



# ENGLISH AT HVC



WELCOME Y6 STUDENTS



## WHAT'S INSIDE

### HEROES AND VILLAINS

#### ADVENTURE IS OUT THERE...

- How to learn a poem by heart
- Adventure word search

#### INTRODUCTION TO THE ENGLISH TEAM

- Poems of adventure and new beginnings

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## WELCOME Y6 STUDENTS FROM THE ENGLISH TEACHERS AT YOUR NEW SCHOOL

As you enter the world of English at Hope Valley College, you will embark on an adventure of language and literature. This adventure will widen your imagination, take you to different places and times, and introduce you to a wide variety of exciting characters.

During your secondary English journey you will study a wide variety of texts including: novels (both classic and modern), drama (Shakespeare and modern plays), poetry, short stories and non-fiction texts.

You will also create your own adventures by crafting your own narratives and descriptions, whilst also developing and sharing your own opinions, both written and spoken.

We will also encourage your independent reading by introducing you to our amazing library and librarian, Mrs Mummery, knowing that the magic of books will take you to varied and exciting places past and present, learning about the world as you go.

Hope Valley College is a very special place and we look forward to welcoming you all soon!

**YOUR ADVENTURE WILL  
INCLUDE...**

# ***HEROES AND VILLAINS***

In September, we start by making you the hero of your own story.



Then, you will encounter the villains of Victorian literature.



You'll meet the heroes of World War One and Shakespearean villains.



And, you will come face to face with the heroes and villains of Greek Myths.



## ADVENTURE IS OUT THERE

We know that you have been super busy doing lots of different activities at home during this strange time. We want to introduce ourselves to you and add another activity to the list of amazing and wonderful things you have been getting stuck into recently!

Your new English teachers have collected poems linked to the theme of Adventures and New Beginnings. We would love it if you could try to learn and remember one of the poems printed here.

We can't wait for you to start your new adventure with us, so what better way to get ready for it than to learn a poem? You can be as creative as you like when learning your poems, and what we would really love is to see as many of you as possible perform these poems (if you feel confident to do so) when we return to school. Good luck!

