Year 7 Term 1: Coming of Age

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Everybody, young or old, experiences a coming of age as they develop from child to adult. A **common coming of age theme revolves around how a teenager finds their own identity.**

The literature we will be studying deals with aspects of coming of age including: **characters discovering their purpose in life, learning to accept themselves and others, experiencing life-changing moments, confronting their fears, taking responsibility for their actions, and coming to terms with the unfair nature of the world.**

BILDUNGSROMAN - The combination of two German words: Bildung, meaning "education," and Roman, meaning "novel." A bildungsroman is a novel that deals with the formative years of the main character, and in particular, with the character's personal development and moral education.

The Haunting of Aveline Jones - Characters

Aveline Jones	Curious, brave, empathetic and bookish protagonist. Her journey into the supernatural marks a transition from innocence to awareness.
Harold	Mr. Lieberman's nephew who Aveline befriends. His help is vital in unravelling the mystery.
Mr. Lieberman	Kindly and eccentric bookshop owner with a passion for stories who encourages Aveline's interest in spooky tales. Good-natured, knowledgeable and a symbol of wisdom.
Primrose Penberthy	Mysterious girl who vanished. Her presence haunts the town—central to the novel's suspense.
Aunt Lilian	Seemingly cold and distant aunt who Aveline finds intimidating at first. Aunt Lilian and Aveline learn from each other and grow closer as the novel progresses.
Aveline's Mum	Represents safety and the mundane world. Her absence gives Aveline independence.

Gothic Genre & Conventions

Gothic fiction was a very popular genre in the 19th century. It explored the **darker side of human nature & the theme of the supernatural.**

Conventions include:
- ❑ Strange or abandoned places
- ❑ Death
- ❑ Good vs evil
- ❑ Supernatural
- ❑ Darkness
- ❑ Innocent victims

Influential gothic writers include: **Mary Shelley, Bram Stoker, Edgar Allan Poe and the Bronte Sisters.**

Themes in The Haunting of Aveline Jones

Supernatural	**Ghosts and Spirits:** Aveline uncovers the story of a girl named Primrose Penberthy, who disappeared mysteriously. As Aveline investigates, she encounters signs of a ghostly presence. This literal haunting drives the plot and builds suspense. **Folklore:** The stories Aveline reads and the strange symbols and warnings she finds are steeped in supernatural lore. They hint at dark forces beyond the physical world. **Atmosphere:** The persistent stormy weather, cold wind, and setting of Halloween all add to the supernatural atmosphere.
Coming of Age	**Growth Through Challenge**: Aveline evolves from a curious, naïve girl into someone courageous and resilient through facing danger and the supernatural. **Loss of Innocence**: A safe seaside trip turns dark, revealing themes of loss and mystery, marking Aveline's shift from innocence to awareness. **Emotional Maturity:** Aveline learns to face fear, trust herself, and grapple with memory, grief, and the weight of choices. **Independence and Identity:** She takes charge of the haunting investigation, showing a growing independence and self-definition. **Symbolic Journey**: The seaside trip mirrors her inner transformation—she returns changed, marking her coming-of-age.
Curiosity & Knowledge	Aveline's thirst for truth drives the plot - highlighting the value of knowledge.
Friendship, Family & Trust	Aveline develops several strong and trusting relationships within the novel. These human connections are vital; her family and friends serve as emotional anchors, giving Aveline the support and strength she needs to face the supernatural.

Must Do:

Descriptive Writing Techniques

PPOSSAM

Pathetic fallacy
Paragraphs
Onomatopoeia
Senses
Sentences
Alliteration
Metaphors & personification

