Huntington School
Learn and succeed

Year: 7
Subject: English
Topic/Unit: *The Island at the End of Everything* by Kiran Millwood Hargrave
When: Autumn 1

Overview: This unit focuses on the novel *The Island at the End of Everything*, following the protagonist Ami as she is forcibly separated from her mother on the leper colony of Culion. Students will explore the historical context of leprosy and the social stigma surrounding the disease. The curriculum emphasises developing analytical writing skills through the Point, Evidence, and Analysis (PEA) structure, alongside creative responses to the narrative

Why this? Why now? Why does it matter? This unit introduces Year 7 students to complex social themes such as morality, hierarchy, heroism and the resilience of the human spirit. By examining the 20th-century treatment of those with leprosy, students develop empathy and moral reasoning. It provides a foundation for secondary-level literary analysis, moving beyond basic comprehension to explore authorial intent and methods.

Building on...building to: The unit builds on primary school literacy and foundational concepts of morality. It is building towards Year 8 studies on morality in 'The Bone Sparrow' and Year 9 explorations of propaganda in 'Animal Farm', while establishing the vertical knowledge required for GCSE-level conflict poetry and prose.

Sequence summary:
Context and Morality: Introduction to Culion and the distinction between right and wrong.

The Antagonist: Analysing Mr. Zamora's arrival and his plan for the "sano" children.

Separation and Change: Exploring the emotional impact of the journey to Coron and the symbolism of butterflies.

Orphanage and Hierarchy: Examining power structures and "quiet heroism" at the orphanage.

The Escape and Resolution: Analysing the danger of the fire, the journey home, and the novel's messages 30 years later.

Key Vocabulary:
Morality: Principles distinguishing right from wrong
Hierarchy: Social ranking based on power
Heroism: Exceptional courage and self-sacrifice
Antagonist/Protagonist: The character opposing the lead/the leading character
Symbolism: Objects representing abstract ideas (e.g. butterflies as freedom)

Assessments:
Assessment 1: Summary skills, definitions, and finding evidence after Chapter 10
Assessment 2: Multiple-choice questions and a formal PEA response after Chapter 23

Able and interested:
Students are encouraged to go beyond standard PEA paragraphs by identifying word classes and analysing complex authorial methods. They will explore advanced symbolism and evaluate complex language choices and methods.

Inclusion, Personal Development and Wider Skills:
Personal development is fostered through a "morality scale" to evaluate character actions. Inclusion is supported through glossaries of Filipino terms and sensory-rich tasks.

Homework:
FOR KS3: Homework sits separate to this unit as students continue to complete their SPARX reader.