

Year 7 Term 3: Identity

Everyone has a sense of who they are – a sense of **self**/an **identity**. This grows more and more secure as you get older. Your identity may go through many changes.

Our identity is made up of a range of things. For example: our **gender**, our **race**, where we **live**, our **nationality**, the **language** we speak, our **class**, our **hobbies** and **interests**, our **families**, the **education** we are given etc.

Exploring 'selfhood' and 'identity' is a common theme within literature around the world. Writers of the poems you will study this term are asking: **who am I? What are my values and beliefs? How do I fit into my society?** These are universal questions we all ask ourselves.

Poetry Terms

Speaker/Persona: the character who tells the story in the poem

Stanza: a paragraph in a poem

Alliteration: the use of the same sound to begin a series of words in a poem eg. 'cuffs, cans, trodden on, crunch'

Rhyme scheme: pattern of rhyme in a poem

Free verse: poem with no regular rhyme scheme

Imagery: visually descriptive or figurative language

Simile – a comparison of two things using '**as**' or '**like**' to make the comparison clear e.g. 'name flaring like a flag'

Metaphor – compares two things by saying one thing is something else e.g. 'childhood is an emigration'

Personification – gives human qualities to objects or ideas e.g. 'dancing in the breeze'

Repetition of key ideas e.g. 'groggily, groggily'

Rhythm: the beat and pace of a poem

Dramatic Monologue: a poem written in the form of a speech of an individual character



Key Poems

Wordsworth – I wandered lonely as a cloud – this poem is about how humanity and nature are connected. Wordsworth argues that a strong bond with nature is essential to human happiness.

Grace Nichols – Island Man – The man in this poem has moved from his home country in the Caribbean to London. It is about his loneliness and homesickness as he gets used to a new way of life.

Tatamkhula Afrika – Nothing's Changed – This bitter poem is about the discrimination and oppression of Black South Africans during Apartheid. The speaker is disappointed and angry at the way nothing has changed in his home country. The poet explores how racial identity affects the way society treats you.

Carol Ann Duffy – Originally – This poem is about a child who must emigrate from Scotland to England and the sense of isolation she feels. It is also about losing your childhood identity as you grow older.

Simon Armitage – Kid – This a dramatic monologue from the point of view of Robin as he learns to be independent from Batman. It is a metaphor for growing up and becoming an adult.

John Agard – Half Caste – This poem is about the mixed-race identity of the speaker and the way this is perceived and commented on by society.

Benjamin Zephaniah – Who's Who – In this poem, the poet examines stereotypes and the way we learn to change our opinions as we age.

Kamau Brathwaite – Limbo – This poem looks at the identity of slaves and the suffering that was endured due to the slave trade.



Grammar – Bounce-back to Term 1

- **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.

Perfect Paragraph

Answer Sentence: Start with a clear sentence that answers the question.

Embedded Evidence: Include a short quote from the text to support your answer.

Inferences & Connotations: Explain what the quote means and what feelings or ideas it suggests.

Grammar & Sentences – Bounce back to Term 2

- **Double Adverb Snap**

Slowly, carefully, I scrambled down the sheer rockface.

- **Adjective Attack**

Steep and intimidating, the sudden rise of the forest floor ahead of me caused me to pause.

- **Three Adjective Punch**

Fraught, tired, confused, I was no longer the same person who walked innocently into the forest.

Adverbs:

A word that describes or gives more information about a verb, adjective, adverb, or phrase.
E.g. cheerfully, suddenly, quickly etc.

Adjectives:

A word that describes a noun or pronoun.
E.g. big, boring, purple, obvious etc.