

# The Red Wheelbarrow

so much depends  
upon

a red wheel  
barrow

glazed with rain  
water

beside the white  
chickens



*William Carlos Williams*

English at  
Richard Lander  
School

Let's eat grandpa.

Let's eat, grandpa.

**correct punctuation can  
save a person`s life.**

**“Low levels of literacy impact on social justice. They reduce earnings and quality of life. They impact negatively on health and family stability. They also decrease the likelihood that individuals are happy.”**

*Jonathan Douglas – Director of the National Literacy Trust*

# **Year 7**

## **The English Experience**

### **Groupings**

- Broadly banded**
- Flexible each year**
  
- We look at SATs results and class teacher recommendations from Year 6**

## In class

- **Continue promotion of independent learning**
- **Follow on from primary expectations: punctuation, grammar, high standards**
- **Continue use of peer and self-assessment**
- **Equal focus reading, writing and speaking and listening**
- **Guide students to be organized and have the correct books and equipment**

# Equipment

- **Pencil case with basic stationery**
- **Pen(s), pencil(s), ruler, rubber, coloured pencils or felts, highlighters...**
- **Always carry planner**
- **Should always have reading material with them also – a novel for English and tutor time reading**

# **Year 7**

## **The English Experience**

### **Units of work across the year**

- The Village**
- ‘Boy 87’ – class reader**
- World Voices**
- Introduction to Shakespeare – focused on ‘A Midsummer Night’s Dream’**



# **Year 7**

## **The English Experience**

### **Homework**

**In year 7 students will be set a range of homework tasks.**

**They will have regular spelling and reading homeworks and other tasks as they fit into the scheme of learning.**

Year 7

The English Experience

## **Working at home**

**Parental support is vital**

- **Varied reading – novel, websites, newspapers, recipes...**
- **SCREEN TIME WARNING**
- **Phone/computer/playstation/Xbox/Switch etc.**



An extra hour a day of television, internet or computer game time in Year 10 is linked to poorer grades at GCSE, a Cambridge University study suggests.

The researchers recorded the activities of more than 800 14-year-olds and analysed their GCSE results at 16.

Those spending an extra hour a day on screens saw a fall in GCSE results equivalent to two grades overall.

"Reducing screen time could have important benefits," said co-author Dr Esther van Sluijs.

[International Journal of Behavioural Nutrition and Physical Activity.](#)

- 1. Mental stimulation**
- 2. Stress reduction**
- 3. Knowledge**
- 4. Vocabulary expansion**
- 5. Memory improvement**
- 6. Stronger analytical thinking skills**
- 7. Improved focus and concentration**
- 8. Better writing skills**
- 9. Sense of tranquillity**
- 10. Free entertainment**

**What can give  
you all these  
positive  
benefits?**

**“The gadget that will have  
the biggest impact on  
literacy is already out there.  
It’s called a book.”**

**Anthony Horowitz.**

"The simplest way to make sure that we raise literate children is to teach them to read and to show them that reading is a pleasurable activity.

— Neil Gaiman



According to research at Cambridge University, it doesn't matter in what order the letters in a word are, the only important thing is that the first and last letter be at the right place.

The rest can be a total mess and you can still read it without a problem.

This is because the human mind does not read every letter by itself, but the word as a whole.

Amazing huh?

## **The Dodlings**

(adapted from Tony Stead's *Reality Checks*)

The dodlings were tiljing ruft. When the ruft was polting, the dodlings grented hust then yotted pugde. The preeden dodlings only tiljed muft so that the ruft was krettile. At the end of cupa the dodlings nuted sos then ported crist. This was done to hopple set. The preeden dodlings were always hirty and lopy unlike the dodlings who were foly and jist.

### Comprehension Questions:

1. What did the dodlings do first?
2. What did the dodlings do when the ruft was polted?
3. What were the preeden dodlings doing?
4. Why did the preeden dodlings do this?
5. What did the dodlings do at the end of cupa?
6. Why did they do this?
7. How were the dodlings and the preeden dodlings different?



“Reading  
gives us some  
place to go  
when we have  
to stay where  
we are.”

