

KS3 English Curriculum - Year A (2026-27)

3-Year Rolling Programme | Tuesdays & Thursdays | Approx. 30 min interactive English + 15 min shared reading

Progressive KS3 English: The programme develops substantial English strands in depth rather than attempting to cover the whole of KS3 in one year. Familiar skills such as inference, vocabulary, viewpoint and analysis are deliberately revisited through increasingly sophisticated texts and tasks. Live sessions remain discussion-led and interactive, using Zoom chat, quick-fire responses, annotation, comparison and short collaborative language tasks; extended independent writing is minimised and can be offered as optional follow-up work.

Autumn Term 2026

28 sessions | 8 September - 17 December | Half term: 26-30 October | Shared reading: selected Sherlock Holmes stories

#	Date	Unit	30-min lesson	Progressive curriculum objective	15-min shared reading focus
1	Tue 8 Sept	Mystery, Crime & Suspense	Entering the Mystery	Identify conventions of mystery and crime fiction. Distinguish explicit clues from implied information and make evidence-based predictions.	Introduce Holmes and Watson; begin first selected case. Establish character, setting and mystery.
2	Thu 10 Sept	Mystery, Crime & Suspense	Inference: Reading Between the Lines	Develop inference from behaviour, dialogue and description. Support interpretations with concise textual evidence.	What can we deduce about Holmes and Watson without being directly told?
3	Tue 15 Sept	Mystery, Crime & Suspense	Clues, Evidence & Deduction	Distinguish fact, inference and assumption. Evaluate clues and use evidence to form logical conclusions.	Clue hunt: identify details that may be significant to the case.
4	Thu 17 Sept	Mystery, Crime & Suspense	Language of Suspense	Analyse verbs, imagery, sensory detail and connotations used to create tension and uncertainty.	Identify words and phrases that create suspense in the Holmes story.
5	Tue 22 Sept	Mystery, Crime & Suspense	How Writers Build Tension	Explore pacing, sentence length, paragraphing, withholding information and shifts in focus. Explain how structural choices affect readers.	Track where tension rises or falls in the case.
6	Thu 24 Sept	Mystery, Crime & Suspense	Foreshadowing & Red Herrings	Recognise foreshadowing and misdirection. Evaluate which details may be clues and which may deliberately distract the reader.	Which clues matter? Make and justify predictions before reading on.
7	Tue 29 Sept	Mystery, Crime & Suspense	Suspects, Motives & Reliability	Explore character motivation and reliability. Consider how viewpoint influences the information readers receive.	Evaluate witness or suspect accounts. Who seems trustworthy and why?
8	Thu 1 Oct	Mystery, Crime & Suspense	Solve the Case!	Combine retrieval, inference, language and structural analysis to reach and justify a solution using evidence.	Finish first case; compare pupils' deductions with Holmes's solution.
9	Tue 6 Oct	Dark & Gothic	Welcome to the Gothic	Identify Gothic conventions including isolation, darkness, danger, the supernatural and the unknown. Explore how setting establishes expectations.	Begin a darker Holmes case or passage; identify Gothic-style features.
10	Thu 8 Oct	Dark & Gothic	Creating a Sinister Setting	Analyse sensory imagery, precise vocabulary and setting description. Explain how ordinary places can be made threatening.	Explore how Conan Doyle makes a setting unsettling or mysterious.
11	Tue 13 Oct	Dark & Gothic	Pathetic Fallacy & Atmosphere	Understand pathetic fallacy and how weather and environment can reinforce mood. Evaluate the effects of atmospheric description.	Identify environmental details that influence mood in the shared text.
12	Thu 15 Oct	Dark & Gothic	Fear: Show, Don't Tell	Explore how fear is conveyed indirectly through actions, body language, dialogue and sentence structure rather than explicit statements.	How does the writer reveal fear or anxiety without naming it?
13	Tue 20 Oct	Dark & Gothic	Gothic Characters & the Unknown	Explore archetypal Gothic characters and how writers create suspicion, vulnerability or menace. Infer character through appearance, action and voice.	Analyse a mysterious or threatening character in the Holmes story.
14	Thu 22 Oct	Dark & Gothic	Building a Gothic Scene	Apply Gothic language, atmosphere and structural techniques through short interactive transformations and verbal/chat responses.	Continue or finish the case; evaluate the most atmospheric moments.
15	Tue 3 Nov	Poetry: Language, Sound & Meaning	What Makes Poetry Different?	Explore poetic form, lineation, rhythm, repetition and imagery. Challenge the idea that poetry must rhyme and consider how form shapes reading.	Begin a new Holmes case; recap characters and establish the new mystery.
16	Thu 5 Nov	Poetry: Language, Sound & Meaning	Imagery & Figurative Language	Analyse simile, metaphor and personification in poetry. Explore literal and figurative meanings and develop alternative interpretations.	Spot imagery in prose and compare its effect with poetic imagery.
17	Tue 10 Nov	Poetry: Language, Sound & Meaning	Sound & Rhythm	Explore rhyme, rhythm, alliteration, assonance, consonance and onomatopoeia. Analyse how sound contributes to mood and meaning.	Consider how reading Conan Doyle aloud affects pace, emphasis and atmosphere.
18	Thu 12 Nov	Poetry: Language, Sound & Meaning	Words With More Than One Meaning	Explore connotation, ambiguity and symbolism. Analyse how poets use precise words to suggest ideas beyond literal meaning.	Select one significant word from the Holmes text and explore its associations.
19	Tue 17 Nov	Poetry: Language, Sound & Meaning	Tone, Mood & Voice	Identify poetic tone and speaker. Explain how language and structure create attitude and mood.	Explore Watson's narrative voice and how it shapes the reader's response.
20	Thu 19 Nov	Poetry: Language, Sound & Meaning	Poetry With a Message	Explore how poems communicate ideas, emotions and viewpoints. Infer themes and support interpretations with textual evidence.	Continue the case; discuss themes or ideas emerging from the story.
21	Tue 24 Nov	Poetry: Language, Sound & Meaning	Comparing Poems	Compare how two poems present a similar theme or emotion through language, imagery, tone and structure.	Briefly compare an aspect of the current Holmes story with an earlier case.
22	Thu 26 Nov	Poetry: Language, Sound & Meaning	The Poetry Challenge	Apply knowledge of imagery, sound, structure, tone and symbolism to an unfamiliar poem. Compare plausible interpretations and justify them.	Finish the current case; identify the writer's most effective language choices.

