



Istituto di Istruzione Superiore "Leonardo da Vinci"
Villafranca in Lunigiana

PROGRAMMA SVOLTO DI: INGLESE

LICEO: SCIENTIFICO

A.S. 2025/26

CLASSE: 3

SEZ. AS

DOCENTE: Prof. Roberto DI SCALA

SUMMER 2025 READINGS

Focus on the two books students read during the 2025 summer: Shakespeare's *Hamlet*, *Macbeth*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (abridged versions, Black Cat). Activity: class discussion.

OLD ENGLISH AND MIDDLE ENGLISH

Study of the main aspects of the socio-cultural context of Britain and its literature during the Celtic, Roman, and Norman periods (authors and works, literary genres, themes) and their mutual links.

Focus on Old English poetry.

Contents

Celtic and Roman Britain: Celtic Britain (p. 28); Roman Britain (p. 29).

Anglo-Saxon Britain: Anglo-Saxon invasion and occupation (410-1066) (p. 30); The Venerable Bede (p. 30); British resistance and the (legendary) figure of King Arthur (p. 31); Viking raiders and Alfred the Great (p. 31).

Norman England (1): New masters (p. 32); The birth of a language (p. 32); Feudalism (p. 32); The House of Plantagenet (p. 33); Henry II and Thomas Becket (p. 33); Richard the Lionheart (p. 33); Magna Carta (p. 33).

Norman England (2): Scottish resistance and Braveheart (p. 36); The Hundred Years' War (p. 37); The Black Death (1348) and the Peasants' Revolt (1381) (p. 37); The War of the Roses (p. 37).

Anglo-Saxon poetry and the origins of English literature: Religious poetry: celebrating God's creative power (p. 40); Elegies: the transience of human life (p. 40); Epic poems: heroes and warriors (p. 41); *Beowulf* and the enduring fortune of epic poetry (p. 41); The style: alliterations and kennings (p. 41).

Romances and ballads: The cultural impact of the Norman conquest (p. 53); Romances: the celebration of courtly love and chivalry (pp. 52-53); Ballads: the link between music and poetry (p. 53).

Anglo-Saxon poetry and the origins of English literature: Religious poetry: celebrating God's creative power (p. 40); Elegies: the transience of human life (p. 40); Epic poems: heroes and warriors (p. 41); *Beowulf* and the enduring fortune of epic poetry (p. 41); The style: alliterations and kennings (p. 41).

The Seafarer (Text Store 1.3): An Anglo-Saxon dramatic monologue; The coexistence of pagan and Christian values; A modern version of the original text. Excerpts: How the Sea took me.

Beowulf: Who wrote *Beowulf*? (p. 44); The plot (p. 44); The portrait of a 'human' hero (p. 45); The main themes (p. 45); Language and style (p. 45); Responsibilities towards a wider community (p. 45).

CHAUCER'S THE CANTERBURY TALES

Focus on Middle English and *The Canterbury Tales*.

Contents

Mediaeval narrative poetry: Narrative poetry (p. 64); The masterpiece of English mediaeval literature (p. 64); The birth of a national language (p. 65); Literacy in mediaeval times (p. 65); The myth of the 'unscientific' Middle Ages (p. 78).

Geoffrey Chaucer Visual lesson and Video: Geoffrey Chaucer; Who was Geoffrey Chaucer? (p. 66); The three main phases of Chaucer's literary production (p. 67).

The Canterbury Tales: The plot (p. 67); The main themes (p. 67); Language and style (p. 68). Excerpts: The General Prologue (pp. 69-70); The Wife of Bath (pp. 71-72); The Parson (pp. 73-74).

THE RENAISSANCE

Study of the main aspects of the socio-cultural context of Britain and its literature during the Renaissance (authors and works, literary genres, themes) and their mutual links.

Contents

The Tudor dynasty: The War of the Roses and Henry VII (p. 88); Henry VIII and the break with Rome (p. 88); Anne Boleyn (p. 89); The short reign of Edward VI (p. 89); 'Bloody Mary' and the Puritans (p. 89).

