### EXPLORING THE 19TH CENTURY

**‘COMPOSED UPON WESTMINSTER BRIDGE’ BY WILLIAM WORDSWORTH**
Pettrarchan sonnet by William Wordsworth describing London and the River Thames, viewed from Westminster Bridge in the early morning.

**‘SILAS MARNER’ BY GEORGE ELLIOT**
An outwardly simple tale of a linen weaver, it is notable for its sophisticated treatment of a variety of issues ranging from industrialisation to community.

**‘THE WATER BABIES’ BY CHARLES KINGSLEY**
This story is about a 12-year-old boy who discovers a complex underwater world, whilst escaping the brutality of the Master Sweep.

**‘HARD TIMES’ BY CHARLES DICKENS**
Hard Times is a social-protest novel which attempts to lay bare the malignant impact of nineteenth-century industrial society upon the people living in English factory towns.

**‘OLIVER TWIST’ BY CHARLES DICKENS**
An orphan named Oliver Twist meets a pickpocket on the streets of London. From there, he joins a household of boys who are trained to steal for their master.

**‘ YORKSHIRE SLAVERY’ A REPORT BY RICHARD OASTLER**
Richard Oastler was a campaigner for a ten-hour working day in the factories. He said that conditions in England were worse than those on the plantations of the West Indies.

**‘THE WATERCRESS GIRL’ BY HENRY MAYHEW**
He describes a young girl who is put to work on the streets in order to make money for her family.

### BIOGRAPHY AND CONTEXT

The key social and cultural influences of the time were:

- **SOCIAL CLASS** Society was strictly layered into rich and poor. People were expected to 'know their place', and the Church taught them to be content in their 'station'.

- **SOCIAL PROBLEMS** At the time, many people were becoming aware of the need to improve the condition in which the poor found themselves. Britain had narrowly escaped revolution unlike its European counterparts.

- **CHURCH AND RELIGION** Britain was overwhelmingly Christian. The Church dominated religion and the morals of the time.

- **INDUSTRIAL REVOLUTION** had peaked, and much of the natural countryside was overrun with factories.

- **SUPERNATURAL AND SCIENCE** was a constant source of intrigue and inspiration.
# Poetry From Other Cultures and Traditions

## Search for My Tongue

Sujata Bhatt's poem is about what it is like to live in a foreign country, feeling disconnected from your cultural background. The poet feels, at the start of her poem, that she has lost her original language now that she is living abroad.

## Unrelated Incidents

Tom Leonard refers to accents and dialects, comparing a Glaswegian voice to that of a 'BBC accent', or Received Pronunciation as it is technically termed. Leonard expresses frustration at the connection between accent and social class.

## Hurricane Hits England

'Hurricane Hits England' is about the clash of cultures between Guyana and England. Grace Nichols stated that the poem was sparked by a large storm that hit England in 1987. The hurricane not only re-connects her with a sense of herself it also connects life in England with life in the West Indies.

## Storm on an Island

Seamus Heaney's poem is a dramatic monologue from the perspective of a villager on a remote island, probably in the Irish Atlantic, about the storms his community face and their effects. The poem highlights the ongoing conflict between humans and nature.

## Questions to Consider:

- How does this poem make me feel?
- Are there particular parts of the poem that stand out for me and why?
- What is the poet saying or how is the poet expressing themselves that makes me feel this way?
- Are there other ways that someone else might interpret the poem?

## Context

Tradition is doing things because they've always been done. It is excluding, because others will think less of you if you don't follow them; it is dead, because people have stopped asking why they honour those traditions.

Culture, on the other hand, is doing things as they have been done before in a spirit of celebration of shared values and identity. It is inclusive, because it takes pride in being shared with others; it is alive because it is open to reinterpretation and responsive to new influences.

## Key Words and Meanings

**Identity**

The characteristics determining who or what a person or thing is.

**Culture**

The ideas, customs, and social behaviour of a particular people or society.

**Symbolism**

When something is represented by something else for a specific effect

**Tradition**

The passing on of customs or beliefs from generation to generation.

**Structure**

How a text is put together

**Dialect**

The vocabulary used by different regions.

**Register**

Changes to one's formality for different audiences.
THE GOTHIC: AN INTRODUCTION

FRANKENSTEIN
Frankenstein tells the story of gifted scientist Victor Frankenstein who succeeds in giving life to a being of his own creation. However, this is not the perfect specimen he imagines that it will be, but rather a hideous creature who is rejected by Victor and mankind in general.

DRACULA
It begins with Jonathan Harker, a young English lawyer, as he travels to Transylvania. Harker plans to meet with Count Dracula, a client of his firm, in order to finalize a property transaction. When he arrives in Transylvania, the locals react with terror after he discloses his destination: Castle Dracula.

JANE EYRE
Jane Eyre by Charlotte Brontë is one of the most loved English Classics of all time. Jane comes from nothing but she desires everything life can offer her. And when she finds work as a governess in a mysterious mansion, it seems she has finally met her match with the darkly fascinating Mr Rochester.

THE STRANGE CASE OF DR JEKYLL AND MR HYDE
Strange Case of Dr Jekyll and Mr Hyde by Robert Louis Stevenson is a narrative about the complexities of science and the duplicity of human nature. Dr Jekyll is a kind, well-respected and intelligent scientist who meddles with the darker side of science, as he wants to bring out his 'second' nature.

BIOGRAPHY AND CONTEXT
Gothic literature is a genre that emerged as one of the eeriest forms of Dark Romanticism in the late 1700s, and is characterized by expressions of terror, gruesome narratives, supernatural elements, and dark, picturesque scenery.

