

Year 7 – OLD ENGLISH (Term 2) 600 – 1100 AD		How has the English language changed since its origins?		Hobbit Characters		Writing: descriptive ‘rules’		Grammar	
Back then, human stories were passed from mouth to mouth—hopefully without spreading the Black Death, womp womp—before being written down in manuscript. That’s how we got epics like Beowulf (& from that, The Hobbit!) The story of Beowulf existed for hundreds of years as a tale told by scop, who were like minstrels, only much beardier.		What are the different time periods of the English Language? <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Arrival of Germanic tribes (Angles, Saxons & Jutes) who invaded Britain during the 5th century AD.❑ At that time, Britain spoke a Celtic language. But most of the Celtic speakers were pushed out by the invaders into Wales, Scotland & Ireland.❑ The Angles came from "Englaland" & their language was called "Englisc" . This developed into what we now call Old English (450-1100AD).❑ In 1066 William the Conqueror, (from France), conquered England. The new conquerors (called the Normans) brought with them a kind of French, which became the language of the Royal Court. The lower classes spoke English & the upper classes spoke French.❑ In the 14th century English became dominant in Britain again, but with many French words added. This language is called Middle English (1100-1500AD).❑ From the 16th century the British had contact with many peoples from around the world which meant many new phrases entered the language. This phase was called Early Modern English (1500-1800AD). The invention of printing also meant that there was now a common language in print.❑ The main difference between Early Modern English & Late Modern English (1800-present) is vocabulary. Late Modern English has many more words, arising from 2 main factors: firstly, the Industrial Revolution & technology; secondly, the British Empire covered ¼ of the earth , & English adopted foreign words.		Bilbo Baggins	Reluctant protagonist of the story. Starts the book as a home-loving, respectable hobbit, fond of food and tea. At the end of the novel, he returns home a wiser and more confident hobbit after his adventures.	No names for people	Simple past tense	The most common past tense. Usually takes an ‘ed’ ending, but some are irregular. e.g. I walked; she spoke; we played	
Why are myths, legends, monsters and heroes important in Literature?				Gandalf	A wise (if sometimes mischievous) old wizard who helps the dwarves. His name comes from the Old Norse for ‘magic elf.’	At least 5 zoom-ins			
What is the difference between a myth & a legend?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ A legend is a semi-true story, which has been passed on from person-to-person & has important meaning or symbolism for the culture in which it originates.❑ A legend usually includes an element of truth, or is based on historic facts, but with 'mythical qualities'.❑ Legends usually involve heroic characters or fantasy.			Thorin Oakenshield	Mighty warrior and proud and pompous leader of the group of dwarves. Heir to the destroyed dwarvish kingdom under the Lonely Mountain.	No person described for more than a paragraph			
	Examples: Loch Ness Monster, Jack of the Green			Gollum	A ‘small, slimy creature’ who lives in a lake under the Misty Mountains. Possibly inspired by the monster Grendel from Beowulf.	Minimum 5 senses	Simple present tense	The most common present tense. e.g. I walk; she speaks; we play	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ A myth is a story based on tradition or legend, which has a deep symbolic meaning.❑ A myth 'conveys a truth' to those who tell it & hear it, rather than necessarily recording a true event & involve supernatural beings.			Smaug	A powerful and intelligent dragon, inspired by the dragon in Beowulf. Stole the dwarves’ mountain and treasure 150 years ago.	1-3 sentences of direct speech			Simple future tense
	Examples: Welsh Dragon, Faerie, Gremlins.					3rd person			
	Why was there a clash between paganism & Christianity?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Religion is a touchy issue in <i>Beowulf</i>, because the story is told in late medieval Anglo-Saxon Britain, which has been Christianised, but it’s about early medieval Scandinavia, which is pagan.❑ The narrator of the poem compromises by making constant references to God’s decrees in general terms, but never discussing Jesus or the specific tenets of Christianity.	Hobbit Key Themes <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ The danger of excessive greed❑ Heroism (parable for WWI?)❑ Bravery❑ Good vs Evil❑ Quest❑ Hospitality❑ Luck		Beowulf Context <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ Beowulf - The oldest existing poem written in English. It’s written in Old English, the language spoken in Britain before the Norman Conquest in 1066.❑ Wyrd, or fate - The idea is that your destiny is predetermined and you can’t really change it. It’s such a powerful force that sometimes in this poetry, it seems to be a stand-in for God.❑ The death price - <i>Beowulf</i> is set during a time when warring tribes populated England and Scandinavia. Violence was a part of life, but it wasn’t a free-for-all. If you killed somebody, their relatives might demand reparation (i.e., payback) in the form of wealth—or your life.❑ Christian and Pagan values, all mixed up - The Anglo-Saxon poetry we have today was originally composed orally (spoken) during a time when the Anglo-Saxons were still pagan. But it was <i>written down</i> after they became Christian. So you’ll see things like magical runic inscriptions sitting side-by-side with prayers to the Christian God.		Present or past tense (not both)	Punctuating speech	Use a comma to introduce the speech, speech marks before and after, and punctuation inside the speech marks at the end. e.g. The teacher shouted, “Everybody stop!”
What is a hero?	The Hero: The hero is always the protagonist (though the protagonist is not always a hero). Traditionally, the hero has been male, although this is changing. The hero is after an objective & must overcome obstacles along the way. He/she is usually morally good, though that goodness will likely be challenged.	Features of fantasy genre				Move the camera like a film			
What is the ‘oral tradition’ & why is it so important?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ It is transmitted by word of mouth & consists of both prose & verse narratives, poems & songs, myths, dramas, rituals, proverbs, riddles etc. Nearly all known peoples, now and in the past, have produced it.❑ Until about 4000 BC all literature was oral, but, beginning in the years between 4000 & 3000 BC, writing. From that time on there are records not only of practical matters such as law & business but increasingly of written literature.	Outside ordinary laws of the universe				Writing to advise <ul style="list-style-type: none">❑Write in present tense❑Be sympathetic❑Use weak modal verbs❑Write in 2nd person			
What is a bildungsroman?	<ul style="list-style-type: none">❑ A story about a journey or process in which the protagonist develops and grows up.	Magic is central				Letter layout	Academic vocabulary		
		Journeys & quests					The use of addresses & date	Evokes	
		Setting – fantasy worlds				Effectively/fluently sequenced paragraphs	Emphasises		
		Portals (doors)				A formal mode of address e.g. Dear Sir/Madam or a named recipient	Reinforces		
						Effectively/fluently sequenced paragraphs	Illustrates		
						An appropriate mode of signing off: Yours sincerely/faithfully.	Demonstrates		
							Indicates		
							Cements		
							Reveals		
							Infers		
							Conveys		
							Portrays		
						Stretch Yourself			
						Vladimir Propp’s theory on stock characters & Voluspa the poem.			