

# Year 7 Scholars – GREEK (Term 1)

## 800 BC – 600 AD

*Grab your time machine because we're headed waaaaay back! This classical period was a golden age for literature and the arts and home to the great works from Ancient Greece. Think: epic tales, mythology, philosophy and theatre and you are on the right track – let's take a closer look.....*

### How has Greek Theatre influenced later texts?

<p><b>What is a tragic hero?</b></p> <p>A famous Greek Philosopher – Aristotle' – came up with this idea</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> A Tragic hero is someone high and mighty who falls from grace.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Usually that fall is brought about by a tragic flaw in the hero's character, for example: pride, ambition or greed.</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> But, this can also come about as the result of unfortunate circumstances, or even, just REALLY bad luck</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> This genre got its start in Greek drama/theatre but has changed throughout the ages and is still a key part of modern narratives.</li> </ul>
<p><b>'Peter Pan' – how is he a tragic hero?</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Peter Pan is the boy who refuses to grow up. His fear of growing old leads him to make some terrible mistakes</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> He rejects his own development and refuses to accept that, as a child, he needs guidance sometimes – for example from a mother figure</li> <li><input type="checkbox"/> Basically – he thinks he knows it all!</li> </ul>

### Aristotle's rules of the tragic hero

Hamartia	The tragic flaw that causes downfall of a hero
Hubris	The hero having too much pride and not respecting 'the natural order'
Anagnorosis	This moment happens when hero makes an important discovery about himself in the story.
Nemesis	Justice or punishment that the hero receives, usually as a result of his hubris.
Catharsis	The feelings of pity and fear that audience feels for the hero after his downfall. The feelings are cleansing.

### Speech layout

- a clear address to an audience
- rhetorical indicators that an audience is being addressed
- a clear sign off e.g. 'Thank you for listening'.

### Article layout

- Broadsheet = formal/Local or tabloid = informal
- a clear/apt/original title
- a strapline & subheadings
- an introductory (overview) paragraph

### Stretch yourself

Find other examples of great speakers or speeches where rhetoric has been used brilliantly. Explore the idea of rhetoric generally, it is a subtle and vast art!

### The conventions of a play script

- Layout** - The name of the character who is speaking should be written at the left-hand margin of the page. It is a good idea to print it in capitals. Then write a colon.
- Dialogue** – what the characters say
- Stage directions** – instructions to the actors and director. In brackets and/or italics
- Act** – often only 3 or 5 acts. They separate the major sections of the play
- Scene** – a 'chapter' in a play
- Aside** – dialogue that is said confidentially (secretly) to the audience when other characters are on the stage.

### Other Characters in Peter Pan

**Wendy Darling:**  
Wendy Darling is an English girl who, with her two brothers, flies off to Neverland for a visit. She mothers Peter Pan and the lost boys, telling them stories at bedtime and tucking them in. After her return home, she goes to Neverland once a year to clean Peter Pan's house. Each year, as she grows up, she and Peter Pan drift farther apart, until at last he cannot understand her at all.

**Captain Hook:**  
Captain Hook is a pirate captain in Neverland, named for the hook he has in place of an arm. Jealous of Peter Pan and the lost boys, he and his crew plan to kidnap Wendy so that she will be their mother. He succeeds in capturing the girl, but Peter Pan saves her. Frustrated, the captain throws himself overboard and is eaten by a crocodile who, having earlier tasted the captain's arm, waits patiently for the rest of his victim.

**Tinker Bell:**  
Tinker Bell is a fairy in love with Peter Pan. A jealous creature, she resents Wendy, who is obviously Peter Pan's favorite. Tinker Bell tries to have the lost boys kill Wendy with their bows and arrows by telling them that Wendy is a dangerous bird.

### Writing to Inform

- Factual information
- Expert opinion
- Statistics
- Unbiased

### Epic Poetry

Epics are very long pieces of writing that usually deal with exciting, action-packed heroic events like wars or explorations. Classical epic recounts a journey, either physical or mental or both.

