

For our reading classes together over the autumn term, 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 the students an opportunity for their own creative interpretations of the book alongside learning skills for close textual analysis, 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 we will be starting our introductory work on the novel, where the class will begin by evaluating their feelings towards the book and the ways in which they felt the author told a powerful story. In these first lessons, our focus is on context and background, learning about the historical, authorial and literary background that the book is set against. We learn about the intentions and lives of the authors and often about what the book reflects of the society it stems from. 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: Genre, Theme & Deeper Meaning

In lesson 2 we will dive further into the novel, thinking about the perspective of the book and the way themes, messages and genre 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. We will think about the perspective of the novel, discussing how narrative voice can influence how a story is told. 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. Finally, the class will have an opportunity to consider elements particular to each book, such as the deeper meaning below the surface, any literary techniques used and how the book delivers what it wants to say.

Lesson 3: Close Analysis & Creative Interpretations

In lesson 3 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. The class will be given the opportunity in lesson three 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 book. These lessons will focus on how to draw out suspense and tension in a book, 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 Books for Spring Term

Lessons 1, 2 & 3: *Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy* by Douglas Adams

Lessons 4, 5 & 6: *The Machine Gunners* by Robert Westall

Lessons 7, 8 & 9: *Little Women* by Louisa May Alcott

Lessons 10, 11 & 12: *The Light in Everything* by Katya Balen

