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Task 1

- What do all these people have in common?

- What do you know about them?

John Donne · Roald Dahl · H.G. Wells · Jane Austen · Beowulf · Virginia Woolf · Charles Dickens · Shakespeare · D.H. Lawrence · Agatha Christie · Charlotte Bronte · J.R.R. Tolkien · Alfred Lord Tennyson · J.K. Rowling · Lewis Carroll · C.S. Lewis · George Orwell

- What are the names of these two people?

Look at this poster.

- Why does the poster mention The British Library?

- When was the last time you visited a library? What did you do there?

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Task 2 – Speaking

> 1. **Take it in turns with your partner to speak for one minute about a book/novel that you have read recently.**
>
>   **Give yourself two minutes to prepare your answer.**
>   **You should talk about:**
>
> - The title of the book.
> - The subject of the book.
> - Why you chose to read it.
> - Whether you would recommend it or not. Give reasons for your answer.
>
>
> 2. **Discuss these questions with your partner:**
>   According to the poster, 'Over half the world's children study Shakespeare."
>
> - What do you know about Shakespeare?
> - Have you ever studied, read or seen anything by Shakespeare?

> - What is literature? Think of a definition using your own words or the ones below.
>
>   "Written artistic works ………"

Task 3 – Vocabulary

Idioms from Shakespeare's works

Many idioms that we use in modern English, originate from the work of William Shakespeare.

- Complete the table below by adding the correct definition

Idiom in context	Definition
1. **Sarah was in a pickle** when she realized that she had missed the last bus home.	
2. **I went on a wild goose** chase around the supermarket trying to find my favourite cheese. No luck!	
3. **Sue** always **has me in stitches**. She's just so funny!	
4. I hate the sound of someone sharpening a knife. **It sets my teeth on edge**.	
5. When my brother comes to visit me, **he eats me out of house and home** but I still love him!	
6. Although **my hometown is as dead as a doornai**l, I still enjoy going back in the holidays.	
7. **My keys have vanished into thin air**! Where are they?	
8. I always know if Jack is feeling sad because **he wears his heart on his sleeve**.	
9. **Robert's got a heart of gold** because he always does his elderly neighbour's shopping.	
10. I like **to do my homework all in one fell swoop** and relax afterwards.	

Definitions

A. To search for something unsuccessfully.
B. To consume so much food that there is very little left.
C. To make someone feel annoyed or uncomfortable.
D. To make someone laugh uncontrollably.

E. To do everything at the same time, or in one go.
F. To disappear.
G. To be a very kind person.
H. Dead, no life, quiet.
I. To be in a difficult situation.
J. To show your emotions.

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Find out which Shakespeare plays the idioms are from.

If you have internet access in class, find out which plays these idioms originate from and add them to the grid below.

Click here to search: http://www.phrases.org.uk/meanings/phrases-sayings-shakespeare.html

Idiom	Play in which idiom appears
To be in a pickle	
To go on a wild goose chase	
To have someone in stitches	
To set someone's teeth on edge	
To eat someone out of house and home	
To be as dead as a doornail	
To vanish into thin air	
To wear your heart on your sleeve	
To have a heart of gold	
To do something all in one fell swoop	

Writing a dialogue

- Work with your partner and write your own piece of literature in the form a short conversation.Useas many of the Shakespeare idioms you've just learned as possible.

- Practise your conversation with your partner. The rest of your classmates can be your audience.

You could also…

Add compliments and insults to your conversation

Shakespeare made his writing very colourful by combining adjectives and nouns to call people horrible and pleasant names:

e.g. You boring, old man! (adjective, adjective, noun).   **This is an insult.**
You beautiful, clever child! (adjective, adjective, noun)   **This is a compliment.**

Add your own compliments and insults to your dialogue, following the patterns above. Use your imagination!

Make a video (if there is internet access nearby)

- Turn your piece of literature into a short animated video by typing your conversation here:

    https://www.vyond.com/

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Task 4

The Life of Charles Dickens Reading Game

2012 was the 200th anniversary of the birth of the English writer Charles Dickens, who wrote many internationally famous novels. Do you know anything about Charles Dickens or the books he wrote?

- In your pair or team, read the following article about Charles Dickens to find facts about his life.
- Write the facts you collect in the grid below. You should use complete sentences and make sure they are grammatically correct.

  http://charlesdickenspage.com/fast-facts.html

- The team with the longest list of interesting facts is the winner. Get reading!

Fact Number	Fact
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	
6.	
7.	
8.	
9.	
10.	

Task 5

Charles Dickens novel word search

Now you know more about the man, Charles Dickens, complete the word search to find the titles of some of his famous novels.

Stories to find

The Old Curiosity Shop

The Pickwick Papers

A Tale of Two Cities

David Copperfield

Nicholas Nickleby

Martin Chuzzlewit

A Christmas Carol

Little Dorrit

Dombey and Son

Oliver Twist

d	o	l	i	v	e	r	t	w	i	s	t	u	e	o	s	h	o	p
a	n	i	c	h	o	l	a	s	n	i	c	k	l	e	b	y	o	m
v	r	a	t	n	n	u	e	o	o	d	e	i	i	m	s	h	i	a
i	n	g	o	n	t	h	s	r	t	m	t	t	b	e	s	s	x	r
d	t	r	i	o	o	h	a	t	u	h	i	h	i	y	t	a	a	t
c	n	h	a	v	i	s	t	s	r	q	s	t	t	e	h	l	c	i
o	m	e	h	e	o	h	u	d	a	h	i	i	y	p	n	r	h	n
p	r	h	h	b	j	a	k	e	t	c	s	t	n	o	l	r	r	c
p	r	e	t	i	f	b	d	a	o	o	p	g	n	o	p	b	i	h
e	t	h	e	p	i	c	k	w	i	c	k	p	a	p	e	r	s	u
r	e	t	b	o	s	e	t	r	h	a	y	e	o	i	d	c	t	z
f	e	s	i	n	o	f	u	r	g	t	t	a	t	e	a	o	m	z
i	l	g	a	t	o	c	m	e	n	t	t	e	f	f	t	n	a	l
e	r	g	h	e	d	o	m	b	e	y	a	n	d	s	o	n	s	e
l	n	h	l	l	i	t	t	l	e	d	o	r	r	i	t	r	c	w
d	e	a	o	s	i	n	u	u	n	i	h	g	s	d	a	h	a	i
o	t	e	c	o	f	a	i	g	m	s	e	t	p	o	t	t	r	t
a	h	i	n	t	t	c	f	n	a	t	d	s	i	c	t	r	o	n
t	t	a	e	h	s	m	e	i	e	e	g	t	e	i	a	y	l	t

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Extension activities

Activity 1

- Research one of Charles Dickens' novels that you found in the word search.

  You can use links like http://charlesdickenspage.com/works.html to help you.

- Give a five-minute talk to your classmates about the information you found.

- Include information about the following:

Title of the story	
Main Characters	
Summary	
Film adaptations	

Activity 2

- Prepare a five-minute talk about one of Charles Dickens' characters. Follow the link below to see some pictures:
  http://www.guardian.co.uk/books/interactive/2011/sep/22/charles-dickens-interactive-wallchart

- Include information about the following:

Name of the character	
Their physical appearance	
Try to find which Charles Dickens novel this person is in	
Any more information	