Knowledge Organiser: A level English Literature Induction Session

Literary terminology

protagonist	The character that is the focus of the narrative
Symbolism	The use of imagery to represent ideas and qualities
Omniscient narrator	A third person, all seeing narrator
Characterise	The process in which the writer reveals the personality of a character

Linguistic terminology

Semantic field	Words associated to a specific theme
verb	'a doing word'
noun	A person, place, thing
Proper noun	A noun that requires a capital letter because it is a name –e.g London
adjective	'a describing word'
Pre-modifier	A word that comes before a noun and alters its meaning. E.g. Scared student!

Glossary for the extract

populace	The population/ general public
Bishopgate	An area making up the financial district in London city
GDP	**Gross Domestic Product** (**GDP**) is the monetary value made within a country; provides an economic snapshot of a country, used to estimate the size of an economy and growth rate.
Zone 2	Fare zone 2 is an inner zone of Transport for London's zonal fare system. House prices average £! Million.
Ceylon	A type a tea
Received Pronunciation	The standard form of English pronunciation, based on educated speech in southern England, widely accepted as a standard elsewhere.

Critical Theories

Literary Theory 1: Feminist theory

Key ideas:

- Gender is different from one's biological sex and is a social construction. Society expects each gender to behave in a distinct way.
- Women are oppressed as they are only valued for their looks and their societal function as wives and mothers. This is a restrictive gender role.
- Women are 'the second sex' as they are seen as less powerful and important to men. Society is therefore patriarchal (male-dominated).
- Famous critic: **Simone de Beauvoir**
- ***How would you use in a response: Feminist literary critics*** *might argue that…*

Key vocabulary:

- autonomy
- dominant ideologies
- dominant/submissive
- equality
- gender role
- liberation
- objectification
- patriarchy
- power
- reinforce/subvert
- stereotypical

Literary Theory 2: Post-colonial theory

Key ideas:

- The legacy of colonialism and imperialism by focusing on the human consequences
- Colonized people are exploited and oppressed
- Race is often 'othered' and seen as threatening, exotic or based on commonly held stereotypical features and unrealistic
- Texts can 'write back' to the colonial centre by providing a voice to experiences often ignored
- Famous critic: **Edward Said**
- ***How would you use in a response: Post-colonial literary critics*** *might argue that…*

Key vocabulary:

- autonomy
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- dominant/submissive
- equality
- objectification
- oppression
- reinforce/subvert
- stereotypical
- prejudice
- unjust
- discrimination

Looking at Critical Theories

Applying AO5: Explore how literary texts are informed by different interpretations

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