

For our reading classes together over the spring term, we will be exploring each text in six lessons, with the first offering historical and literary context, the second delving into the themes and philosophical background, the third focusing on character analysis, the fourth on plot and structure, the fifth on close analysis and the final lesson offering the students an opportunity for their own creative interpretations of the text alongside learning skills for writing about literature, 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 & Context*

In lesson 1 our focus is on context and background, learning about the historical, authorial and literary background that the text is set against. We learn about the intentions and lives of the authors and often about what the text reflects of the society it stems from. The class will also be given time to ask any questions they had about the text and to give their opinions on how the story, characters and themes made them feel.

### *Lesson 2: Theme & Philosophical Meaning*

In lesson 2 we will dive further into the novel, thinking about the perspective of the text and the way themes, messages and philosophical ideas are used. 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. The class will have an opportunity to consider elements particular to each text, such as the deeper meaning below the surface, any literary techniques used and how the text delivers what it wants to say.

### *Lesson 3: Character Analysis*

In lesson 3 we will focus on character, thinking about how the characters are constructed within the text and what they represent. We will think about the perspective of the novel, discussing how narrative voice can influence how a story is told, and will think about the development of character's journeys and what this communicates. The class will be encouraged to think deeply about how we treat character in literature and how this impacts other stylistic choices.

### *Lesson 4: Plot & Structure*

In lesson 4 we will dig into the structure of the text, discussing the ways in which the plot has been formed and how this fits into classical formulations of dramatic action. The students will be encouraged to think about genre and how the conventions and expectations attached to certain genres shape the characterisation, symbolism and plot of a novel.

### *Lesson 5: Close Analysis*

In lesson 5 we will be focusing on developing the students' analytical skills, looking at closely analysing the text of the novel and then encouraging the students to use this to help them creatively interpret the novel in order to bolster their own writing skills. These lessons will focus on how to draw out suspense and tension in a text, how to build convincing and interesting

layers of symbolism and how to analyse specific passages and quotes from a novel, using inference and detective work to dig deep into the meaning of the story.

### **Lesson 6: Writing About Literature**

In lesson 6, the class will be given the opportunity to debate certain elements of the text and to re-tell parts of the story whilst also having to work with the thematic framework created in the text. These lessons will focus on how to draw out suspense and tension in a text, how to build convincing and interesting layers of symbolism and how to analyse specific passages and quotes from a novel, using inference and detective work to dig deep into the meaning of the story.

### **List of Texts for Autumn Term**

Lessons 1-6: *Othello* by William Shakespeare

Lessons 7-12: *Gone with the Wind* by Margaret Mitchell