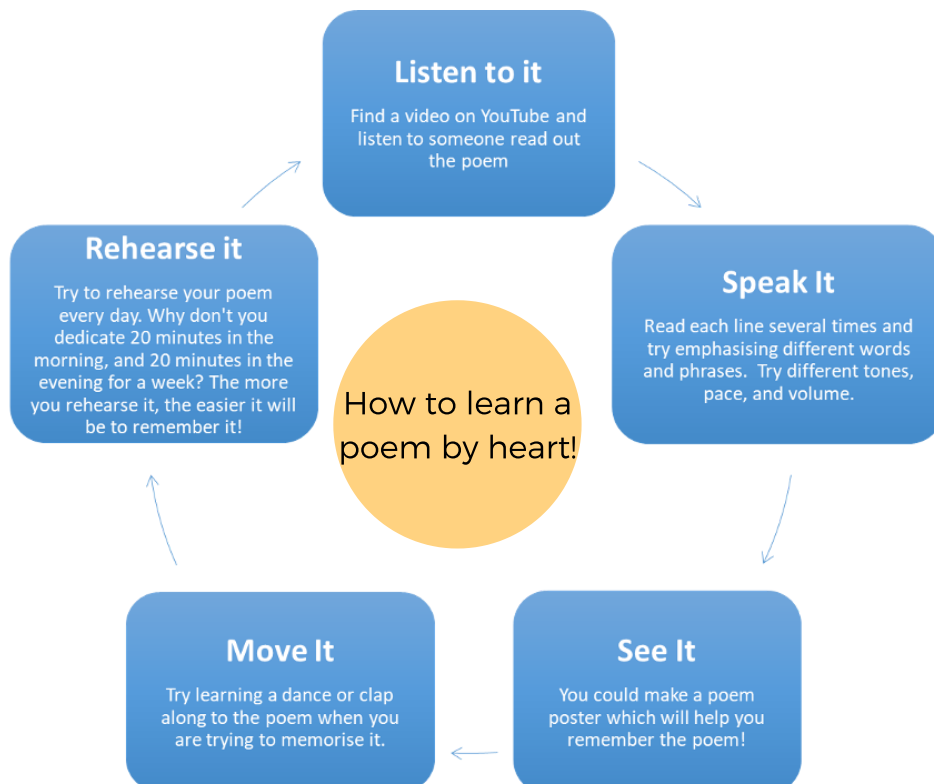
### ADVENTURES AND NEW BEGINNINGS

E W V I J R P T G W R E N Z Q  
 T R S E A R C H I N G X M S W  
 C Q U X L S D T N U P C O H Q  
 V L C T P F E K N D H I L J R  
 Q H C R N A Y I K S H T D V Z  
 C F I L M E T Z E S O I H Z D  
 H N R W Q E V R R C N N O K T  
 G F O I D Y F D A A K G P N C  
 Q R P M E Q A P A J N B T I P  
 K E R C D N Y E R E N E W A L  
 R H G E I R D Q J O H Y I J D  
 W J X U G J E S O Z M O U A D  
 Y A W H T A P A H Q V E F B D  
 P H O E N I X W M T Z A J Q F  
 H T R I B E R V N S V Y X Q R

ADVENTURE  
 DREAMS  
 EXCITING  
 FRESH  
 FRIENDS  
 PATHWAY  
 PHOENIX

REBIRTH  
 RENEWAL  
 SEARCHING  
 SPRING  
 TEAMWORK  
 UNITED

**CAN YOU FIND ALL THE WORDS? HAVE A GO AT USING THESE WORDS TO COME UP WITH A POEM OF YOUR OWN!**



# HVC ENGLISH TEAM

## MS HAYES



Hello, my name is Ms Hayes and I have been part of the HVC family since 2008. I picked this poem **'Mary Anning Roars to the Sea'** by **Sophie Kirtley** because it's about being brave, learning new things and the joy of discovery. All these things are waiting for you at Hope Valley College.

Hello! I'm Mrs Hale. I've taught at Hope Valley College for two years and I love it! I've chosen the poem **'On paper'** by **Jacqueline Amanda Woodson**.

When we start school, we begin by learning how to write our name but as we grow in confidence, knowledge and experience words can express anything we want them to - thoughts, dreams, stories, poetry, theories - which is pretty amazing! The poem tells us that a new beginning, like starting a new school, is 'a clean white page' where anything is possible!

## MRS HALE



## MRS FOSTER



Hi! I am Mrs Foster and I have been teaching English at Hope Valley College for 10 years. I love teaching English - every day is different and is a new adventure.

The poem I have chosen is called **'Heart of the City'** by **Sarah Maclennan**, a Creative Writing lecturer at Liverpool John Moore's University - the same university where my dad was a lecturer. The poem is described as a love poem to Liverpool and I chose it because it reflects my own feelings for this wonderful city and it just makes me smile.

Hi, I'm Ms Worrall and I've been working in the wonderful English team at Hope Valley College since 2012. I've chosen **'Life Doesn't Frighten Me'** by **Maya Angelou** as she's a wonderful writer. This poem is really empowering and helps me to remember that the world can be a challenging place. It reminds me to be strong and brave in order to overcome any obstacles. I hope you like it

## MS WORRALL



## MS NORMAN



Hello. My name is Ms Norman and each week we will spend time in the library where we will explore books and discover the magic of stories.

I've chosen the poem **'Breakage'** by **Mary Oliver**. She often wrote about adventures in nature (and also her dogs) and because of this she is my favourite poet. This poem is about figuring out something that is at first unclear. However, bit by bit, word by word we can solve the mystery and read the whole story.