### Grammar

**Abstract noun** – something that is not tangible eg. love, happiness

**Concrete noun** – a physical object that can be touched eg. doughnut

**Proper noun** – a person, place or thing that begins with a capital letter eg. Turton School

**Modal verb** – indicates level of possibility, eg. You may be right

**Imperative verb** – commanding eg. Stand up

**Coordinating Conjunction** – Conjunction that connects two main clauses. (FANBOYS)

**Subordinating Conjunction** – Conjunction that connects a main clause with a subordinate clause. (Furthermore, however etc.)

**Subject** – person or thing that does the action in a sentence

**Direct object** – person/thing that has the action done to them. Kim loves chocolate

**Indirect object** – the person receiving the direct object. He gave the pen to Derek

### Themes

**Growing Up:** Barrie uses his narrative to demonstrate the natural transition between childhood freedom and adult responsibility. Some readers may see Peter Pan as a story of how we lose imagination and freedom as we grow up. However, other readers may see the story as demonstrating how growth and change can be hard, but are a necessary part of life.

**Motherhood:** Motherhood is represented by Mrs. Darling and Wendy. Peter distrusts mothers because he believes that his own mother betrayed him. However, Peter and The Lost Boys still desire a mother. Even the pirates admit they long for a mother to take care of them. Some readers may see the depiction of women's primary role as a mother as a confirmation of stereotypical gender roles.

### Rhetoric (I am a forester)

Imperative

Appeal

Modal verbs

Alliteration

Figurative language

Opinions

Repetition

Exaggeration/ expert opinion

Statistics

Triadic structure

Emotive language

Rhetorical question

LOGOS  
PATHOS  
ETHOS

### Greek Gods

- Hades – underworld
- Aphrodite - love
- Zeus - king
- Poseidon - sea

### Next term....

Next you'll be looking at the Old English period: epic tales, Anglo Saxons, story telling & Beowulf!

## ***Important Greeks***

**Socrates:** was a classical Greek (Athenian) philosopher credited as one of the founders of Western philosophy, and as being the first moral philosopher, of the Western ethical tradition of thought. An enigmatic figure, he made no writings, and is known chiefly through the accounts of classical writers writing after his lifetime, particularly his student Plato.

**Aristotle:** Along with his teacher Plato, he has been called the "Father of Western Philosophy". His writings cover many subjects – including physics, biology, zoology, metaphysics, logic, ethics, aesthetics, poetry, theatre, music, rhetoric, psychology, linguistics, economics, politics and government.

**Plato:** He is widely considered the pivotal figure in the history of Ancient Greek and Western philosophy, along with his teacher, Socrates, and his most famous student, Aristotle. Plato has also often been cited as one of the founders of Western religion and spirituality.

## ***The Art of Rhetoric***

Rhetoric, according to Aristotle, is the art of seeing the available means of persuasion. Today we apply it to any form of communication. Aristotle focused on oration, though, and he described three types of persuasive speech.

**Forensic, or judicial:** establishes facts and judgments about the past

**Epideictic, or demonstrative:** makes a proclamation about the present situation, as in wedding speeches.

**Deliberative rhetoric, or symbouleutikon:** way to accomplish change by presenting ideals for the future

Aristotle said there are three persuasive appeals: ethos, logos and pathos.

## ***Hamlet as a Tragic Hero***

Hamlet fits several into several of the defining traits of a tragic hero in literature, particularly in terms of how he possesses a tragic flaw. The fact that Hamlet's best trait is also his downfall (his tragic flaw, in other words) makes him a prime candidate for a tragic hero and in fact, makes him one of the most tragic figures in the works of Shakespeare in general.

Hamlet is tragic because intellectually and philosophically he was far above the other characters in the play, so that he is isolated completely and desperately in his bereavement.