Summer Holiday Reading 2021

The Land of Roar

For our reading classes together over the summer holidays, we will be exploring each book in three lessons, with the first offering a general overview, the second delving into the stylistic and narrative elements of the writing and the final lesson offering a closer, more thorough examination of the text itself through the use of close textual analysis and with particular attention paid to literary techniques and structural devices. These lessons are designed to help the students develop new frameworks through which to read and understand literature, equipping them with the vocabulary with which to discuss themes, genre and morals.

*Lesson 1:* **Introduction to *The Land of Roar***

In lesson 1 we will be starting our introductory work on *The Land of Roar,* thinking about the central ideas and context of the novel. We will be looking at the key theme of growing up, asking the students to compare their experience of moving into the next phase of their childhoods to that of Arthur and Rose, considering why the author may have chosen to write a story such as this one. We will look at the idea of imaginary worlds and think about why we, as humans, create these and the class will have the chance to create their own. We will delve deeper into the idea of genre, thinking about how this changes and morphs over the course of the novel and how the book serves multiple genres at once. The class will also be given time to ask any questions they had about the book and to give their opinions on how the story, characters and themes made them feel.

*Lesson 2:* **Exploring Style and Narrative**

In lesson 2 we will dive further into the novel, thinking about the moral framework in the book, the descriptive passages and how Jenny McLachlan uses themes in her book. We will discuss the importance of family and friendship in the book, and we will develop a framework of themes to work with, identifying where and how thematic ideas make the reader relate to and empathise with the characters. We will discuss the moral framework of the story, looking at the values it espouses and asking what the writer is trying to say. Finally, we will do some role playing, with the class thinking about how to use their skills of persuasion in order to persuade Rose whether she should or should not go to save her brother. In this class the students will get to practice their inference and analysis skills, working on deepening their understanding of the various ways in which they can engage with literature. They will also learn some debate skills in order to conduct our role-playing exercise.

*Lesson 3:* **Close Textual Analysis**

In lesson 3 we will be focusing on developing the students’ analytical skills, looking at closely analysing the text of the novel. The class will be asked to discuss the world-building McLachlan engages in and will then respond creatively to it themselves, thinking about how she uses conflict to drive the story forward. They will be asked to use their own experiences as inspiration and will also be taught to write a book review, thinking about the various different ways in which they can respond to this novel. The class will be able to re-tell parts of the story whilst also having to work with the thematic framework McLachlan creates in the book. This lesson hinges on the students learning that their reaction to a story can be framed in a review, in a creative reimagining or in discussions, and that each reaction produces something equally valuable.