Year 7 – MEDIEVAL (Term 2) 1100-1470

Medieval literature has been hugely influential in modern popular culture. Pretty much any sword-and-sorcery adventure ultimately descends from this period, and even some works you wouldn't think of bear its subtle traces.

Why was/is the story of **King Arthur** so popular?	❑ In the stories Arthur is an English king (important at a time of invasion) ❑ Camelot – a utopian dream? ❑ Represents equality (The Round Table) ❑ Classic story structure (BOUNCE BACK - GREEK) ❑ A story where – mainly - good conquers evil (BOUNCE BACK - GREEK) ❑ Humble beginnings to greatness ❑ Relatable characters & themes
What is **estates satire**?	Making fun of the 3 estates: ❑ The Clergy (those who prayed) ❑ The Nobility (those who fought) ❑ The Peasantry (those who laboured)
Is **satire** still popular today?	❑ Yes! Think *The Simpsons, Family Guy, Have I Got News For You, South Park* etc. ❑ It's a way of making fun of serious issues & lessening the impact of being negative by using laughter
What is **anti-clericalism**?	❑ Being against clerics/the church interfering in non-religious (secular) matters ❑ Chaucer uses *The Canterbury Tales* to criticise the Catholic Church's abuse of power & wealth in this time
Language: Latin, French or Middle English?	❑ Latin had fixed grammar & spelling, so was more standardised ❑ Latin was the language of the church, the nobility & anyone who thought they were important or educated ❑ French came with the invasion by the Normans ❑ English was the language of the common man
How did the **printing press** affect the world?	❑ Opened up social communication ❑ New ways of recording ❑ Highlighted illiteracy/Increased literacy rates ❑ Improved education in the rising middle classes ❑ Led to the standardisation of words & meanings
How did the **printing press** affect language & literature?	❑ One of the most important inventions for language & literature EVER! ❑ Texts reproduced quicker & easier (than monks/scribes copying everything out) ❑ Created a new group of scholar-writers (like Chaucer) who wanted a new writing style ❑ New words (neologisms) ❑ In fact, borrowings from languages such as Latin, Greek, French & Spanish provided the English Language with huge growth & richness

Arabian Nights & Canterbury Tales

❑ Arabian Nights (also called 1001 Nights) was written n the Middle East between the 8th and 13th century. No single writer, but a gathering of folk tales.
❑ The Canterbury Tales was published in 1392.
❑ Chaucer (who wrote the Canterbury Tales) was heavily influenced by his reading of the Arabian Nights: frame story structure, moral goals, drawing on folk oral tales, magical elements, romance. a bit misogynistic (prejudiced against women).

Writing Skills

When should you start a new paragraph?
TipTop (Time, place, topic, person)

How do you ensure cohesion in a paragraph or whole text?
❑ Topic sentence
❑ Pronoun referencingj
❑ Conjunctions
❑ Prepositions
❑ Fronted adverbials
❑ Ellipsis
❑ Repetition
❑ Motif.

How do you vary your paragraphs for effect?
Long paragraphs can suggest complexity of an idea or a never ending feeling. Short paragraphs can create emphasis or a shock effect.

Writing a Leaflet

❑ a clear/apt/original title
❑ organisational devices such as inventive subheadings or boxes
❑ bullet points
❑ effectively/fluently sequenced paragraphs

I AM A FORESTER

Imperative verbs	Repetiktion
Address the reader	Emotive lang./ exaggeration
Modal verbs	Statistics
Alliteration	Triadic structure
Figurative lang.	Expert opinion
Opinion	Rhetorical q.

Stretch yourself

Allegorical
Anti-clericalism
Chivalry
Fable
Illiterate/Literate
Oral Tradition
Quests
Religious v. Secular
The Holy Grail
Satire
Utopian/Dystopian

Academic vocabulary of analysis

Evokes
Emphasises
Reinforces
Illustrates
Demonstrates
Indicates
Reveals
Infers
Conveys
Portrays
Implies

Reading tasks

A fiction analysis & a non-fiction analysis

Writing tasks

Write a persuasive leaflet & a narrative piece.

Grammar

❑ Topic sentences
❑ Paragraphs
❑ Introductions & conclusions

Reading Skills

Why does inference need to be specific?
Saying that Emily in Chaucer's Knight's Tale, is *good* could apply to many characters. But saying that "fair Emily" is *beautiful* is particular to her.

How can two inferences both be correct?
Someone may think that the merchant's wife "kissing" the servant Damian was *wicked*. Whilst someone else may think it was *true love* & *fair* as she was married to the really old and jealous Merchant. ……….Both are correct & both are specific.

The narrative 'rules'

The story takes place within one hour
Maximum 3 characters
Maximum 3 sentences of direct speech
Show not tell
Minimum 1 adjective per sentence
Minimum 5 senses
Maximum 1 exclamation mark
3rd person
50 % description with zooms
Don't 'chat' to the reader
A 'small' story – make the ordinary extraordinary

Looking back & forward

Ch-ch-changes… Changes were happening all day, every day in 15th-to-17th-century Europe. Don't take those old movies about our next period at face value, though; they might give you the impression that the Renaissance was all tights, puffy sleeves, & feathered hats. This cultural rebirth began in Italy, just after a particularly rough period in Europe's history. That minor inconvenience known as the Plague. It wiped out roughly half of Europe's population.