



### Subject: English Year 7

### Autumn Term 2, *What the Dickens...?*

Overarching Topic:			
<p>Why is this topic being studied at this time?</p> <p>How does it fit into the wider subject curriculum?</p>	<p>The spirit and magic of Christmas is brought alive in our study of the classic novella by Charles Dickens: 'A Christmas Carol'. This further develops our skills from the first half term's unit where we explored and enjoyed novel extracts. We will be focusing especially on narrative technique, the Victorian period and how Dickens, a master of narration and characterisation, has his place in the canon of literature.</p> <p>We will have many opportunities in our study for analytical writing, creative responses and contextual understanding of the Victorian Era. We will also discuss other prominent figures of the period, such as Charles Darwin, who wrote 'The Origin of Species' - arguably the most influential book of the 19<sup>th</sup> Century. The debate of Creationism and Evolution will be explored in PRE and Science.</p>		
	Critical	Core	Pinnacle
<p><b>The Big Questions</b> (What questions will students be able to answer upon mastery of the topic?)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the difference between a novel and novella?</li> <li>• Who was Charles Dickens?</li> <li>• Where and when did he live?</li> <li>• What other stories or novels did he write?</li> <li>• Revise and further embed sentence and clause work from Term 1.</li> <li>• What is a chapter?</li> <li>• What is a stave?</li> <li>• When was the Victorian</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What do we understand by the plot?</li> <li>• How are characters important to a story?</li> <li>• What narrative style does Dickens use? (Emotive language and linguistic techniques).</li> <li>• What was life like in Victorian England?</li> <li>• Concept of past, present and future.</li> <li>• Why is the book written in staves rather than chapters?</li> <li>• How is language used to portray characters and convey morals?</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Globally what was happening in the Victorian period and what, beyond our understanding of Victorian England might this reflect about the presentation of society and characters in <i>A Christmas Carol</i>?</li> <li>• What are the moral and philosophical issues of the novel? - charity and philanthropy, setting up of Barnados for example and children's hospitals like Great Ormond Street. Social change.</li> <li>• Are there multiple interpretations to word choices and literary devices?</li> </ul>

	period? Why is it called the Victorian Era? <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is narrative?</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Is Dickens successful in opening the eyes of the privileged within society?</li> <li>• Why do we still study literature that was written more than 100 years ago? What is the relevance for today's society?</li> </ul>
<b>The Key Skills/ Techniques</b>	<b>The sophistication and application of skills will become more advanced as students' progress through the critical, core and pinnacle knowledge.</b>		
	<b>Skill/Technique</b>	<b>How will this skill be developed?</b>	
	Application of contextual knowledge to analytical responses.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Background to Dickens (social causes, industrialisation, etc.) taught through the study of extracts both in fiction and non-fiction.</li> </ul>	
	A sustained analytical study of a whole novel	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Model answers</li> <li>• Planning techniques</li> <li>• Drafting and re-drafting process</li> <li>• Provision of academic language examples.</li> </ul>	