GCSE Writing

Summer 2024

In our summer GCSE writing course we will be looking at two renowned writer’s essays on why they write and their process and applying this to the GCSE exam format. We will look at different writing techniques that should be employed and discuss the ways in which students can make their writing stand out to examiners, keeping their writing fluent and original throughout. Our final two lessons will feature a writing workshop and a mock exam. Each lesson will focus on one past paper given as homework.

*Lesson 1-2:* **George Orwell’s *Why I Write***

Looking at the writing of George Orwell, from his dystopian fiction to his memoirs, and particularly focusing on his famous essay ‘why I write’ which explores the way in which he saw a writer’s purpose in the world. The class will learn about his writing style and use him as a basis from which to draw conclusions about their own impulses and purpose in writing.

*Lesson 3-4:* **Zadie Smith’s *Something to Do***

Learning about Zadie Smith and her attitude towards writing in all its different forms, and how she approaches the psychology of writing. We will learn about her expansive use of narration, looking at the short essays she writes and considering her writing process. The class will also look at her in conversation with other authors.

*Week 5:* **Writing Workshop**

In this lesson the students will have a workshopping and revision week, giving them the chance to work on any areas they feel they would benefit from focusing on and allowing them space to brainstorm pieces and responses together. The students will practice some writing exercises, thinking about how to incorporate these into their lives, and will have a chance to workshop and peer-evaluate their work.

*Week 6:* **Mock Exam**

This lesson will be a mock exam to help test the students’ skills, enabling them to showcase all they have learnt about GCSE writing over the past nine sessions. They will be asked to complete mock GCSE paper under timed conditions, answering both a creative and a non-fiction prompt. They will have their exam graded and returned to them after the lesson and can use these mocks to track their progress and work out their strengths and areas of improvement in writing. They should aim to use as many different advanced writing techniques, high-level vocab examples and interesting structural devices as possible- all of which we will have covered in the preceding weeks.