

Year 9 Term 2: New Voices

Many of the authors you will study this term are people that, historically, may have been left out from the literary world. This is because of their **gender, race or class**.

As the world recovered from two terrible wars (WW1 & WW2), new voices in literature began to come out. These new writers wanted to use their own experiences of being judged and ignored by society to produce texts which questioned the way the world ran and called out certain inequalities in society. Many readers of these new and interesting writers were exposed to experiences and perspectives which were different to other people.

Other New Voices in Literature

Fences – August Wilson
Set in the 1950s, Fences explores the evolving African-American experience and examines race relations. The main character of Fences is Troy, a working-class patriarch.

Blood Brothers – Willy Russell
Set in the 1980s in Liverpool, the play explores the idea of nature vs. nurture and class inequalities in England. Two twins are separated at birth – one growing up rich and the other poor.

Noughts and Crosses – Malorie Blackman
Set in a parallel society where white people are discriminated against and oppressed. The two main characters, Sephy and Callum try to maintain their friendship in a divided world.

A Taste of Honey - Shelagh Delaney
Set in the 50s in Salford – the play explores the life of Jo a 17 year old working class girl. The play comments on, and puts into question, class, race, gender and sexual orientation.

Prose/Play Key Terms

Protagonist – the main character or hero of the story.

Narrative Point of View – the perspective the story is written in (1st, 3rd person, limited, omniscient).

Setting – the place/time when the text is set.

Characterisation – how a writer builds up an idea of a character through speech, dress, actions etc.

Bildungsroman – a story in which a character grows up, goes on a journey and learns new things.

Act – a ‘chapter’ in a play.

Scene – small section of an act.

Stage directions – instructions for director and actors.

Dialogue – talk between two or more characters.

Monologue – when one character in a play speaks at length.

Dramatic Irony – when the audience knows something that the character on stage doesn't.



To Kill A Mockingbird – Plot and Characters

- To Kill a Mockingbird is a novel by Harper Lee. Although it was **written in 1960 it is set in the mid-1930s in the small town of Maycomb, Alabama**. It is narrated by Scout Finch, a six-year-old tomboy who lives with her lawyer father Atticus and her ten-year-old brother Jem.
- Scout and her brother, Jem, learn the principles of racial justice and open-mindedness from their father, whose fair and caring acts include an unpopular defence of a Black man falsely accused of a crime.**
- Scout Finch** - The protagonist of the story. Intelligent and, by the standards of her time and place, a tomboy.
- Atticus Finch** - Scout and Jem's father, a lawyer in Maycomb descended from an old local family. Atticus has instilled in his children his strong sense of morality and justice.
- Jem Finch** - something of a typical American boy, refusing to back down from dares and fantasising about playing football.
- Charles Baker “Dill” Harris** - Jem and Scout's summer neighbour and friend. Dill is a small , confident boy with an over-active imagination.
- Calpurnia** - Calpurnia is a strict carer and the children's bridge between the white world and her own black community.

To Kill A Mockingbird – Context

- Legacy of slavery** - Throughout the 17th and 18th centuries, people were kidnapped from the continent of Africa, forced into slavery in the American colonies and forced to work in the production of crops such as tobacco and cotton. Although the Civil War eventually freed the nation's four million enslaved people, the legacy of slavery in the South continued to influence American history.
- Great Depression** - October 29, 1929, the stock market crashed, causing the Great Depression, the worst financial collapse in the history of the modern world. With banks failing and businesses closing, more than 15 million Americans became unemployed which resulted in widespread poverty.
- Jim Crow Laws** - laws that enforced racial segregation (separation) in the South.
- Scottsboro Boys' Trial** - The Scottsboro Boys were nine black teenagers falsely accused of raping two white women aboard a train near Scottsboro, Alabama, in 1931.
- The Civil Rights Movement** – this movement was a struggle for social justice that took place mainly during the 1950s and 1960s. Its aims were for Black Americans to gain equal rights under the law in the United States.

To Kill A Mockingbird – Themes

- Morality
- Social inequality
- Racism
- Justice
- Innocence
- Fear
- Women and femininity
- Family
- Compassion and forgiveness

Grammar – Y7 and Y8 Review

Noun types:

- Concrete** – A noun we can see, hear, touch, smell or taste
- Abstract** – A noun which we cannot experience with any of the 5 senses e.g. happiness, tension
- Proper** – A noun which is the name or title of something and is capitalised
- Collective** – A singular word used to group together a plural e.g. a group, a herd, a class

Pronouns: replaces a noun e.g. she, her, mine, that

Subject: Does the action in a sentence or clause

Verb types:

- Imperative** – A commanding verb e.g. Do this work, sit down, let's go
- Modal** – A verb expressing possibility or probability e.g. will, should, could, can, must
- Past tense:** used to describe things that have already happened
- Present tense:** used to describe things that are happening now
- Future tense:** describes things that have yet to happen

- Main clause** – A clause which makes sense on its own as a sentence
- Subordinate clause** – A clause which does not make sense on its own as a sentence – it needs another to make it make sense – it starts with a subordinating conjunction

- Coordinating conjunction** – A conjunction which joins 2 main clauses FANBOYS – for, and, nor, but, or, yet and so
- Subordinating conjunction** – A conjunction which joins a subordinate clause to a main one – e.g. while, as, because, since, if

Grammar Y7 and Y8 Review

Adjective types:

- Descriptive** – An adjective which describes factual characteristics e.g. big, green
- Evaluative** – An adjective expressing an opinion, can be disagreed with e.g. great, boring, amazing
- Emotive** – An adjective which makes the reader feel a strong emotion e.g. shocking, starving, dangerous
- Comparative** – An adjective ending in –er or with 'more' in front of it. e.g. bigger, faster, more exciting
- Superlative** – An adjective ending in –est or with 'most' in front of it. e.g. biggest, fastest, most exciting

Adverb types:

- Manner:** tell us how something happens e.g. angrily, quickly
- Time:** tell us when something happens e.g. tomorrow, yesterday
- Place:** where something happens e.g. everywhere, nowhere
- Degree:** describe the intensity of an action or quality e.g. extremely, very, too
- Frequency:** used to describe how often something happens e.g. constantly, frequently

Grammar Y9

- Simple sentence** – A sentence with only one verb and one main clause
- Compound sentence** – A sentence with more than one main clause, joined by a coordinating conjunction
- Complex sentence** – A sentence with at least one main clause and at least one subordinate clause which can't stand alone as a sentence, joined by a subordinating conjunction