

19 April 2024

Dear Parent/Carer,

Y9 Conflict Poetry Unit Information - April 2024

This term, Y9 students are starting to study the Conflict Poetry section of the OCR 'Towards A World Unknown' Poetry Anthology, which is set by the exam board. This is an examined set text for GCSE English Literature and the first official GCSE text that students will cover, and it is compulsory for us to teach the poems from this anthology. The exam board provides us with physical copies of the anthology for students to annotate and use to best support their preparation for their GCSE examinations in English.

The poetry anthology has been set by the exam board with the aim of allowing students to study *'a diverse range of poems since 1789 drawn from modern and literary heritage poets and covering different styles, poetic genres and thematic elements'* (OCR, 2024). Students will be introduced to poets from a range of different backgrounds and poems that may provide insight into a variety of challenging and thought-provoking ideas and topics, some of which may prove more challenging than others, depending on students' personal experiences.

Themes covered in the Conflict Poetry section include: past vs present, nature, memories, war, empire, guilt, isolation, mental health, love, the violence of war, the power of deities, vengeance, loss, discrimination

I have attached a PDF of the Conflict Poetry section from the OCR 'Towards A World Unknown' Poetry Anthology. You may wish to read these poems in advance, if you think it may help your child to navigate potential emotional triggers, or just to enjoy them.

Should you or your child have any concerns about themes, ideas, or topics in these poems, please contact Ms Frances Croft-Wang, our Assistant Subject Leader for Y9 & Y10, at fcroft-wang@theweald.org.uk.

Many thanks for your continued support.

Yours faithfully,



Ms J Rigby
Director of English