**Montpelier High School English Department: Year 8 Outline**

Welcome back, Year 8. This year will build on the skills you have developed in Year 7. Year 8 is the half-way point in Key Stage Three and we want to see that you are on the way to being ready for GCSE English.

**Key skills (these will be explained more at the start of the year)**

* Reading: using quotes and making inferences and deductions
* Reading: understanding how writers structure texts and shape meanings through their language choices
* Reading: being able to consider a writer’s purpose and the different responses readers may have
* Reading: appreciating how the context of a piece of writing might influence our reading of it
* Writing: writing in different ways which suits particular styles and audiences
* Writing: writing with accuracy and control

**How will I progress in English?**

Your teacher will be assessing all of your contributions to lessons and everything you write. This means that every lesson you should work to your best standard.

Your classwork and assessments will always include targets which link to the key English skills. During the year your teacher will be deciding what effort you are making in lessons, as well as considering whether your progress is ‘Progressing’, ‘Approaching’, ‘Secure’ or ‘Mastering’; these judgements will be shared with you when you get your school report.

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| **Topic** | **What key pieces of work will I do?** | **Key terms and knowledge for this topic** | **How could I explore this topic further?** |

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| **‘Private Peaceful’ and War Poetry** | A formal letter conveying different attitudes to war.  An analysis of an unseen poem. | Jingoism; patriotism; conscientious objectors; didactic verse; propaganda; satire; anthropomorphism; allegory; antagonist; |  |

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| **‘The Tempest’ and empire** | A spoken review of ‘Rabbit-Proof Fence’  An extract and whole-text response to ‘The Tempest’ | Empire; colonialism; imperialism; blank verse; prose; antithesis; active/passive voice; |  |

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| **‘Controversy’ and the Gothic** | Responding to a piece of 19th century prose.  Writing an article about a controversial topic. | Gothic; transgression; liminality; Romanticism; archetypes; motifs; |  |

**Some advice on how to make progress in English:**

* You should be reading for at least 30 minutes independently *every day.*
* Read a variety of different writing (newspapers, articles, magazines).
* Develop your Literacy by correcting your own writing and keeping a vocabulary list.
* *You can always ask your teacher about how to improve. Spend time acting on your teacher’s targets and answering their questions in your exercise book.*