

Year 9 Knowledge Organiser – Teaching Block 8 (Term 2)
American Classics

Connectives:

Firstly; Furthermore; Similarly; Recently;
Unsurprisingly; Undoubtedly; Surprisingly; Despite
this; However; Nevertheless; On the other hand;
Finally; Ultimately

How to structure an argument:

- O**
P
E
N
I
N
G
- X** Introduce the topic and make your point of view clear from the start. Avoid boring opening sentences e.g. 'I am writing to argue...' Grab the reader's attention by starting with a technique.
 - X** First main point to support your argument
Develop with reasons, examples, INAFOR**E**ST techniques
 - X** Second main point to support your argument
Develop with reasons, examples, INAFOR**E**ST techniques
 - X** Third main point to support your argument
Develop with reasons, examples, INAFOR**E**ST techniques
 - O** Counter-argue
Show that you understand the other side of the argument, but discredit it (say why it is wrong!)
 - X** Final (and most powerful) point to support your argument
- C**
L
O
S
I
N
G
- End your argument in a powerful way. What is the last think you want your reader to think about? Can you make your closing paragraph echo your opening by repeating a sentence/idea from the start, or by returning to an anecdote used at the start?

Linguistic techniques used for arguing a point of a view:

- I** Imperative
Instructing the reader to do something
- N** Negatives disproven
Discrediting the other side of the argument
- A** Address the reader
Talking directly to the reader
Alliteration
Two or more neighbouring words that begin with the same sound
Anecdote
Telling a short story or stories to illustrate a point
- F** Facts
Providing true information to support a point
- O** Opinions
Giving a view or judgement about something, especially the opinion of an expert
- R** Rhetorical question
Questions that don't require an answer
Repetition
Saying the same word/phrase/sentence more than once for deliberate effect
- E** Emotive language
Words that arouse emotions in the reader (positive/negative)
- S** Statistics
Numbers/figures that provide convincing information
- T** Triple
Clusters of three words or phrases to emphasise a point

If you enjoyed this topic and text you may also like to read:

- *Grapes of Wrath* by John Steinbeck
- *Adventures of Huckleberry Finn* by Mark Twain
- *The Perks of Being a Wallflower* by Stephen Chbosky
- *Perfect Escape* by Jennifer Brown
- *The Hate U Give* by Angie Thomas
- *Looking for Alaska* by John Green
- *Dear Martin* by Nic Stone

Wider analysis:

- Cliffs Notes (OMAM, TKAM)
- SparkNotes (OMAM, TKAM)
- BBC Bitesize (OMAM, TKAM)
- Mr. Bruff (OMAM)
- John Green (TKAM)
- BBC Bitesize: The Depression of the 1930s

