



Subject Intent

Our Year 7 English curriculum at Rugeley John Taylor lays the foundations for students to become confident, articulate and inquisitive readers, writers and speakers. Through the study of Greek Myths, An Introduction to Shakespeare, and The Bone Sparrow, students develop an appreciation of our literary heritage, explore powerful storytelling from different times and cultures, and build empathy and critical reading skills. We aim to foster a love of literature, equip students with a broad, nuanced vocabulary, and develop their ability to communicate clearly, accurately and creatively, while encouraging them to recognise the power of language to inform, persuade, entertain and challenge.

Cross Curricular Links

Maths – Explore patterns and symmetry in Greek mythological symbols and ancient architecture and poetry.

History – Study of Ancient Greece to provide historical context for the Greek Myths unit.

Geography – Map the journey of the refugee characters in The Bone Sparrow, exploring global migration.

RS – Compare belief systems in Greek mythology to modern religious worldviews.

PE – Learn about the origins of the Olympic Games in Ancient Greece.

MFL – Explore how English vocabulary has been influenced by ancient Greek and Latin roots.

Science – Compare mythological explanations of natural phenomena to scientific reasoning.

Performing Arts – Develop performance skills through acting out scenes from Shakespeare.

KS2 Links

Builds on KS2 expectations to read fluently, comprehend increasingly challenging texts, including fiction, myths, legends, and traditional stories (Greek Myths).

Continues development of knowledge of literary heritage, introducing Shakespeare following KS2 exposure to a wide range of fiction, poetry, and plays.

Deepens understanding of themes, characters, and context, as students read The Bone Sparrow, connecting to KS2 emphasis on reading for meaning and understanding social, cultural, and historical contexts.

Reinforces grammar, vocabulary, and writing for different purposes and audiences, a core KS2 writing requirement, through creative and analytical tasks.

Builds on KS2 focus on spoken language, including debate, discussion, and formal presentations, through drama activities and performance of texts like Shakespeare.

Extends KS2 expectations to read aloud with intonation and understanding, particularly when performing extracts from plays or myths.

Encourages continued development of personal reading for pleasure, nurturing habits established through KS2 reading for enjoyment.

RISE Links

SMSC – Develops spiritual, moral, social and cultural understanding by exploring themes of identity, power, justice, belief and empathy through Greek myths, Shakespeare and The Bone Sparrow.

British Values – Encourages respect, tolerance and thoughtful debate by examining ideas of individual liberty, fairness, authority and human rights within a range of literary and cultural contexts.

Employability – Develops essential communication skills, including speaking, listening, and presenting ideas clearly – vital for future careers.

PSHCE – Explores empathy, human rights, and social justice through The Bone Sparrow, encouraging students to reflect on global issues and their responsibilities as citizens.

Careers – Introduces students to roles in creative industries such as writing, journalism, publishing, theatre, and performance through engagement with literature and drama.

Cultural Capital – Builds knowledge of significant cultural texts and traditions, including Greek mythology and Shakespeare, enhancing students' understanding of the world and its literary heritage.

Resilience & Self-Expression – Encourages self-confidence and resilience through reading complex texts, tackling unfamiliar vocabulary, and expressing opinions in discussion and writing.

Literacy Links

Vocabulary
Introduces ambitious, nuanced vocabulary through exposure to Shakespeare and literary texts.

Explores etymology and word origins, particularly from Ancient Greek, enhancing understanding of word formation.

Builds subject-specific terminology for literary analysis, supporting precise expression.

Oracy
Develops confident spoken language skills through discussion, debate, and presentation tasks.

Encourages effective use of voice, expression, and body language in performances of Shakespeare and myths.

Supports structured speaking and active listening during class discussions and group tasks.

Reading
Builds fluency, comprehension, and inference skills through engaging with complex texts like The Bone Sparrow.

Encourages critical reading by exploring authorial choices, language, and structure in myths and plays.

Promotes reading for pleasure and cultural knowledge, developing a lifelong reading habit.

Writing
Develops accurate, coherent writing through creative tasks inspired by myths and fiction.

Numeracy Links

Recognising and exploring patterns and structures in poetry and storytelling, such as narrative structure and repetition.

Understanding chronology and sequencing when exploring Greek myths, Shakespearean plots, and character development.

Applying logical thinking and problem-solving, essential in interpreting texts, analysing language choices, and constructing coherent arguments.

Exploring symmetry, proportion, and structure in Greek mythological symbols and ancient architecture references.

Developing confidence with precision and accuracy, a shared skill in both writing and mathematical reasoning.

Supporting reading comprehension through the interpretation of data, dates, timelines, or references to numerical information within texts (e.g., historical timelines in Shakespeare or refugee statistics in The Bone Sparrow).

STEM Links

Science – Compare mythological explanations of natural phenomena with scientific reasoning, e.g., constellations or weather events in Greek Myths.

Technology – Explore how storytelling has evolved with technology, from oral myths to printed books and digital storytelling.

Engineering – Reference to Ancient Greek engineering achievements (e.g., architecture, mechanics) when exploring the cultural context of Greek Myths.

Maths – Identify patterns, structure, and logic in narrative forms, poetry, and language analysis.

Wider STEM Skillset – Develop problem-solving, critical thinking, and logical reasoning skills essential in both literary interpretation and STEM fields.