There are many aspects of gothic literature that make it compelling to audiences both then and now, which include: mystery and fear (burials, flickering candles, evil potions, and other frightful concepts); atmosphere and setting (dark forests, unnerving mountain regions, ominous climatic conditions, and threatening storms); supernatural and paranormal activity; omens and curses; nightmares; villain (often an autocratic, male characters); anti-hero (a flawed protagonist with monstrous elements) romance (often leads to sorrow and tragedy); and a ‘damsel in distress’ (carrying feelings of sadness, oppression, and loneliness).

KEY WORDS AND MEANINGS
MYSTERY something that is difficult or impossible to understand or explain.

ATMOSPHERE the pervading tone or mood of a place, situation, or creative work.

OMEN an event regarded as a portent of good or evil.

SUPERNATURAL something attributed to a force beyond scientific understanding or the laws of nature.

ANTI-HERO a central character in a story who lacks conventional heroic attributes.

VILLAIN a character whose evil actions or motives are important to the plot.

GRUESOME causing repulsion or horror; grisly.
**THE BLURB**
Darren is just like any other teenager, until the day he encounters the Cirque du Freak and a vampire named Larten Crepsley. After Crepsley turns him into one of the undead, Darren joins the traveling sideshow and its parade of weird and monstrous creatures. As he learns to use his newfound powers, Darren unwittingly becomes a pawn in the struggle between vampire factions.

**KEY CHARACTERS**

**DARREN** The main character of the series.
**STEVE** Darren’s best friend and worst enemy.
**MR CREPSLEY** A vampire who ‘blooded’ Darren.
**MADAM OCTA** The spider who Darren stole; she also bit Steve.
**MR TALL** The host/manager of the Cirque Du Freak.
**ANNIE** Darren’s younger sister.

**BIOGRAPHY AND CONTEXT**

Biography. Darren Shan’s real name is Darren O’Shaughnessy. Although he is Irish, he was born on July 2, 1972, in St. Thomas’ Hospital, London — directly across the river from the Houses of Parliament in Westminster, which may explain his fascination with evil bloodsuckers!

A *freak show* is an exhibition of biological rarities, referred to in popular culture as “freaks of nature”. Typical features would be physically unusual humans, such as those uncommonly large or small, people with other extraordinary diseases and conditions, and performances that are expected to be shocking to the viewers. Heavily tattooed or pierced people have sometimes been seen in freak shows, as have attention-getting physical performers such as fire-eating and sword-swallowing acts. As well as exhibitions, freak shows were popular in the taverns and fairgrounds where the freaks were often combined with talent displays.

**KEY WORDS AND MEANINGS**

**STORY ARC** A story arc is an extended or continuing storyline in episodic storytelling.
**CONTEXT** The historical, social and cultural influences on a text.
**SYMBOLISM** When something is represented by something else for a specific effect.
**STRUCTURE** How a text is put together.
**PLOSIVE** Denoting a consonant sound followed by a sudden release of air.
**CHARACTERISATION** The development of a character through their actions, words or interactions.
**RELATIONSHIP** The way in which two or more people or things are connected, or the state of being connected.
**FORESHADOWING** When a critical event is hinted at throughout a text.
### GENRES BY WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ROMEO AND JULIET</th>
<th>OTHELLO</th>
<th>RICHARD III</th>
<th>A MIDSUMMER NIGHT’S DREAM</th>
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<td>Set in Verona (Italy) Shakespeare shares the tragic love story of ‘a pair of star-crossed lovers’ from rival families. After meeting at a ball, Romeo and Juliet marry in secret, only to be separated after Romeo murders Tybalt in revenge. Juliet is forced to marry Paris, so she hatches an ‘escape’ plan with Friar Lawrence. This goes wrong, and both Juliet and Romeo commit suicide.</td>
<td>A man(Iago) is frustrated with his prestigious commanding officer(Othello) and plots to ruin his life. He appears truly honest and trustworthy, but with the help of others, Othello’s sorrow, suicide, and wife’s death and directly linked to Iago’s actions.</td>
<td>Charting his rise to and fall from power, Richard III recounts the largely sensationalized life of the ‘hunchback king’, from ruthless murder, usurpation and incest.</td>
<td>Whilst fleeing through an enchanted woodland from her Tyrannous father, Hermia and Lysander find themselves pawns in a war between the fairy queen and king. But where would any great love story worth it’s salt be without it's ups and downs?</td>
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### BIOGRAPHY AND CONTEXT

William Shakespeare was born in Stratford upon Avon in 1564. William, one of eight children, was the eldest son and was probably educated at the local grammar school. He married when he was only 18 and his wife, Anne Hathaway, was eight years older than him. They had two girls and a boy (who died aged 11). Nobody knows how Shakespeare began to write or when he entered the theatre, but we know that he became a leading member of the theatre troupe known as ’The Lord Chamberlain's Men’. The company proved very popular and later, when King James I granted them the right to perform at his court, the troupe became known as ’The King's Men’. Shakespeare wrote over 30 plays for ’The King’s Men’, making it the most important theatre company in the country, and he often wrote parts for particular actors. He was very successful and wealthy in his time, and his work has remained very popular ever since.

### YEAR 8: SUMMER TERM (YOUTH)

### KEY WORDS AND MEANINGS

**STORY ARC** A story arc is an extended or continuing storyline in episodic storytelling

**STAGE DIRECTION** An instruction in the text of a play indicating the movement, position, or tone of an actor.

**VISION** An experience of seeing someone or something in a dream or trance, or as a supernatural apparition

**HALLUCINATION** An experience involving the apparent perception of something not present.

**DUPlicitous** A quality of deceptiveness in behaviour or speech.

**RELATIONSHIP** The way in which two or more people or things are connected, or the state of being connected.