GCSE English Literary Analysis

Winter 2023-2024

In each lesson we will study a particular text for the GCSE English exam, using examples from two mock exam questions per week to help us think about the format and structure of these questions. For each different type of analysis, we will dig into different ways of interpreting and analysing language, thinking about evaluating another writer’s craft in a creative and innovative way. By the end of these ten weeks, they will have studied how to answer a GCSE analysis question, focusing on different skills needed for the GCSE, and will have also taken a mock exam, designed to help them feel confident in their analytical and essay writing skills.

**Lesson 1&2: Poetry and Unseen Poetry**

This part of the course will teach the students how to approach unseen poetry, using different forms of poetic analysis and learning about how to use poetic terminology. We will look at different genres of poetry and touch on some GCSE poetry anthologies too.

**Lessons 3&4: Shakespearean Analysis**

These lessons will look at the parts of the GCSE that ask the students to analyse Shakespearean texts, working with the original language and thinking about decoding Shakespeare. We will look at both extract and theme work.

**Lessons 5&6: Victorian Literature**

A vast majority of GCSE unseen prose pieces use Victorian literature, and so these lessons will focus on the particular genres (gothic, Romantic, mystery) often utilised in these texts and will think about the style of writing typical to the era and how to comment on it.

**Lessons 7&8: Modern Literature**

These lessons will look at the more modern texts used at GCSE, looking at a variety of prose and drama extracts and thinking about how crucial historical context can be in analysing these effectively. We will discuss tone and style and talk about how to read between the lines.

**Lesson 9: Analysis Workshop**

In this lesson the class will work together to complete analysis tasks, using everything we have studied over the course to help them think about the impact of language on the reader. We will complete some group work, debate key points about how we interpret language and practice identifying and analysing some new techniques.

**Lesson 10: Mock**

In this class the students will complete a mock analysis paper which we will then feedback on as a class and discuss the different ideas, themes and techniques the students were able to comment on in the writing. I will then mark these and the students will have a sense of their progress over the duration of the course.