

# English - Year 7

Core theme of the year: Heroes 

Core questions: What makes a hero? Who holds power and why? Do heroes always bring stability to society? What are a hero's flaws? Do all heroes experience downfalls?

Romeo and Juliet

William Blake

Samuel Taylor Coleridge

Things Fall Apart

Year 8 



Core substantive knowledge:

1. adequacy / inadequacy
2. comprehend / misunderstand
3. ambiguous / obvious
4. conventional / unconventional
5. tangible / intangible

**Big question:** What happens when a hero is unconventional?  
**Relevant core concepts:** Characters can find it difficult to comprehend unconventional ideas. Unconventional characters are often made to feel inadequate. There is often pressure to conform to conventional ways of thinking.

A Wrinkle in Time

Core substantive knowledge:

1. pure / corrupt
2. ostracise / embrace
3. defile / purify
4. sacrifice / preserve
5. transient / enduring

Beowulf



**Big question:** What can we learn from stories of heroes?  
**Relevant core concepts:** The innocent can be corrupted. Ostracising leads to suffering. Those who seem vulnerable can also be potent.

**Big question:** What happens when heroes are hubristic?  
**Relevant core concepts:** The ostracised often want vengeance. Society often wants stability. The deaths of heroes are lamented.

Abrahamic Allusions

Core substantive knowledge:

1. pure / corrupt
2. ostracise / embrace
3. defile / purify
4. sacrifice / preserve
5. transient / enduring

Core substantive knowledge:

1. antagonist / protagonist
2. stability / instability
3. emancipate / oppress
4. compliant / defiant
5. moral / immoral

Antigone



**Big question:** What makes a hero?  
**Relevant core concepts:** Heroes are often brave. Tyrants are immoral. Over-reaching is often punished.

**Big question:** Can heroes be defiant?  
**Relevant core concepts:** Heroes can be rash and hubristic, which causes their downfall. Heroes make sacrifices for what they believe in. Heroes sometimes must be defiant and forthright.

Greek Myths

Core substantive knowledge:

1. antagonist / protagonist
2. stability / instability
3. emancipate / oppress
4. compliant / defiant
5. moral / immoral

