



English Mastery

Year 9 Unit of Work

Literature Unit 2: ‘Small Island, National Theatre Play Text’ by Andrea Levy (adapted by Helen Edmundson)

Traditional Pathway

	Lesson title	Key knowledge
Week 1	Andrea Levy and the Empire Windrush	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Andrea Levy wrote the novel, <i>Small Island</i>. It was published in 2004. • Helen Edmundson adapted the novel as a play in 2018. • The characters are fictional, but the story is based on the real experiences of Andrea Levy’s parents who came to England on the <i>Empire Windrush</i> in 1948. • The story takes place in the 1920s, 1930s and 1940s. • The <i>Empire Windrush</i> was a ship. It arrived in Britain in 1948. It carried 1000 Caribbean people looking for opportunities in Britain. British Caribbeans who came to Britain after the Second World War are often called the Windrush Generation.
	The Hurricane - Act 1. Scene 1 - Jamaica	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jamaica is an island in the Caribbean. Jamaica was a British colony for hundreds of years. • A colony is a place that is ruled by a more powerful nation. • Britain enslaved Africans to work in the Caribbean. This made the British Empire wealthy. • Jamaicans are descended from native Caribbeans, European settlers and enslaved African who were captured and taken to the Caribbean by the British between 1655 and 1838. • Enslaved people became “freedmen” in 1838 but Jamaica was still ruled by Britain until 1962.
Week 2	Hortense and Michael	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Acts are how plays are structured. • Characters can talk to the audience to reveal their thoughts, feelings, and memories.

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		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Different actors can play younger versions of the characters. • A character's speech, actions and stage-directions give us clues about where and when the scene is set. • Characters sometimes watch or act out memories from their own lives in a scene.
	Queenie and Bernard – Act 1.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scenes are how Acts are structured. A change in scene shows a change in place or a change in time. The end of a scene always reveals something about a character. • Much of the story takes place during and immediately after the Second World War. • German planes bombed English cities – especially London. This was known as the Blitz. Many Londoners were killed or lost their homes in the bombing.
Week 3	Gilbert and Arthur	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A tableau is when some of the actors freeze in the middle of the action. A tableau reveals a character's thoughts or feelings at a particular moment. • Fifteen million soldiers from Britain's colonies signed up to fight for the British army, air force and navy. • American GIs (General Infantry) were stationed in England. They were waiting to invade Europe to defeat Nazi Germany.
	The Windrush, Aspirations & End of Act One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The end of an act is more significant than other moments in a play. • Characters do not always mean what they say. • Actions often reveal more than words. • Different places can be shown on stage at the same time.
Week 4	Reflecting on Act One	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Empire Windrush was a ship. It arrived in Britain in 1948. It carried 1000 Caribbean people looking for opportunities in Britain. British Carribeans who came to Britain after the Second World War are often called the Windrush Generation. • Refer to specific moments in a text, without quotations.
	England 1948	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Time can pass for the characters in between acts. Different acts show changes in situations, characters, and atmosphere. • The setting, costumes and stage-directions often reveal significant ideas. • A phrase that hides another meaning is called a euphemism
Week 5	The Baby	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authors create deliberate connections and contrasts between acts, scenes, and characters.
	The Novel & The Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Helen Edmundson adapted the novel as a play in 2018.
Week 6	Preparing for the Resolution	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remember and use effective "single word or phrase" quotations. • Use stage directions as evidence in analytical essays.
	The End	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The final scene / line / tableau of a play is significant.
Week 7	Responding to the Whole Play	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The author crafts Acts and Scenes deliberately.
	Secondary Characters	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Authors use secondary characters to highlight ideas.

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Week 8	The Windrush Generation (Ambition, Adversity, Acceptance)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Jamaicans are descended from native Caribbeans, European settlers and enslaved African who were captured and taken to the Caribbean by the British between 1655 and 1838.
	The Moral of Small Island	
Week 9	Deliberate Contrasts and Connections	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Compare and contrast the effect of quotations in different parts of a text.
	Collecting Evidence across a Whole Text	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Plan and write a literary essay without an extract.
Week 10	Assessment <i>Which main character changes the most by the end of 'Small Island'? In your answer discuss how Edmundson presents this change.</i>	