

**Teaching and Learning Content: English**  
**Year Group: 8**  
**Spring Term 1**



MEADOW PARK  
SCHOOL

**Concept: Conflict**

Students read 'Romeo and Juliet' by William Shakespeare, as well as a selection of poetry around the theme of love. There is also an opportunity for students to practise their descriptive writing skills with a particular focus on crafting effective narrative openings.

**Home Learning:**

Students are expected to complete **one piece of English home learning every week** and **one piece of Reading home learning every day**. Homework may be set on paper (Nando's sheet) or online on Frog. Students can use MyOn to support home reading.

**Key Questions:**

- What are the characteristics of Shakespearean tragedy?
- What contextual factors do I need to know to understand the central plot?
- How does the prologue foreshadow events that arise later on in the play?
- How does Shakespeare use language to explore the theme of love and hate?
- How does Shakespeare present family relationships in the play?
- How is Juliet presented in the play?
- How is Romeo presented in the play?
- How does Shakespeare convey the turmoil of Romeo and Juliet's relationship?
- What is the effect of Shakespeare's use of imagery and other language methods?
- What are the relationships between characters, and how do they change?

**Poetry:**

- How has the writer used language and structural devices to create meaning?
- How has the writer used language and structural devices for effect?

**Descriptive writing:**

- How can GOMASSIVE methods be used in descriptive writing?
- How can a variety of sentence structures affect our writing?
- How can we create a powerful opening that hooks the reader?

**Students will:**

- Be able to recall relevant information about characters, plot and themes from a text
- Be able to make thoughtful inferences based on textual evidence
- Be able to use PETAL effectively to structure their ideas in relation to a question
- Be able to recognise the features of a tragedy
- Be able to write a piece of descriptive writing that uses a variety of techniques.
- Learn how to compare two texts and analyse the similarities/differences
- Understand the significance of context and how that shapes/influences the way a writer crafts a text

**Diagnosis**

- Retrieval activities during Recall It tasks.
- Love poetry diagnostic: How is the theme of love presented in Sonnets 18 and 43?
- Creative writing: write a sonnet

**Therapy**

- Whole-class feedback
- Sharing model responses
- DIRT tasks
- Peer to peer support

**Testing**

- Students will complete a reading assessment on a character (Lady Capulet).
- Students will complete a descriptive writing assessment (using a picture as a prompt).