



Year 6

Term 2 English Genre Overview

2023-24

Year Group	Weeks 17-30	Weeks 31-37
6	Book study – The Boy at the Back of the Class	Gothic novel – The Wind in the Wall

Book Study: The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q. Raúf

Our Year 6 students will be diving into an inspiring book study on "The Boy at the Back of the Class" by Onjali Raúf. This novel takes readers on a heart-warming journey of friendship, empathy, and the power of kindness. "The Boy at the Back of the Class" is a captivating story that follows the adventures of a group of friends who befriend a new student, Ahmet, who has just arrived from a war-torn country. As we delve into this narrative, your child will have the opportunity to explore themes of inclusion, empathy, and the impact of small acts of kindness.

Success Criteria

- I can summarise the main events in the story, including the beginning, middle, and end.
- I can identify and describe the main characters in the book, understanding their personalities and motivations.
- I can make connections between the characters' experiences and my own life or the world around me.
- I can discuss the themes of the book, such as friendship, empathy, and the impact of small acts of kindness.
- I can use evidence from the text to support my opinions and interpretations of the characters and events.
- I can identify and discuss the setting of the story and its significance to the plot.
- I can expand my vocabulary by learning and using new words introduced in the book.
- I can express my thoughts and feelings about the book, explaining what I liked and why.
- I can engage in group discussions, sharing my ideas and listening to the perspectives of others.
- I can reflect on the choices and actions of the characters, considering the consequences and lessons learned.
- I can create a character profile, describing the traits and development of a chosen character from the book.
- I can participate in creative projects inspired by the book, such as drawing scenes, writing alternate endings, or creating themed artwork.

- I can connect the events in the book to broader concepts, such as cultural diversity and the experiences of refugees.
- I can ask questions about parts of the story that I find confusing or want to learn more about.
- I can demonstrate empathy by understanding and appreciating the perspectives and challenges faced by the characters.

Gothic and Mystery Writing

As part of our English curriculum, your child will be exploring the Gothic genre through the book “The Wind in the Wall” by Sally Gardner. The Gothic genre is a fascinating literary tradition characterised by its eerie atmosphere and mysterious settings. Originating in the 18th century, Gothic literature has captivated readers with its spooky settings and disturbed characters. By engaging with Gothic literature, students will not only enhance their literary analysis skills but also develop a deeper appreciation for the complexities of storytelling and the enduring power of the written word.

Success Criteria

- I can recognise and explain key elements of the Gothic genre, such as eerie settings, strange occurrences, and mysterious atmospheres.
- I can analyse Gothic texts to identify themes, characters, and plot elements, including the use of symbolism and foreshadowing.
- I can make connections between Gothic texts and other literary genres, as well as real-life events or experiences.
- I can engage creatively with the Gothic genre through writing, discussion, and other forms of expression, such as creating spooky settings or crafting suspenseful narratives.
- I can reflect on my personal responses to Gothic texts and articulate how they make me feel, think, or react.
- I can collaborate with peers to discuss Gothic literature, share ideas, and support each other's understanding.