Year 8 Revision Checklist: The Iron Man by Ted Hughes

<u>Focus will be on the work completed after the Halloween Half Term</u>

1. Learn the Key Events

Make sure you can explain:

- How the Iron Man arrives at the cliff, falls, and rebuilds himself.
- How Hogarth first discovers and encounters the Iron Man.
- How the farmers try to trap the Iron Man in a deep pit covered with turf and branches.
- Why Hogarth feels guilty after helping the farmers trap the Iron Man.
- How Hogarth leads the Iron Man to the scrap metal yard (old cars, tractors, iron fences) so he can eat freely.
- The arrival of the terrifying Space-Bat-Angel-Dragon from outer space.
- How human armies and leaders react to the space monster and feel helpless.
- The contest of endurance between the Iron Man and the space creature (the Iron Man lying on the fiery furnace vs. the creature flying to the sun).
- How the challenge changes the space creature from a terrifying monster into a force for peace.

2. Know the Important Characters

Revise:

- **Hogarth**
    - The young local boy who discovers and befriends the Iron Man.
    - Why his view of the Iron Man differs from the adults (seeing him as hungry, not evil).
    - His feelings of guilt after the trap is set and how he makes amends.
    - His clever role in finding a peaceful solution to both threats.
- **The Iron Man**
    - His mysterious origins and colossal physical appearance.
    - How he is misunderstood by the local adults as a dangerous monster.
    - His willingness to endure the fiery furnace test to protect Earth.

    - His transformation from feared outsider to hero.
- **The Farmers & Local Adults**
    - Their fear and reaction to the unknown giant.
    - Their attempt to destroy/trap him out of panic.
- **The Space-Bat-Angel-Dragon**
    - Its immense size (blotting out the sun and covering the landscape).
    - Its aggressive demands for food and terrifying presence.
    - Its reaction to the Iron Man's trial by fire and its eventual transformation.

3. Key Vocabulary

Be able to define and use:

- **Giant / Enormous / Colossal**
- **Glowed / Headlamps**
- **Mountain of metal**
- **Atmospheric / Cold / Ocean wind**
- **Rebuild / Reassemble**
- **Endurance / Furnace**

You may be asked to define these words or explain their meanings in context.

4. Important Quotations & Language Techniques

Revise these quotes and their literary devices:

- *"His iron eyes glowed like headlamps in the dark."*
    - **Technique:** Simile
    - **Meaning:** Highlights his mechanical, artificial, glowing, and non-human appearance.
- *"The giant was a mountain of metal walking across the silent countryside."*
    - **Technique:** Metaphor
    - **Meaning:** Emphasizes his colossal scale, immovable weight, height, and massive presence.

- Descriptions of the Space-Bat-Angel-Dragon blotting out the sun and overwhelming Earth's military force.

5. Themes to Revise

- **Fear of the Unknown vs. Understanding**
    - How adults react with fear and traps, while Hogarth reacts with curiosity and empathy.
- **Guilt and Redemption**
    - How Hogarth feels bad for tricking the Iron Man and makes up for it by feeding him scrap metal.
- **Brain vs. Brawn / Brains over Violence**
    - How peaceful solutions and intelligence win over military force and aggression.
- **Heroism and Sacrifice**
    - How the Iron Man suffers the flames of the furnace to save the planet from the space monster.

6. Inference Questions Practice

Be prepared to explain:

- How Ted Hughes shows that the Iron Man is misunderstood by the farmers compared to Hogarth.
- Why Hogarth feels guilty about trapping the Iron Man and how he makes up for it.
- What specific words and descriptions show the terrifying power and scale of the Space-Bat-Angel-Dragon.
- How the leaders and armies react when faced with the space giant.
- What the contest between the Iron Man and the space creature reveals about true strength and courage.

7. Language & Structural Analysis Practice

When analysing descriptive passages (such as similes, metaphors, and imagery), ask:

- **WHAT?**
    - What image, technique (simile/metaphor), or key event is being used?
- **HOW?**
    - How does the technique work? (e.g., How comparing eyes to *"headlamps"* makes him seem mechanical/glowing, or calling him a *"mountain of metal"* conveys colossal size).
- **WHY?**
    - Why did the author choose these words? What effect does it create on the reader (awe, fear, or suspense)?

Night Before the Test: Quick 10-Minute Revision

- ✅ Know who **Hogarth**, the **Iron Man**, and the **Space-Bat-Angel-Dragon** are.
- ✅ Memorise the definitions for **simile** and **metaphor** used in the text (*"eyes glowed like headlamps"* and *"mountain of metal"*).
- ✅ Revise what Hogarth feeds the Iron Man in the scrap yard (old cars, tractors, scrap metal).
- ✅ Be able to explain why the farmers feared the Iron Man and why Hogarth felt guilty.
- ✅ Practice one paragraph explaining the furnace test between the Iron Man and the space monster.
- ✅ Remember the **WHAT-HOW-WHY** structure for language analysis questions.

Top Tip: Most of the marks come from explaining **why** characters act out of fear or empathy and **analysing language choices** (like similes and metaphors), rather than just summarizing the story!