

Scholars' 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 multitude 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

Sonnet: a 14 line poem written in iambic pentameter, rhyming couplet at the end

Plosives: repetition of the p/b/g/d/m sound in words next to each other

Fricatives: repetition of the f/th sound in words next to each other

Sibilance: repetition of the S sound in words next to each other

Enjambment: a run on line in poetry

Caesura: punctuation in the middle of a line of poetry

Rhyme scheme: pattern of rhyme in a poem

Free verse: poem with no regular rhyme scheme

Extended metaphor: extends over the course of multiple lines, paragraphs, or stanzas

Imagery: visually descriptive or figurative language

Iambic pentameter: a line of verse with five metrical feet, each consisting of one short (or unstressed) syllable followed by one long (or stressed) syllable

Meter: the rhythm produced by the arrangement of syllables according to the number and type of beats in each line

Rhythm: the beat and pace of a poem

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

Poems

Shakespeare – Sonnet 29 - The speaker in this poem suggests that his sense of self-worth depends on others. It is also about the power of love to alter your mindset and the danger of comparing yourself to others.

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.

John Clare – I Am – This poem is about loneliness and abandonment but still holding on to a sense of who you are despite those feelings.

Walt Whitman – Song of Myself – This poem is an American epic. It covers the key ideas of: the identification of the self with others and nature, the different parts of the speaker's identity and their connection with the world around them.

William Blake – A Poison Tree – This poem uses an extended metaphor to describe how anger can grow and grow if it is bottled up and can lead to violence.

Emily Dickinson – On a Columnar Self – The poem argues that if your sense of self is as sturdy and solid as a stone column then it will support you no matter what.

William Henley – Invictus – The speaker in this poem explores personal strength and resilience during difficult times.

Thomas Hardy – The Self Unseeing - In this poem the speaker remembers a childhood experience that brought happiness and joy and wonders about taking things – like your family- for granted when you are young.

Robert Frost – The Road Not Taken – The speaker in this poem must make a choice between two roads and choose the 'one less travelled'. It is an extended metaphor for difficult choices and choosing individuality over conforming.

Maya Angelou – Still I Rise – This poem is a declaration of strength and determination from a speaker who has had to face oppression and discrimination because of her gender and race.

Anais Nin – Risk – This is a poem about taking risks, having courage and making bold decisions.

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.

Sujata Bhatt – Search for my Tongue – The speaker in this poem fears losing part of her cultural heritage – her language. The poem explores how it feels to have to learn to use a new language and how language is part of our identity.

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.

Audre Lorde – Hanging Fire – In this poem the speaker is facing lots of anxiety about being a teenager but there is also a sense of threat in the poem – conveying how adolescence can be a fearful and dangerous time.

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 & Sentences – 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.

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.

Grammar & Sentences – Bounce-back to Term 2

- **Double Adverb Snap**

Slowly, carefully, I scrambled down the sheer rockface.

- **Three Verb Sentence**

The monstrous fungi billowed, swelled, rose up and up, surrounding the base of every tree.

- **Simile Start**

Like a bird knocked out of the sky, I was thrown to the ground as though for the last time.

- **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.

Perfect Paragraph

- Answer sentence
- Embedded evidence
- Inferences & connotations
- Techniques

Key Techniques:

Imagery	When the writer creates a vivid picture in the reader's mind through their description. E.g. <i>"Glittering white, the blanket of snow covered everything"</i>
Personification	Giving human features to non-human things. E.g. <i>"The moon watched over us"</i>
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. <i>"The snake moved like a ripple on a pond"</i>
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. <i>"The world is a stage"</i>
Zoomorphism	Giving animalistic features to non-animal things. E.g. <i>"The wind howled"</i>
Pathetic fallacy	Using the weather to set the tone and mood of the text.
Onomatopoeia	Words that are also sounds. E.g. <i>bang, drip, crash.</i>