



Subject: English Year 9. Autumn 1



Topic 1: Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry by Mildred D. Taylor

For this unit you are studying the novel 'Roll of Thunder Hear My Cry'.

You will examine Cassie's first-person narration and begin to develop keen understanding of issues surrounding race, racial segregation, family bonds and resilience.

For further information, visit: [BBC bitesize](#), [history books on the Great Depression](#), [Black Americans in the 1930s](#), [Mr Bruff](#)

Key Topics Include:

- Who we are as individuals and who we are in a wider society.
- The impact of society on our identities.
- Systemic Racism and Prejudice
- Tenant farming and Sharecropping
- America before the Civil Rights Movement and after- The Reconstruction Era.
- The impact of vigilante justice and oppression
- The importance of loyalty, resilience and family
- The importance of community and perseverance

Assessments:

Interim Knowledge Check: In class task with open ended questions in week 3.

End of Unit Assessment: 1 extended writing task in week 6-- **Question:** A student has said that 'Roll of Thunder, Hear My Cry' is a novel about one girl's experience and nothing else. To what extent do you agree with this student?

Specialists Key terms for this unit:

- Sharecropping,
- Segregation,
- Jim Crow Laws,
- The Great Depression,
- The KKK (Ku Klux Klan),
- boycott,
- Racism,
- Civil Rights,
- Lynching, Vigilante Justice,
- Discrimination,
- Prejudice,
- Indoctrination,
- Solidarity, Perseverance,
- Resistance, Resilience

Subject Reading/ Further Support:

You may read:

1. **The novel:** To Kill a Mockingbird by Harper Lee
2. **The story:** The Watsons go to Birmingham by Christopher Paul Curtis
3. **The Memoir:** Brown Girl Dreaming Jacqueline Woodson
4. **These online resources:** Facing History & Ourselves or PBS Learning Media
5. **This documentary:** 'Eyes on the Prize'

Suggested Enrichment Activities:

1. Read non-fiction extracts about contexts such as the great depression, Jim Crow Laws and the Civil Rights Movement.
2. Watch documentaries, movies that outline a timeline of historical events that are relevant to 1930's USA.
3. Visit the British Library (London) which has an extensive collection of Literature and historical documents that provide context.
4. Read extracts from other works with similar themes about racism and segregation such as 'To Kill a Mockingbird'
5. Watch documentaries/ movies about Jim Crow Laws or the Civil Right Movement.