

Thumbnail Learning

The Thumbnail Newsletter for Teachers



A helping hand at the touch of a button!

“There are many little ways to enlarge your child's world. Love of books is the best of all.”

JACQUELINE KENNEDY ONASSIS

Hi, everyone,

Lots to talk about this month! Hey, it's Valentine's! That's a rich theme for you to explore with classes... try our book of the month, *Sea of Secrets*, a thriller with a tender thread of first love.

Whisper it, who dares, but some of you will be thinking about mocks! Oh, yes, it's that time of year again, and that means... revision! Check out our top tips for teaching exam techniques.

We're super happy here at Thumbnails because Sarah's book, *Rowan, Leader of the Deer Kin*, is now a class reader at Five Acres School in Gloucestershire. We made an author visit and were blown away by the students, so engaged, thoughtful and courteous. Congratulations to the dedicated staff there who are clearly doing a great job.

Happy Valentine's Day!

Sarah and Roj.



The Basics

Make certain the students are clear about:



- The structure of the exam
- Which questions carry most marks
- Time allowed and the importance of timing

Exam Teaching

Relevance is the Key

Often students lose marks because they do not anchor the relevance of their response.

Short answers: use the wording of the question to begin the answer.

Essay questions: taking five minutes to PLAN is vital.

And plan essays so that the topic sentence of each paragraph is a clear link to the question. Every paragraph!

Exam Terms

Help the students understand 'exam-speak'. For example:



- Describe
- Explore
- Compare and contrast
- Give examples, always linked to relevance!

And talk the talk

Students should use the specialist terms of the subject in their answers. (Talk like an expert...be a little show pony!)

