsc.org.uk/shakespeare-learning-zone/macbeth</p> <p>https://www.douglaswise.co.uk/english-teaching-resources-ks3-ks4-teaching-resources-douglaswise/macbeth-teaching-resources</p> <p>https://www.thenational.academy/pupils/programmes/english-secondary-year-10-aqa/units/macbeth-lady-macbeth-as-a-machiavellian-villain-4877/lessons</p> |
| Assessments | | Context test – Shakespeare's World Comparison Grid of Two Poems Paper 1 Literature | |
| 3 | Macbeth continued | <p>Knowledge: Exploring Shakespearean tragedy and structure</p> <p>Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Deepening understanding of key scenes and quotations • Exploring motifs (blood, darkness, the supernatural) | <p>https://www.rsc.org.uk/shakespeares-plays/tragedies-comedies-histories</p> <p>https://massolit.io/courses/shakespeare-macbeth-john-mcrae</p> |



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| | <p>Power and Conflict Poetry (Set 3)</p> | <p>Knowledge: Comparing Texts and Thematic Revision. Pupils will learn to identify poetic devices and how they create meaning. They will analyse figurative language and structural choices and use comparative techniques to analyse the power and conflict poems.</p> <p>Key Skills:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comparing ideas across texts • -Studying 5 additional poems from the Power and Conflict cluster • Analysing how poets present conflict and power • Revisiting and comparing poems from the anthology • Comparing texts thematically (e.g., power, inequality, conflict) • Writing comparative and critical essays • Practising extended writing under timed conditions | <p>https://massolit.io/courses/power-and-conflict-aqa-poetry-anthology</p> <p>https://www.thenational.academy/teachers/programmes/english-secondary-ks4-aqa/units/poetry-anthology-first-study-155/lessons?sid-5d353a=JM7dZzYAVB&sm=0&src=3</p> |
| <p>Assessment</p> | | <p>Macbeth quotation analysis test Macbeth Theme revision grid Power & Conflict test essay</p> | |