



ENGLISH

Welcome to the English Super Curriculum. Below you'll find a whole host of things to do to stretch yourself beyond the classroom curriculum.

Let's take a look at this month's focus: Local literary connections

READ

Poet Ted Hughes (a former poet laureate) spent a huge amount of time on Dartmoor and a memorial was placed near River Taw at Taw Head to mark his affinity with this area. Take a look at the memorial walk that can be followed:

[Ted Hughes Memorial Walk](#) - BBC Devon

Here is an excerpt from the poem *Snipe* by the man himself:

*You are soaked with the cold rain –
Like a pelt in tanning liquor.
The moor's swollen waterbelly
Swags and quivers, ready to burst at a step.*

LISTEN

Michael Morpurgo, who based his novel *War Horse* on locations around the moor, speaks about the veteran from Iddesleigh who shared his WWI story with him. Wilfred Ellis had been in the Devon Yeomanry and worked with the horses:

[War Horser: If there were no wars, we would be good friends](#) - YouTube

Further stories linked to Morpurgo can be viewed, and there is a chance to listen to his book:

[Inside the Devon farm that inspired War Horse](#) - BBC News

WATCH

The aptly named Queen of Crime, Agatha Christie, spent much of her early life in Torquay and many of her stories feature locations around South Devon.

Burgh Island, Bigbury on Sea: *And Then There Were None*, Imperial Hotel, Torquay: *Peril at End House* and *The Body in the Library*, St Marychurch Clifftops: *Why Didn't they Ask Evans*.

A blue plaque now marks her childhood home in Barton Road, and a poisonous garden can be found at Torre Abbey that is Christie inspired.

Here, Christie explains why boredom can be a good thing:

[A rare interview with the elusive Agatha Christie](#) - YouTube

DO

Get out and be inspired by what's on your doorstep. Why not write a poem about your favourite local landmark, or the wildlife in your river or surrounding fields? Perhaps take a moment to observe the people around you and write a short story about a local legend or tradition that is unique to the moors.