**Integrated Classics 2 - Classical and contemporary literature**

Start by learning more about etymology/derivatives – so much of our language comes from Latin/Greek. For example, the prefixes - pro, anti, re, sub, inter, super, auto

A large proportion of the words on the national curriculum word lists are derived from Latin in particular

**How knowing Classical references or language can help us enjoy more modern literature**

Example 1. Harry Potter – character names, animals/monsters, spells

J.K. Rowling studied Classics at university, and used language, stories and characters from ancient myth in her own creations...

**Characters**

Severus Snape

Luna Lovegood

Sirius Black

Remus Lupin

Bellatrix Lestrange

Draco Malfoy

Albus Dumbeldore

Minerva McGonagall

Argus Filch

**Animals/monsters**

Centaurs

Chimaera

Griffin (Egyptian/Persian)

Hippogriff

Phoenix

Sphinx

Unicorn

Winged horse

Three-headed dog

Basilisk

Exercise: in different size groups, create the animals from Harry Potter, and then discover the stories associated with them from the Classical world. How does the animal move? What does it sound like?

Further exercise: studying the spells used in Harry Potter (most of which are Latin-esque) and then making our own, new spells.

Example 2. Classics in Shakespeare

We’ll concentrate on MND, but there are other Shakespeare plays with Classical storylines, such as..

Julius Caesar

Coriolanus

Antony and Cleopatra

Pericles

…and others still that borrow from Classical stories. However, MND combines both these aspects very nicely.

MND is set in Athens, at a time when Theseus is king. He is about to get married to the Amazon queen, Hippolyta

Exercise: retelling of the story of Theseus and the Minotaur

As part of the marriage celebration of Theseus and Hippolyta, a play is performed. It’s called *Pyramus and Thisbe* (which was a huge influence for the plot of *Romeo and Juliet*). Pyramus and Thisbe

Exercise: can we make our own play from other Ovid titles? For example…

Echo and Narcissus (from which the ancients understood how echoes existed, and also what a Narcissist is)

Arachne (why spiders weave such beautiful webs)

Orpheus and Eurydice (where Orpheus encounters the three-headed dog, Cerberus)