

Key Stage 3 English – Curriculum Intent

Year 9 Term 3 Year 9 Poetry

Assessment Question:

Compare the way poets compare a theme in two poems (different theme and poems each year)

	Know This is what students should have a <i>working knowledge</i> of	Remember This is what students should remember in the <i>long-term</i>
Biography	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nichols was born in Georgetown, Guyana, in 1950 and grew up in a small country village and moved to the city with her family when she was eight. Auden’s poems are known not only for their themes, but also for their technical and stylistic innovation. Willis’s songs were discovered when the man he was working for heard him singing them and gave them to a famous choir to sing. Chaucer worked as a courtier, civil servant, diplomat, soldier and Member of Parliament; he came across many different kinds of people throughout his career. Milton lost his eyesight and had to rely on scribes. His works have been very influential. In particular, they influenced Phillip Pullman’s “Northern Lights” trilogy. Frost sits between the traditions of 19th century American poetry and 20th century Modernism. Before becoming a writer full time, Armitage worked as a probation officer in Manchester. T. S. Eliot created some of the texts that are known as the very first examples of Modernism. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Grace Nichols is a Guyanese poet who migrated from Guyana to London. W. H. Auden is an influential poet who was born in the UK and travelled around many parts of the world. Wallace Willis was a slave in America in the 1800s. He composed the song “Swing Low, Sweet Chariot”. Geoffrey Chaucer was a medieval writer. He wrote hundreds of years before Shakespeare. John Milton wrote just after Shakespeare and before Brontë who lived through one of the most turbulent periods of British history. Robert Frost was an American poet who lived between 1874 and 1963. Simon Armitage was born in 1963 and is still alive. He is one of the nation’s favourite poets. T. S. Eliot lived between 1888 and 1965. He was awarded the Nobel Prize for Literature in 1948.
Context & Events	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nichols immigrated to the UK when she was 27. Letters were the primary means of communication for people living apart. The letters travelled overnight. In the Medieval era, people believed that astrology impacted nature, health and the seasons. They studied the stars to inform their decisions. The pilgrims visit the shrine of St Thomas à Becket, Archbishop of Canterbury Adam and Eve and Satan are literally banished from Heaven in the poem. Milton uses “Paradise Lost” to warn people against defying God During the 1970s, the word “queer” was used to describe gay people in a derogatory way. After World War 1, people questioned their belief in God and Victorian morality because they had seen war ruin families and nations. These beliefs no longer seemed to provide answers to the big questions of life. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nichols is greatly influenced by the Afro-Caribbean culture in which she grew up. Her poems draw on the Caribbean dialect. “The Night Mail” is set in the 1930s when the night mail train would transport around 500 million letters every year. “The Canterbury Tales” is about a group of pilgrims travelling from London to Canterbury Milton uses the story of Adam and Eve to explain how and why God acts in the introduction to “Paradise Lost” “The Road Not Taken” is about making a decision Punk was a fashion and music style that young people used to defy social norms. Modernism was a movement in art, writing, music and architecture that was a reaction to the suffering of World War
Vocabulary	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An immigrant is a person who moves to live in another country permanently. A pilgrim is someone who travels to a place that is important in their religion. An epic poem is a kind of poem which usually invokes inspiration from a god or goddess and handles big themes, like the banishing of Adam and Eve from Heaven. Modernism was a movement in art, writing, music and architecture that was a reaction to the suffering of World War. In an extended metaphor, the tenor and vehicle remain the same throughout the poem. A taboo is something that you should not say or do because people generally think it is morally wrong, unpleasant, or embarrassing: 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Immigrant Pilgrim Epic poem Modernism Extended metaphor Taboo

Do This is the disciplinary knowledge that students should demonstrate

- Using Standard English to write about poems
- Making references to poems without using quotations
- Structuring comparison essays
- Referring to writers correctly
- Using pronouns with precision
- Academic tone

Literary themes

Students will encounter examples of these themes in later units, and can relate new examples of these themes to specific events and characters from study in this unit:

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Journeys Belonging 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Decisions Rebellion
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Non-fiction forms

Non-fiction texts augment the study of this unit’s core text, and vice-versa. These forms of non-fiction writing are studied throughout this unit.

- Information sheets