

As teachers of English at Harrow High, we want our learners to be critical thinkers and readers who are equipped with the knowledge and skills with which to make their own choices and decisions throughout their lives and who are compassionate, conscientious and creative. We want our learners to be effective communicators and we believe that mastery of the written and spoken word is fundamental to ensuring our learners have every opportunity to succeed in life.

Subject: English Year 10 Term One – English Literature GCSE (Edexcel) Post 1914 text: 'Journey's End' by R. C. Sheriff

S Reading Skills:

k Learners will be able to:

i **AO1:** Read, understand and respond to texts. Learners should be able to: maintain a critical style and develop an informed personal response and use textual references, including quotations, to support and illustrate interpretations

l **AO3:** Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written

l Writing Skills

s **AO4:** Use a range of vocabulary and sentence structures for clarity, purpose and effect, with accurate spelling and punctuation

K Reading

n Learners will need to know:

- o**
- The historical, social and cultural contexts of World War One including trench warfare, propaganda, perceptions of the British army and class in Britain in the early 20th century
 - The literary context and audience receptions of a post 1914 World War One text
 - Features of the play as a literary form: e.g. stage directions, staging, dialogue, act, scene, line
 - The plot of a full-length play and its key characters, setting, events and themes
 - Literary concepts of foreshadowing, dramatic irony, tension, comic relief, characterisation and symbolism
 - Human concepts of morality, courage, resilience, loyalty, camaraderie, honour, sacrifice, cowardice, fear
 - Concept of literary criticism

R Year 10 learners study the play 'Journey's End' as part of Edexcel Literature's Component 1: Post-914 Literature. Learners will be able to draw on their knowledge of World War One from their study of War Horse in Year 8 and the interim unit on World War One Poetry in Year 9. 'Journey's End' is the first GCSE text learners will study and studying it in the Autumn Term allows time for key skills such as developing and sustaining an interpretation of a text/character/theme to be practising and mastered.

a Although 'Journey's End' is a lesser studied text at GCSE, the themes of camaraderie, heroism and fear are universal and ones which learners engage with and enjoy reading and writing about. There is little action in the play itself, but the characters are complex, flawed and yet each are heroic in their own ways. The text lends itself to discussions about how human beings cope in extraordinarily challenging circumstances and learners build on their KS3 knowledge of characterisation to explore Sherriff's methods of creating such complex, multi-faceted characters.

t Being able to integrate contextual knowledge to develop and sustain an interpretation is a key skill (AO3) at GCSE and in further academic study. Through this play, learners are able to consolidate and build on their previous contextual knowledge of World War One, encountering new contextual factors such as the British class system and perceptions of the British army. Learners are also taught to understand the way in which literary purpose and audience receptions change over time and are introduced to literary criticism for the first time.

The play explores questions around the morality of war allowing teachers and learners to draw comparisons with conflicts going in the world today. Journey's End is taught alongside the war poems of the GCSE Poetry Conflict Anthology, allowing for further links to be made

The play has recently been adapted as a feature film and there are frequent large and small scale productions, offering the learners further opportunities to engage with multiple interpretations of the original text.