

Reading

Thematic Overview

Eleven Eleven by Paul Dowsell

Geography

In *Eleven Eleven*, the setting of the First World War provides opportunities to explore landscapes, weather and the physical geography of conflict. The trenches and battlefields demonstrate how the landscape was transformed by warfare, with soldiers having to adapt to difficult and often dangerous conditions. Weather and climate are also important to understanding the experiences of soldiers. Rain, cold and muddy conditions made life in the trenches even more challenging and affected movement, shelter and health. These conditions highlight the relationship between people and their physical environment, showing how extreme weather can influence human experiences during times of conflict.

Science

In *Eleven Eleven*, the First World War provides opportunities to explore the technology and engineering behind warfare. The development of weapons, vehicles, communication systems and protective equipment played an important role in how soldiers experienced and fought the war. The novel also connects to the rapid development of transport and communication technology, including aircraft, artillery, telephones and other military equipment. These technologies changed the nature of warfare and influenced how soldiers communicated, travelled and survived on the battlefield.

English

In English, the focus is on First World War poetry and the novel *Eleven Eleven*. The texts explore the experiences of soldiers during the war, including themes of courage, fear, friendship, sacrifice and the tragedy of conflict.

Together, they provide an insight into the realities of warfare and the different ways writers portray the impact of war on individuals.

Art

Pupils will examine and create sketches or models inspired by London's diverse architectural styles, particularly those associated with housing and public spaces in urban areas.

The themes of survival and life during difficult times in *Eleven Eleven* will be paired with studies of graffiti and street art, focusing on how these art forms serve as social commentary and convey messages about life and society.

Technology

The themes of time, tension and precision in *Eleven Eleven* can be linked to the technology of clockmaking. The significance of 11 November 1918 and the 11 a.m. Armistice provides a starting point for exploring how clocks work, including the mechanisms, gears and springs used in traditional mechanical clocks. The novel's themes of survival and military technology can also be connected to the construction of simple boat models.

History

The story illustrates the breakdown of social structures, linking to the disillusionment with the Catholic Church during the Reformation. In *Eleven Eleven*, the soldiers experience the consequences of a system that has placed them in a devastating war, highlighting how ordinary people can suffer because of decisions made by those in power.

Just as reformers challenged the authority of the Catholic Church, the novel questions the systems of authority that allow conflict and suffering to continue. The characters' experiences demonstrate how individuals can become vulnerable when powerful institutions fail to protect them.