23	Tue 1 Dec	Voices & Viewpoints	Whose Story Is It Anyway?	Explore first-, second- and third-person narration. Understand how narrative perspective controls what readers know and how they respond.	Begin final Holmes case; focus on Watson as narrator.
24	Thu 3 Dec	Voices & Viewpoints	Holmes vs Watson	Compare how two characters perceive the same events. Analyse how personality, knowledge and experience shape viewpoint.	What does Watson notice compared with Holmes? Why does this matter?
25	Tue 8 Dec	Voices & Viewpoints	Voice, Register & Character	Explore how vocabulary, syntax and register create distinctive voices. Infer personality, attitude and background from speech and narration.	Analyse dialogue and what it reveals about different characters.
26	Thu 10 Dec	Voices & Viewpoints	Reading Between the Lines	Explore subtext and implied meaning in dialogue and narration. Develop deeper inference and justify interpretations with precise evidence.	Find moments where characters imply more than they explicitly say.
27	Tue 15 Dec	Voices & Viewpoints	Same Event, Different Story	Compare contrasting accounts of the same event. Explore bias, selective detail and how language shapes interpretation.	Reach the crucial point of the final case; compare competing character accounts.
28	Thu 17 Dec	Voices & Viewpoints	The Final Perspective Challenge	Consolidate viewpoint, voice, inference and comparison through interactive unseen examples. Reflect on how perspective shapes meaning.	Finish the final Holmes case; evaluate how Watson's narration affected the mystery and reveal.