	HT1	HT2	HT3	HT4	HT5	HT6
Topic	Beginning the Journey - Greek Myths & Epic Tales	Beginning the Journey - Greek Myths & Epic Tales	All the World's a Stage - Shakespeare's Theatre & Play	All the World's a Stage - Shakespeare's Theatre & Plays	The Bone Sparrow	The Bone Sparrow
Key Themes / Questions	<p>Why do we still tell Greek Myths today?</p> <p>How do myths help explain the world around us?</p> <p>What makes a hero 'epic'?</p> <p>How are stories structured, and why does this matter?</p> <p>How do writers use language to create atmosphere and meaning?</p> <p>Key Themes</p> <p>Origins of storytelling and oral tradition</p> <p>Creation myths and their purposes (aetiological, historical, psychological)</p> <p>Epic heroes and archetypes</p> <p>Story structure: Aristotle's plot structure (Exposition, Rising Action, Climax, Falling Action, Dénouement)</p> <p>Descriptive writing and figurative language</p>	<p>Key Questions</p> <p>What are the conventions of an epic tale?</p> <p>How does The Odyssey reflect Greek values and beliefs?</p> <p>How do epic heroes face obstacles and change?</p> <p>How does language shape our understanding of character and adventure?</p> <p>In what ways do these ancient stories still influence literature today?</p> <p>Key Themes</p> <p>The Odyssey as an epic journey</p> <p>Obstacles, nemesis, and character development</p> <p>Narrative structure and perspective</p> <p>Symbolism, tone, and atmosphere in epic tales</p> <p>Links between Greek Myths and later literature (e.g., Shakespeare)</p>	<p>Who was Shakespeare and what was theatre like in his time?</p> <p>How did Elizabethan audiences experience plays differently to modern audiences?</p> <p>What can we learn about human nature from Shakespeare's characters?</p> <p>How do sonnets and ballads work, and why are they still written today?</p> <p>How does poetry use structure and language to create meaning?</p> <p>Key Themes:</p> <p>The Globe Theatre and the experience of theatre then and now</p> <p>Renaissance beliefs, including attitudes to the supernatural</p> <p>Poetry forms: sonnets, ballads, and their conventions</p>	<p>What makes a great villain in Shakespeare's plays?</p> <p>How does Shakespeare use language and structure to present villainy?</p> <p>How do prejudice, alienation, and discrimination shape characters?</p> <p>How can I use my voice and expression to bring a character or poem to life?</p> <p>Why do Shakespeare's characters and ideas still matter today?</p> <p>Key Themes:</p> <p>Characterisation of villains and the use of rhetoric</p> <p>Discrimination, prejudice, and marginalisation in Shakespeare</p> <p>Analysing character motivation and the human condition</p>	<p>Whose stories get told, and whose voices are often unheard?</p> <p>How does The Bone Sparrow help us understand the experiences of refugees?</p> <p>What is narrative perspective, and why does it matter?</p> <p>How do writers use language and structure to make us feel empathy?</p> <p>How does this novel connect to the stories we've studied earlier in the year?</p> <p>Key Themes:</p> <p>Refugee experiences, migration, and human rights</p> <p>Narrative perspective and whose voice is heard</p> <p>Empathy, justice, tolerance, and equality</p> <p>Symbolism and motifs in storytelling</p>	<p>How do we express our opinions clearly and effectively?</p> <p>How do writers use language to persuade others?</p> <p>What makes a strong argument?</p> <p>How can we challenge misconceptions and promote tolerance?</p> <p>How do structure and language work together to influence the reader?</p> <p>Key Themes:</p> <p>Opinion writing: crafting persuasive, well-structured articles</p> <p>Use of rhetorical devices and persuasive techniques (e.g., ethos, pathos, logos)</p> <p>Understanding audience, purpose, and formality</p> <p>Challenging prejudice and promoting empathy through writing</p>
Indicative Content	In this unit, students explore the origins of storytelling through famous Greek Myths and epic tales like The Odyssey. They will learn how these stories explain the world, what makes an epic hero, and how writers create exciting characters and events. Students will also develop their own descriptive writing and key literacy skills to prepare them for future English studies.	In this unit, students explore the origins of storytelling through famous Greek Myths and epic tales like The Odyssey. They will learn how these stories explain the world, what makes an epic hero, and how writers create exciting characters and events. Students will also develop their own descriptive writing and key literacy skills to prepare them for future English studies.	Students will learn about Shakespeare's life, the world of Elizabethan theatre, and how plays were performed at the Globe. They will also explore different types of poetry, including sonnets and ballads, learning how poets use language, structure, and rhythm to create meaning.	Students will explore how Shakespeare created memorable villains and how themes like prejudice and power are still relevant today. They will also practise bringing poetry and dramatic characters to life through performance, developing their confidence and speaking skills.	Students will read The Bone Sparrow, a novel about a young refugee, to help them understand different perspectives and the importance of empathy. They will explore how writers use language and structure to tell powerful stories and discuss important themes such as human rights, justice, and equality.	Students will learn how to express their own opinions clearly and confidently through persuasive writing. They will explore how to structure an argument, use persuasive language, and challenge prejudice, helping them to develop their own voice and communicate effectively.
Assessment	Creative Writing (Baseline) & Reading Assessment	Creative Writing Assessment	Reading Assessment & Writing Assessment	Spoken Language/Oracy Assessment	Writing Assessment & Reading Assessment	Spoken Language/Oracy Assessment