11+ Comprehension

Spring 2025

In these classes we will study a text from the 11+ each week, with an analysis question set for homework to give the students a chance to hone and dig into their 11+ comprehension skills, particularly when it comes to answering high markers. This course is designed to go into depth and ensure that when faced with P.E.E. questions worth more marks than others they feel confident and able to answer them. We will explore this with reference to lots of different texts and poems from the 11+ past papers, looking at how comprehensive analysis works.

**Lesson 1-2: Prose**

We will begin with a literary analysis skills outline, thinking about the central frameworks to apply to analysing language from connotation to imagery to structural features. We will then look at this using a piece of fiction from an 11+ exam, digging into the hidden meanings behind the text and discussing how to structure high-mark answers.

**Lesson 3-4: Poetry**

In this lesson we will consider how to analyse poetry from an exam, discussing what is different about writing analytically on a poem as opposed to a longer text. We will discuss think about the kinds of questions examiners may ask and discuss the question ‘what is a poem’ to help us get to the bottom of how to analyse one.

**Lesson 5-6: Prose**

In this lesson we will continue our work on the analysis of fiction, thinking about how to apply notions such as theme and structure and considering how best to write literary analysis essays. We will work on several 11+ texts, thinking about how best to choose quotations to analyse and how to break down the different question types in an 11+ comprehension exam.

**Lesson 7-8: Poetry**

In this lesson we will build from our work the week before by discussing poetic structures more in depth, thinking about aspects of poetry such as rhythm and meter, stanza and line structure and poetry specific techniques such as enjambment, again using an 11+ paper to apply our analysis, and thinking about how to dazzle the examiner with technical vocab.

**Lesson 9: Workshop**

In this lesson we will complete group work and revise all the key elements we have learned over the course. The students will get a chance to bounce ideas off one another, ask questions and practice key skills in advance of our mini mock next week.

**Lesson 10: Mini Mock**

This lesson will be a mock exam to help test the students’ skills, enabling them to showcase all they have learnt over the sessions. 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, and to help them build confidence in their abilities.