Coming of Age Extracts

Charles Dickens: Great Expectations – Both Pip and Aveline experience mystery, emotional growth, and learn the importance of trust and relationships as they face challenges that help them mature. Includes the strange character of Miss Havisham who symbolises how the past can haunt the present.
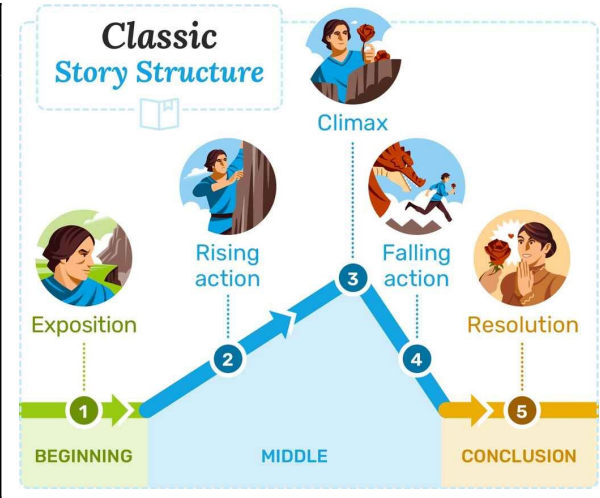
Charlotte Bronte: Jane Eyre - Gothic atmosphere, mysterious houses, and a female protagonist facing fear and self-discovery. Like Aveline, Jane grows in independence and emotional strength.

Daisy Johnson: Sisters - Both books use gothic settings—a stormy coastline, an old house, and a haunting atmosphere. The protagonists are young girls coping with loss, fear, and the unknown. The sisters, just like Aveline, deal with family tension, and the presence of something not quite explainable.

Narrative Features

Plot	The main events of a novel or play, devised and presented by the writer as an interrelated sequence.
Setting	The location and time frame in which the action of a narrative takes place.
Character	A person, animal, being, or thing in a story. Writers use characters to perform the actions and speak dialogue, moving the story along a plot line.
Narrator/ Narrative Voice	A narrator is the person telling the story, and it determines the point of view that the audience will experience.
Atmosphere	The overall mood of a story or poem, achieved through description.
Themes	The central ideas, topics, or points of a story.
Tension	The sense that something ominous (bad) is right around the corner.
Protagonist	The main character. The story circles around this character's experiences, and the audience is invited to see the world from his or her perspective.
Antagonist	The opposite of the protagonist. Typically, this is a villain of some kind, but not always! It's just the opponent of the main character, or someone who gets in their way.
Confidant	A secondary character in the story, often a friend or authority figure, whose role is to listen to the protagonist and advise them on their actions.

Key Techniques:

Imagery	When the writer creates a vivid picture in the reader's mind through their description. E.g. *"Glittering white, the blanket of snow covered everything"*
Personification	Giving human features to non-human things. E.g. *"The moon watched over us"*
Foreshadowing	When the writer hints at events that could happen later in the text.
Symbolism	When objects or characters are used to represent bigger ideas.
Simile	Comparing two things using 'like' or 'as'. E.g. *"The snake moved like a ripple on a pond"*
Metaphor	Describes something by saying it **is** something else. It's not literal, but it helps create a vivid image or understanding. **DOES NOT** use "like" or "as". E.g. *"The world is a stage"*
Zoomorphism	Giving animalistic features to non-animal things. E.g. *"The wind howled"*
Pathetic fallacy	Using the weather to set the tone and mood of the text.
Onomatopoeia	Words that are also sounds. E.g. *bang, drip, crash.*

Sentences & Grammar

- **Comma Sandwich**
The expanse of trees, which shifted in darkness, fully surrounded me.

- **Semi-colon Split**
The birds had long since disappeared; there was no open space for even the smallest of birds.

- **Colon Clarification**
There was the faintest of sounds that seemed to touch the space between the trees: it was my own breathing.

- **The Writer's Aside**
The familiar world – as you can imagine – was a million miles away.

Subject: Does the action in a sentence or clause

Verb: a word used to describe an action or state. E.g.
Action: The girl was jumping.
State: The girl knew the answers.

Main clause - A clause which would make sense on its own as a full sentence.
e.g. When I get home, I will have my dinner.

Subordinate clause - A clause which would **not** make sense on its own as a full sentence.
e.g. When I get home, I will have my dinner.

Narrative Structure

Exposition - The start of the story where the characters, setting and basic information are introduced.

Conflict - A clash between two opposing forces in the story. Conflict occurs when the main character struggles with either an external conflict or an internal conflict.

Rising Action - The conflict begins to affect the characters, complicating their lives.

Climax - The highest point of tension or drama in a narrative's plot. Often, the climax is also when the main problem of the story is faced by the protagonist.

Falling action - The story begins to slow down, showing the results of the climax.

Resolution / denouement - The very end of a story, where all the plotlines are finally tied up and all remaining questions are answered.

Classic Story Structure

Perfect Paragraph

- Answer sentence
- Embedded evidence
- Inferences & connotations
- (Challenge) Techniques