The English Renaissance: Humanism and the Renaissance (p. 100); The 'English Renaissance' (p. 100); The great chain of being (p. 101).

Elizabethan prose: Elizabethan prose (pp. 102-03); Language and style (p. 103).

The Elizabethan Age: Colonialism and slavery (p. 91); Sanitation in the Elizabethan Age (pp. 190-91).

SHAKESPEARE'S SONNETS

Focus on Shakespeare's sonnets. Activity: Le cadavre exquis.

Contents

Elizabethan poetry: Elizabethan sonnets (p. 176); Lady Mary Wroth (p. 177); Five questions about... the sonnet (p. 188); Why was the sonnet a leading genre in the Renaissance? (p. 189); Italian vs English sonnet (p. 187).

[Nota RdS: + es. 1 p. 187]

William Shakespeare Who was William Shakespeare? (p. 118); Was Shakespeare Italian? (p. 119).

Shakespeare's sonnets: real facts and mysteries (p. 178); The style (p. 178); The main themes (p. 179);

Shakespeare's two lovers (p. 179).

Sonnet 15 ("When I consider every thing that grows") (p. 180); Sonnet 18 ("Shall I compare thee to a summer's day?") (p. 182); Sonnet 130 ("My mistress' eyes are nothing like the sun") (p. 184).

ELIZABETHAN DRAMA AND THEATRES, AND SHAKESPEARE'S PLAYS

Focus on Elizabethan theatre and Shakespeare's plays. Activity: Lego® Serious Play: Lego® Shakespeare Plays.

Contents

The Elizabethan drama: Elizabethan drama (p. 108); The audience (p. 108); Elizabethan public theatres (p. 109).

Elizabethan theatres: Elizabethan playwrights (p. 110); Actors, acting companies and patrons (p. 110); Putting the show together (p. 111); The freedom of Elizabethan playwrights (p. 111).

William Shakespeare

The main characteristics of Shakespeare's plays (pp. 120-21).

Romeo and Juliet: The plot (p. 124); The main themes (p. 124); The main characters (p. 125). Excerpts: The prologue (p. 126); Romeo and Juliet kiss (p. 128); The balcony scene (pp. 130-31).

Hamlet: The plot (p. 142); The main themes (p. 143); The main characters (p. 143); Hamlet's melancholy (p. 143). Excerpts: The melancholy of a prince (pp. 144-45); Hamlet's vision on earth and man (p. 148); 'To be or not to be' (p. 150).

The Tempest: The plot (p. 167); The main themes (p. 167); The main characters (p. 168); The difficulty to embrace diversity (p. 168). Excerpts: Prospero and Caliban (pp. 169-70); Life is a mere sleep (p. 173).

The Merchant of Venice (Text Store 2.6): Key facts; The plot; Main themes; Main characters. Excerpts: A pound of flesh.

INTERDISCIPLINARY LEARNING UNIT: AGAINST THE WIND. FIGURES OF FEMALE LEADERSHIP

Focus on female figures from Old and Middle English society and literature who are not in line with their time's mainstream conception of the role of women: Boudicca, Aethelflaed, the Wife of Bath. Part of the Interdisciplinary Learning Unit for English, Italian, Latin. Activity: Conversation workshop: Ladylike.

Focus on the figure of Queen Elizabeth I. Activity: Thinking routine See-Think-Wonder.

Contents

Boudicca, the Celtic Queen (p. 29). Aethelflaed, Lady of the Mercians (Classroom). The Wife of Bath (pp. 71-72).

The Elizabethan Age: 1558-1603: Elizabeth I, a strong female leader (p. 90); Mary, Queen of Scots (p. 90); The Spanish Armada (p. 91); Elizabeth and the defeat of the Spanish Armada (p. 93); Queen Elizabeth and gender-related stereotypes (p. 95).

Villafranca in Lunigiana, 10.6.26

Il docente

Prof. Roberto Di Scala

