

Y8 Novel: Ghost Boys by Jewell Parker Rhodes

Why?

This unit allows us to explore a harrowing and important modern narrative inspired by the unjust murder of many black men by white men, specifically victims of police brutality. The story follows the protagonist, Jerome, a young African American boy, as he narrates the story of his murder by a police officer on the street outside his house.

Recall and Embed...

Foreshadowing	Give hints or clues about future events.
Motif	A repeated image e.g. a feather
Introduction of character	Bringing a new focus to the text in the form of a person/creature
Cyclical narrative	A narrative which ends in the same or similar way that it begins.
In medias res	In the middle of the action.

Sensory imagery	Using all 5 senses to create a full experience.
Emotive Language	Choosing language carefully to evoke emotion.

How can we bring our knowledge of narrative writing to our study of a novel?

Key Concepts:

Structure – the way in which the novel is organised. This novel is structured as a dual narrative.

Characterisation – the study of character and character development. In this novel Jerome matures across the re-telling of his story.

Culture – the ideas and social behaviour of a particular group or society.

Context – background information surrounding an event or work.

Narratology – the study of narrative and narrative structure.

Theme – prevalent idea or subject in a work of literature.

Voice – an opinion or attitude expressed.

Attitudes – a way of thinking or feeling about something.

Empathy – the ability to understand or share feelings of another.

Vocabulary

Apathy	A lack of interest or concern.
Epigraph	A short quote or saying at the start of a book or chapter which suggests its theme.
Dual narrative	A narrative which tells a story from two different places, points in time or perspectives.
Chronology	The arrangement of events in order in which they happen in real time.
Flashback	A shift in time in a novel or film where we move back in time from the main story.
Systemic	Something which is embedded in the regulations and norms of a society or institution.
Racial Bias (unconscious)	A personal unreasoned judgement based on the race of an individual – unconscious – not even aware we are doing it.
Catharsis	The process becoming relieved from strong, previously repressed emotions.
Anagnorisis	A moment of profound realisation. The point where a main character discovers the true identity of another character OR the true nature of their own journey.