

Year 7 – MEDIEVAL (Term 3)

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.

Arabian Nights	<p>A collection of folk tales which were originally written in Arabic. Sometimes known as One Thousand and One Nights (although there are not actually one thousand and one tales!)</p> <p>Written between 1706 and 1721</p> <p>Stories originate from writers from West, Central and South Asia and North Africa</p> <p>Many famous tales originate from the Arabian Nights, such as <i>Aladdin, Ali Baba and the Forty Thieves</i> and <i>The Seven Voyages of Sindbad the Sailor</i>. While many of the stories have links to magic and sorcery, the main themes in the text are bravery and intellect.</p>
What is <i>estates satire</i>?	<p>Making fun of the 3 estates:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> The Clergy (those who prayed) <input type="checkbox"/> The Nobility (those who fought) <input type="checkbox"/> The Peasantry (those who laboured)
Is <i>satire</i> still popular today?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Yes! Think <i>The Simpsons, Family Guy, Have I Got News For You, South Park etc.</i> <input type="checkbox"/> It's a way of making fun of serious issues & lessening the impact of being negative by using laughter
What is <i>anti-clericalism</i>?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <input type="checkbox"/> Being against clerics/the church interfering in non-religious (secular) matters <input type="checkbox"/> Chaucer uses <i>The Canterbury Tales</i> to criticise the Catholic Church's abuse of power & wealth in this time

Canterbury 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 a Leaflet

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

Themes in Arabian Nights

- Rise to riches
- Luck and good fortune
- Adventure
- Greed
- Hospitality
- Contests and competition
- Power of storytelling

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

I AM A FORESTER

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

Top Tips for Creative Writing

- At least 5 zoom-ins
- Keep it simple: maximum 3 characters; tell a 'small' story – make the ordinary extraordinary
- Describe all 5 senses
- Maximum 1 exclamation mark
- Write in 3rd person
- Show, don't tell
- Maximum 3 sentences of direct speech
- Don't 'chat' to the reader
- 50% description with zooms

Introductions & Conclusions

- An introduction is an overview. An overview shows that you can see the connection between all the things you are going to write about.
- A conclusion is a decision. Your decision can be which point that you've made, is most important.

Arabian Nights Stories

Introduction
The opening tale is about the Sultan Schahriar, who was determined to marry and kill as many women as he could after he was deceived by his first wife. Scheherazade is considered by many to be a heroine as she risks her life to save the lives of countless women and girls from the wrath of the Sultan Schahriar. Scheherazade sets about telling exciting stories to the Sultan, never quite finishing them by sunrise so he will have to let her live for another day.

Merchant and Genius
Scheherazade's first story is about a merchant who accidentally kills the son of a genius (a spirit, sometimes known as a genie) The genius allows the merchant to have one year to put his affairs in order before he kills him as punishment When the merchant returns, he tells his story to passers-by, who attempt to reduce his punishment by telling their own stories. This is the beginning of the metanarrative as Scheherazade tells many stories within stories.

The Seven Voyages of Sindbad
Sindbad is a wealthy merchant who tells his tale to a poor man who is also named Sindbad. Sindbad is portrayed as a restless, and sometimes careless, man as he repeatedly risks and loses his fortune. Sindbad's cunning then enables him to gain more than he has lost. Sindbad's sea-faring adventures repeatedly lead to him being lost and abandoned in dangerous places. Sindbad's voyages lead to encounters with huge birds of prey, man-eating giants, savages and bird-people.

Aladdin
Perhaps the most famous of the Arabian Nights, Aladdin is the tale of a young man thrown into danger by his cruel uncle and changing his fortunes with the use of a magic lamp. Aladdin's uncle - a magician - knows the whereabouts of a magic lamp but is unable to claim it himself so he tricks his nephew into getting it for him. Aladdin refuses to hand over the lamp and accidentally discovers that rubbing the lamp releases a powerful, wish-granting genie. He uses the lamp to provide himself and his mother with food and riches and to help him to claim the princess as his bride. The magician attempts to retrieve the lamp by disguising himself but the genie helps Aladdin to retain it by telling him what is really happening.

Keystone Vocabulary

- Satire
- Voyage
- Moral
- Anti-clericalism

Dante's Inferno

Written in the early fourteenth century by Italian politician Dante Alighieri, the *Divine Comedy* is a literary reaction to the bitterly contested politics of medieval Florence. Dante's hatred of the Pope can be seen throughout his *Divine Comedy*.

A trip through the three layers of Catholic afterlife is actually about (in part) how much its author hates the Pope. The *Divine Comedy* is Dante's fictional account of himself traveling through the three divine realms: Hell, Purgatory, and Heaven. The *Inferno* is heavily populated with corrupt Florentine politicians characterized as sinners.

But more than just a means to get payback, the *Divine Comedy* is the first Italian epic work of poetry that is not in church Latin but in the vernacular—the language of the common people—the Florentine dialect of Italian. So Dante played a major role in standardizing the Italian language, coining new words and paving the way for major works of literature written in the vernacular.

Black Death Chronicles

The catastrophic plague known as the Black Death hit Europe in 1348 and swept through the continent rapidly. It would eventually kill between a third and half of the population. These huge death tolls sparked off a chain of events that would change the position of the peasant in England forever.

This chronicle, written at the cathedral priory of Rochester between 1314 and 1350, includes a firsthand account of the Black Death, describing the changes in the everyday lives of people across the social scale