# POEMS OF ADVENTURE AND NEW BEGINNINGS

## MARY ANNING ROARS TO THE SEA

BY SOPHIE KIRTLEY

*In 1811, twelve year old Mary Anning found the first complete Ichthyosaur skeleton on the beach near her home in Lyme Regis.*

Wild waves crash, raw winds roar:  
I hear the voice of the lost dinosaur.  
I roar back. I am bold.  
I roar because in my hand I hold  
my hammer  
to break  
these rocks  
apart  
and unlock the secrets  
at their old, cold heart.

'I found your bones!'  
I shout, all alone,  
to the plesiosaur  
who paddled and dived  
who lived, then died,  
right here, before,  
so long before

me,

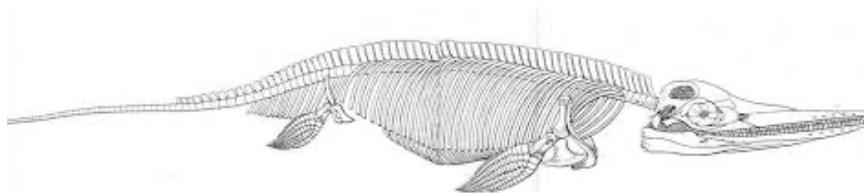
in my wind-flapped gown  
with my salt-wet hair  
staring down at the ground,  
then up  
up at the fast grey sky,  
where seven white gulls  
circle and cry, and circle, and I  
squeeze my eyes half shut  
and I half-spy

a pterosaur  
on the wing.  
'I found your bones!'  
I roar to the thing  
who isn't really there  
anymore, then I roar  
as I sing a half-made song,  
with words half-right  
and words half-wrong  
with wild words lost  
in the wind-spun air  
and why do I sing?

Because I dare.

I dare to dig,  
and I dare  
to find  
the bones and the shadows  
left behind.  
I dare to turn stone after stone  
after stone,  
I wear hard boots  
and, I walk all alone,  
here, right here,  
with my hammer in my hand,  
I dare to walk the land-slipped  
shifty sand,  
and I dare to learn  
and to understand.

I dare to sing and I dare to roar  
like the dinosaurs  
who dared here  
long long  
before.







## HEART OF THE CITY

BY SARAH MACLENNAN

In the space  
between two heart  
Copper birds shake off their chains  
A radio tower slumps, rubber-spined  
Stone lions slip from plinths  
Cathedrals lumber closer  
Superlambanana bleats  
Bronze statues query pigeons  
Remind me again, who am I?  
Anfield & Goodison wrestle  
Three flirtatious Graces sing  
Make us a mirror, River  
Theatres belch trapped laughter  
Parks play Chinese Whispers  
Avenues of trees pass it on, pass it on  
Docks stroke the flanks of ships  
One-way systems unravel  
city bones of wood, iron, glass, stone  
beats  
and life pulses through the City  
breath in its lungs  
blood in its veins  
and - at its heart - you



## LIFE DOESN'T FRIGHTEN ME

BY MAYA ANGELOU

Shadows on the wall  
Noises down the hall  
Life doesn't frighten me at all

Bad dogs barking loud  
Big ghosts in a cloud  
Life doesn't frighten me at all

Mean old Mother Goose  
Lions on the loose  
They don't frighten me at all

Dragons breathing flame  
On my counterpane  
That doesn't frighten me at all.

I go boo  
Make them shoo  
I make fun  
Way they run  
I won't cry  
So they fly  
I just smile  
They go wild

Life doesn't frighten me at all.

Tough guys fight  
All alone at night  
Life doesn't frighten me at all.

Panthers in the park  
Strangers in the dark  
No, they don't frighten me at all.

That new classroom where  
Boys all pull my hair  
(Kissy little girls  
With their hair in curls)  
They don't frighten me at all.

Don't show me frogs and snakes  
And listen for my scream,  
If I'm afraid at all  
It's only in my dreams.

I've got a magic charm  
That I keep up my sleeve  
I can walk the ocean floor  
And never have to breathe.

Life doesn't frighten me at all  
Not at all  
Not at all.

Life doesn't frighten me at all.



## ON PAPER

The first time I write my full name

Jacqueline Amanda Woodson

without anybody's help  
on a clean white page in my composition  
notebook,

I know

if I wanted to

I could write anything.

