

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

READ

School does not have to feel like hard, repetitive work. By becoming organised and establishing a regular weekday routine, students can build confidence and gain a greater sense of control over their future.

However, in Charles Dickens' 'Hard Times', the master of literary caricature creates a schoolmaster who embodies drudgery and an unwavering belief in facts above all else. He names him Thomas Gradgrind.

What methods does Dickens use to reveal Gradgrind's personality and values? Read the following quotation that Dickens attributes to him:

"Now, what I want is, Facts. Teach these boys and girls nothing but Facts. Facts alone are wanted in life. Plant nothing else, and root out everything else. You can only form the minds of reasoning animals upon Facts: nothing else will ever be of any service to them."

WATCH

It's the first day at Hogwart's for Harry Potter and his cohort of conjurors. Watch the following clip of their wondrous arrival to school by Hogwart Express: https://youtu.be/SafKm0tsSOw

1. How is the character of groundskeeper Hagrid presented?
2. What are your first impressions of the school?
3. Which character does the writer instantly create intrigue around? How is this achieved?
4. There is comic relief when an incident occurs during Professor McGonagall's speech. What is it?
5. What kind of character does the writer craft Draco Malfoy as? How does the writer want the reader to feel towards him?

LISTEN

Pop on your headphones and listen to Dickinson's poem, 'Hope is the thing with feathers'.
"'Hope' is the thing with feathers -" (314) | The Poetry Foundation

1. What is the big idea or theme of the poem?
2. Who is the speaker?
3. What does the bird represent?
4. Dickinson uses a lot of dashes. Why?
5. Is it part of human nature to be optimistic?

DO

Write a reflective article for a school newsletter titled 'Back again: who will I be this year?'

Think about your aspirations and goals for this 2026/27 school year. What do you hope to achieve? You could write about lessons, clubs, REACH, extra-curricular endeavours and friendships.