Secondary English Reading Skills course

In order to pass or achieve the higher grades at IGCSE and IB, students need a range of sophisticated first language level reading skills in both English language and English literature. They also need to be able to write about what they have read, using evidence and analytical skills. These skills should be developed in the years leading up to the examination year, between the ages of 11 and 15.

This course will give learners an opportunity to understand what these skills are, and to experiment with applying them to a wide range of engaging texts from both non-fiction and literature. By the end of the course, students will have a full set of reading strategies which they can apply to any text, and feel confident writing about what they have read.

The texts and skills included on this course meet the requirements for both IGCSE and IB MYB expectations. Students will read non-fiction prose extracts, including biography, travel writing, media texts, prose extracts, a short story, poetry, and an extract from a Shakespeare play.

Skills covered:

- use a repertoire of reading strategies to analyse and explore different layers of meaning within texts
- analyse and respond to the range of ideas and differing viewpoints, purposes and themes in a variety of texts
- develop interpretations of texts, supporting points with detailed textual evidence
- discuss their own and others' reading, take account of others' views of what they have read, and express informed opinions
- analyse how texts are shaped by audiences' preferences and opinions
- Consider historical and social context when reading
- develop a clear understanding and analyse the ways in which writers use language, form and structure

Lesson	topic	content	homework
1	Introduction to reading skills	What is reading? Fiction and non-fiction Introduction to reading skills including KS4 criteria Audience and purpose Text: *The Origins of Fiction* non-fiction article	Reading comprehension task
2	Skimming/scanning for gist and retrieving information	How to skim read and when it is needed How to scan for information Comprehension task Text: *biography Sylvia Plath*	Reading comprehension task
3	Annotating and highlighting text, summarising	What is annotation? How and what to highlight when reading How to summarise – what are the key steps? Text: *Newspaper Back to the Chain Gang*	Write a summary of an article

4	Non-fiction – presentational devices	What are presentational devices? Analyse a range of texts and annotate them Introduction to inference Using PEEL paragraphs Text: *Leaflets and posters tbc*	Write about non-fiction – presentational devices
5	non-fiction prose structure	What is structure? Breaking down the structure of a text Writing about structure Text: *Travel writing about London*	Write about the structure of the article
6	Non-fiction – media and bias	Media texts – audience and purpose Print media What is bias and how to spot it Persuasive language Text: *Media texts and Born Free letter*	Write about bias and language techniques used to persuade
7	Flash fiction inference	Elements of a story Flash Fiction Writing about the writer's message Text: *a range of flash fiction*	Write about the message of the story
8	Fiction – poetry – poetic devices	Poetic devices – terminology How to approach a poem Annotating a poem PEEL practice Text: *The Road Less Travelled by Robert Frost* *A Poison Tree by William Blake*	Write about an unseen poem
9	Fiction – Shakespeare	What is historical and social context? How to read Shakespearean English Blank Verse/iambic pentameter Analysing an extract Text: *Macbeth*	Write about a Shakespearean extract
10	Reviewing reading strategies and fun test! Comparing	Summarising reading strategies End of course quiz How to compare *texts about the moon*	Compare two or three texts