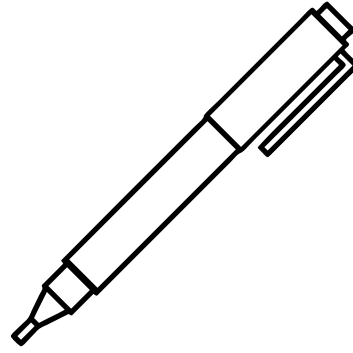
Letters becoming words, words gathering  
meaning,

becoming  
thoughts outside my head

becoming sentences

written by

Jacqueline Amanda Woodson



**WHICH OF THESE  
POEMS WILL YOU  
CHOOSE TO LEARN BY  
HEART?**

## BREAKAGE

BY MARY OLIVER

I go down to the edge of the sea.  
How everything shines in the morning light!  
The cusp of the whelk,  
the broken cupboard of the clam,  
the opened, blue mussels,  
moon snails, pale pink and barnacle scarred—  
and nothing at all whole or shut, but tattered, split,  
dropped by the gulls onto the gray rocks and all the moisture gone.  
It's like a schoolhouse  
of little words,  
thousands of words.  
First you figure out what each one means by itself,  
the jingle, the periwinkle, the scallop  
full of moonlight.

Then you begin, slowly, to read the whole story.





# READY TO EXPLORE?

## GET READY TO READ YOURSELF INTO AN ADVENTURE WITH THESE FANTASTIC BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

### **A Good Day for Climbing Trees by Jaco Jacobs**

A lovely coming-of age story about finding your place and being heard for the first time.

### **The Boy at the Back of the Class by Onjali Q Rauf**

An inspiring and sweet tale that will make you think about what it is to be a good person whatever your circumstances (the narrator is from a poor background with a single parent mum who struggles to make ends meet), and challenge prejudice and push for fairness, whenever possible.

### **The Ruby in the Smoke' by Philip Pullman**

Inspired by the tradition of the Victorian melodrama, Pullman's first Sally Lockhart story is a cracking adventure. Cleverly-plotted, bristling with excitement and brilliantly gripping! It provides an intriguing insight into the injustice and inequality of Victorian society.

### **Boy in the Tower by Polly Ho-Yen**

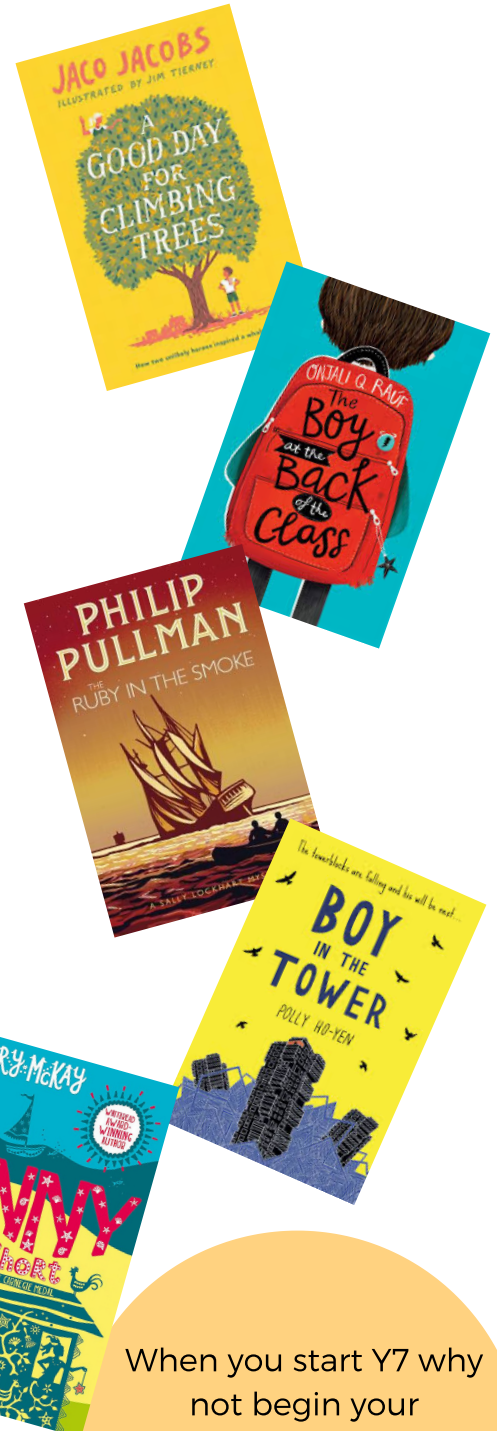
'When they first arrived, they came quietly and stealthily as if they tip-toed into the world when we were all looking the other way...'