Mason Cooley

**... reading for pleasure during secondary school had the biggest effect (*on progress in maths, vocabulary and spelling*), with books judged to be more important to children's development at an older age than the influence of their parents. The combined effect on children's progress of reading books often, going to the library regularly and reading newspapers at 16 was four times greater than the advantage children gained from having a parent with a degree...**

*IOE (Institute of Education) study reported by National Literacy Trust 2013.*

# **Year 7**

## **The English Experience**

- **Developing reading and spelling skills**
  - **Reading**
    - **Set time each day**
    - **Be a positive example**
    - **Read aloud to you**
    - **Integral to life e.g. BBC news/weather online**
    - **Share funny or interesting items from your reading**
    - **Check understanding of what has been read**
    - **Read to the punctuation**
    - **Keep pushing the level of challenge**

So students can get from this... Yr5/6

The little island seemed to float on the dark lake-waters. Trees grew on it, and a little hill rose in the middle of it. It was a mysterious island, lonely and beautiful. All the children stood and gazed at it, loving it and longing to go to it. It looked so secret - almost magic. "Well," said Jack at last. "What do you think? Shall we run away, and live on the secret island?" "Yes!" whispered all the children. "Let's! ~Enid Blyton

# To this – a 19<sup>th</sup> century novel – ‘Bleak House’ by Charles Dickens typical of GCSE...

## Chapter 1 — In Chancery

**LONDON. Michaelmas Term lately over, and the Lord Chancellor sitting in Lincoln’s Inn Hall. Implacable November weather. As much mud in the streets as if the waters had but newly retired from the face of the earth, and it would not be wonderful to meet a Megalosaurus, forty feet long or so, waddling like an elephantine lizard up Holborn Hill. Smoke lowering down from chimney-pots, making a soft black drizzle, with flakes of soot in it as big as full-grown snow-flakes — gone into mourning, one might imagine, for the death of the sun. Dogs, undistinguishable in mire. Horses, scarcely better; splashed to their very blinkers. Foot passengers, jostling one another’s umbrellas in a general infection of ill-temper, and losing their foot-hold at street-corners, where tens of thousands of other foot passengers have been slipping and sliding since the day broke (if the day ever broke), adding new deposits to the crust upon crust of mud, sticking at those points tenaciously to the pavement, and accumulating at compound interest.**

# How can you tell if a book is the right level?

- **If they were reading it in year 5 or year 6 – it is probably now too easy...**
- **Students need to mix it up and try something a little harder – but make it gradual to ease themselves into slightly more difficult books...**

# How to help select a book

**Get students to use the 'hand' rule – open to first page, read it, use a finger or thumb to cover up tricky words on page one. If you have used up all your digits, it is too hard.**

# Year 7

## The English Experience

- **Developing spelling skills**
  - **Dictionary to hand for homework**
  - **Just give them opening letters – encourage them to find right answer**
  - **Word games e.g. Scrabble, Boggle**
  - **Insist they check work for technical accuracy – tell them 4 words are incorrect and get student to find and correct**



Learning Weekly Spellings – based on errors from an initial assessment list. We are plugging gaps in spelling

- Look / say / cover / write / check
- Break down the syllables: happ/i/ness
- Every syllable must have a vowel sound in it
- Consider context: physical / physique
- Think of words we are reminded of:  
author / authority / authoritarian

**They also need to know what the word means so they can use the word in a sentence.**

# Year 7

## The English Experience

### Monitoring Reading and Spelling

We assess students twice a year with a Reading Score test and a Spelling Score test (September and March) to check progress.

This information is also available to all teachers at RLS – so they are aware of a student's ability level.

# Year 7

## Broadening the experience

- National Poetry Day
- World Book Day in March— yes, with year 7, we all get dressed up as characters!
- Subject Leaders – students can apply to be a leader in English, supporting staff and fellow students
- Author visits into school
- North Cornwall Book Festival visit

# Year 7

## Broadening the experience

- Creative Writing Club
- Media Club
- Gifted & Talented workshops
- Visits back into primary schools
- Youth Speaks debating teams
- Competitions: Gorsedd, Charles Causley, Foyle's Young Poet of the year...
- National Novel Writing Month



**NaNoWriMo**

# Year 7

## The English Experience

- **We value all you have already done and will do to support your child to become an effective reader, writer, speaker and listener.**
- **Please contact your child's English teacher with any queries.**