KNOWLEDGE ORGANISER			TITLE OF TEXT:	<i>To Kill A Mockingbird</i> by Harper Lee
THEMES			PLOT	
The moral nature of human beings			<p>Part 1: Chapters 1-11 The reader is introduced to the narrator of the story, Scout Finch. Although the story is recounted by the adult Scout in the form of a retrospective first-person narrative, it starts when she is six years old. She tells of how her father (Atticus) broke from the Finch's farming background in order to become a successful lawyer. Alongside Atticus, Scout also lives with her brother Jem and their cook, Calpurnia, in Maycomb – a fictional town in the grips of the Great Depression. Scout and Jem befriend a boy called Dill; they become obsessed with their mysterious and mute neighbour, Boo Radley and try to lure him out of his house. There are rumours about Boo and his family. The children experience their first snowfall and Miss Maudie's house burns down in a fire. Scout's father, Atticus, agrees to defend a local black man, Tom Robinson, who has been accused of rape. It is a case he can never hope to win, but he does so for his own sense of morality and justice. A rabid dog descends on the town and Atticus is forced to shoot it. Jem destroys a neighbour's (Mrs. Dubose) flowerbed after she insults his father; he is forced to read to her as a consequence of this. Mrs. Dubose dies and leaves Jem a single camellia.</p> <p>Part 2: Chapters 12-31 The children are taken to the church of Maycomb's black community by their housekeeper, Calpurnia. Aunt Alexandra arrives in Maycomb and Dill also returns. A lynch mob from a neighbouring area try to take Tom from jail in order to kill him, but Scout manages to talk down one of the local ringleaders, Mr. Cunningham. Tom Robinson's trial starts and the children sit in the black community's gallery. Heck Tate, the Ewells and Tom Robinson all testify during the case. Despite a lack of evidence, the jury find Tom Robinson guilty. Bob Ewell vows revenge on Atticus for making him look like a fool in the courtroom and Jem is upset by the verdict. An innocent man without hope, Tom Robinson attempts to escape from jail and is shot dead. Tensions in the town of Maycomb reach a climax when a drunk Bob Ewell attacks the Finch children on their way home from a Halloween event. They are saved by a mysterious figure who turns out to be Boo Radley. Atticus thinks Jem is responsible for killing Bob Ewell, but the town's sheriff Heck Tate proves that it was in fact Boo Radley. They agree that the story is Ewell fell on his own knife. The novel ends with Boo Radley visiting Scout and Scout taking him back home. At the end of the novel, Scout is able to view the town and the events of recent years through the eyes of Boo Radley.</p>	
The coexistence of good and evil (moral complexity)		The transition from innocence to experience		
Prejudice	Social inequality	Courage		
CONTEXT				
<p>The Legacy of the American Civil War and Slavery in the Southern States: the American Civil War was fought in the US from 1861 to 1865. The Southern States formed a separate union and wanted to protect the system of slavery. This is why some people believe that racism is more entrenched in the South.</p>				
<p>The Wall Street Crash and The Great Depression: The Wall Street financial crash of 1929 was the greatest stock market crash in the history of the United States. The value of shares decreased significantly and many banks collapsed. Millions became bankrupt overnight; the poorest members of society suffered the most.</p>				
<p>Racism and the Jim Crow Laws: The Jim Crow laws were created in the 19th century and they enforced racial segregation in the Southern United States. The Civil Rights Act of 1964 overruled the Jim Crow laws.</p>				
<p>Scottsboro Boys Trial: the Scottsboro boys were nine African American teenagers accused in Alabama of raping two white women in 1931. The cases included a lynch mob before the suspects had been indicted, all-white juries, rushed trials and disruptive mobs. It is commonly cited as a miscarriage of justice in the United States legal system.</p>				
<p>1950s – Start of the Civil Rights Movements: black people, who had fought for their country during WW2, were starting to demand more civil rights. For instance, their right to vote and desegregate. Two events may have shaped the novel, the 1955 Montgomery Bus Boycott (Rosa Parks) and the 1956 riots at the University of Alabama. The novel was written and published during the most significant and conflict-ridden period of social change in the American South since the civil war.</p>				

MAIN CHARACTERS		KEY QUOTATIONS
Jean Louise 'Scout' Finch	lead protagonist; narrator; intelligent; tomboy; tested; impulsive; conflicted; courageous; questioner; observer; has faith in the goodness of people around her; strengthened; introspective	<i>"You never really understand a person until you climb into in his skin and walk around in it"</i>
Atticus Finch	lawyer; respectable; widower; has a calm demeanour; stern but fair; the moral compass of the novel; even-handed; represents morality and reason; wise; empathetic; committed to equality	<i>"Mockingbirds don't do one thing but make music for us to enjoy ... But sing their hearts out for us."</i>
Jeremy Atticus 'Jem' Finch	represents the idea of bravery; noble; likeable; a natural leader; idealistic; curious; protective; comes to understand his own sense of morality	<i>"That's why it's a sin to kill a mockingbird."</i>
Bob Ewell	ignorant; hate-filled; a drunkard; an abuser; bigoted; racist; vicious; beyond hope?	<i>"Until I feared I would lose it, I never loved to read. One does not love breathing."</i>
Boo Radley	mysterious; enigmatic; imprisoned; spectral; a recluse; mocked; inherently good; protective; emotionally damaged; multidimensional; his character gradually emerges	<i>"If there's just one kind of folks, why can't they get along with each other?"</i>
Calpurnia	mother-figure; strict; compassionate; wise; represents the bridge between black and white communities; a parallel to Atticus in her lessons of compassion; static	<i>"Maycomb County had recently been told that it had nothing to fear but fear itself."</i>
Tom Robinson	polite; honourable; innocent; a symbol of the black community; assumed to be guilty; invisible; voiceless; powerless; unseen	<i>"One time he said you never really know a man until you stand in his shoes and walk around in them. Just standing on the Radley porch was enough."</i>