### **Binny for Short by Hilary McKay**

Beautifully-written and enormously engaging, this gentle story about friendship and family in a seaside town will charm readers, right up until its warm-hearted and very satisfying ending.

### **The Pearl in the Ice by Cathryn Constable**

Great for "children who are just starting to consider and question their position in the world and challenge their parents' insistence to always 'know best". A fast-paced cocktail of fantasy, reality and shocking discovery.

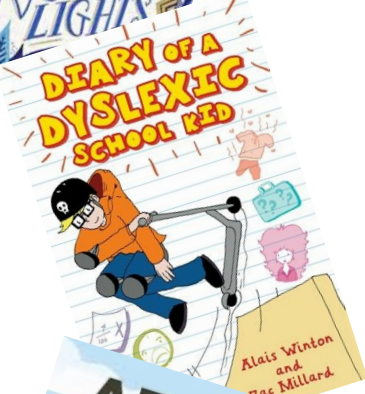


When you start Y7 why not begin your adventure by **visiting the library** at your new school and picking a great book?



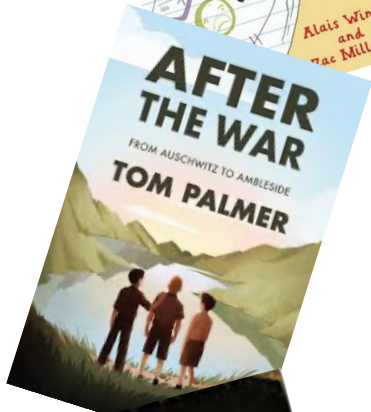
**Northern Lights by Philip Pullman**

This book is the first in Pullman’s Dark Materials trilogy. It is a beautifully-written story that tells the brilliant tale of Lyra. Great for readers who love adventure and excitement. When you have finished reading it you could also watch the TV series on BBC iplayer.



**Diary of a Dyslexic School Kid by Alais Winton & Zac Millard**

Experience day-to-day life for a dyslexic kid. The authors display the ups and downs of school - and home - life with a reading difficulty, focussing on the sometimes overwhelming experience of being at a bigger school and studying loads of new subjects.



**After the War by Tom Palmer**

Palmer writes about Auschwitz children brought to the Lake District in 1945 for a new start.



**The Arrival by Shaun Tan**

In a heart breaking parting, a man gives his wife and daughter a last kiss and boards a steamship to cross the ocean. He's embarking on the most painful yet important journey of his life- he's leaving home to build a better future for his family. This is an amazing picture book / graphic novel that tells a mesmerizing story with no words!



**Instructions by Neil Gaiman**

What to do if you find yourself inside a fairy tale? A picture book of his brilliant narrative poem by the famous graphic novelist, Neil Gaiman

**WHY NOT WATCH OR LISTEN TO SOME POEMS ABOUT ADVENTURE AND NEW BEGINNINGS?**

**The Rime of the Ancient Mariner by William Coleridge** (read by lots of famous people!)

<https://www.ancientmarinerbigread.com>

**New Beginnings by Tony Walsh**

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/teach/class-clips-video/english-ks2-new-beginnings-by-tony-walsh/zddmbdm>

**Instructions by Neil Gaiman** <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5UnfyOTSZZw>