

# KS3 Independent learning

# reading journal

When you have finished reading your chosen book, you should design an alternative front cover for it. You can either draw or paste your new design onto the front of your reading journal in the space provided above.

Name: .....

Tutor group: .....

English group: .....



# reading journal



## Your reading journal: why?

The ability to interpret what you read is a very important skill that you use everyday. Believe it or not you actually 'read' texts every time you watch the television, browse a newspaper or flick through a magazine.

The more you read, the wider your vocabulary will become. This will help your writing to develop and become more varied and interesting; something that will help you in all your subjects at school.

More importantly reading can be very enjoyable. This reading journal will help you to record your thoughts about a book that **you have chosen** to read.

You should complete all the pages in the journal in as much detail as possible. Remember to present your work accurately and neatly.

**Title:**.....

**Author:**.....

**When was it written?**.....

(The date will be given at the beginning of the book near the title page.)

### genre

A genre is a type of writing, art or music. If we know what genre something a book belongs to, we know what to expect from it. There are lots of different genres—for example, crime, horror, romance and science-fiction.

**What genre does your book belong to?**

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**Which company publishes this book?**

.....

**Is the book part of a series?**

.....

**Have you read any books by the same author? If so, list them here.**

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.....  
.....

my book

details

# Expectations

Complete this section before you start to read your book.

Describe the front cover of your book.

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.....

What does the front cover tell you about your book?

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.....

What do you know about the author? (You can usually find some information about the author on the inside cover of a book.)

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What impression does the 'blurb' give you of the book? (The blurb is the writing on the back cover. You should use quotations from the blurb if you can.)

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Why did you choose this book?

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reading journal



### First impressions

Read the first chapter of your book. Now, answer the questions below.

What is your reaction to the opening of your book? (For example do you find it interesting, exciting or unexpected?)

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Where is your book set? What kind of atmosphere is created?

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Which characters are you introduced to in the first few pages?  
What do you learn about them?

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.....

What questions does the opening of the novel raise? What do you want to know?

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What kind of narrative does the novel have?

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How effective do you think the opening is? Give reasons for your response.

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# reading journal

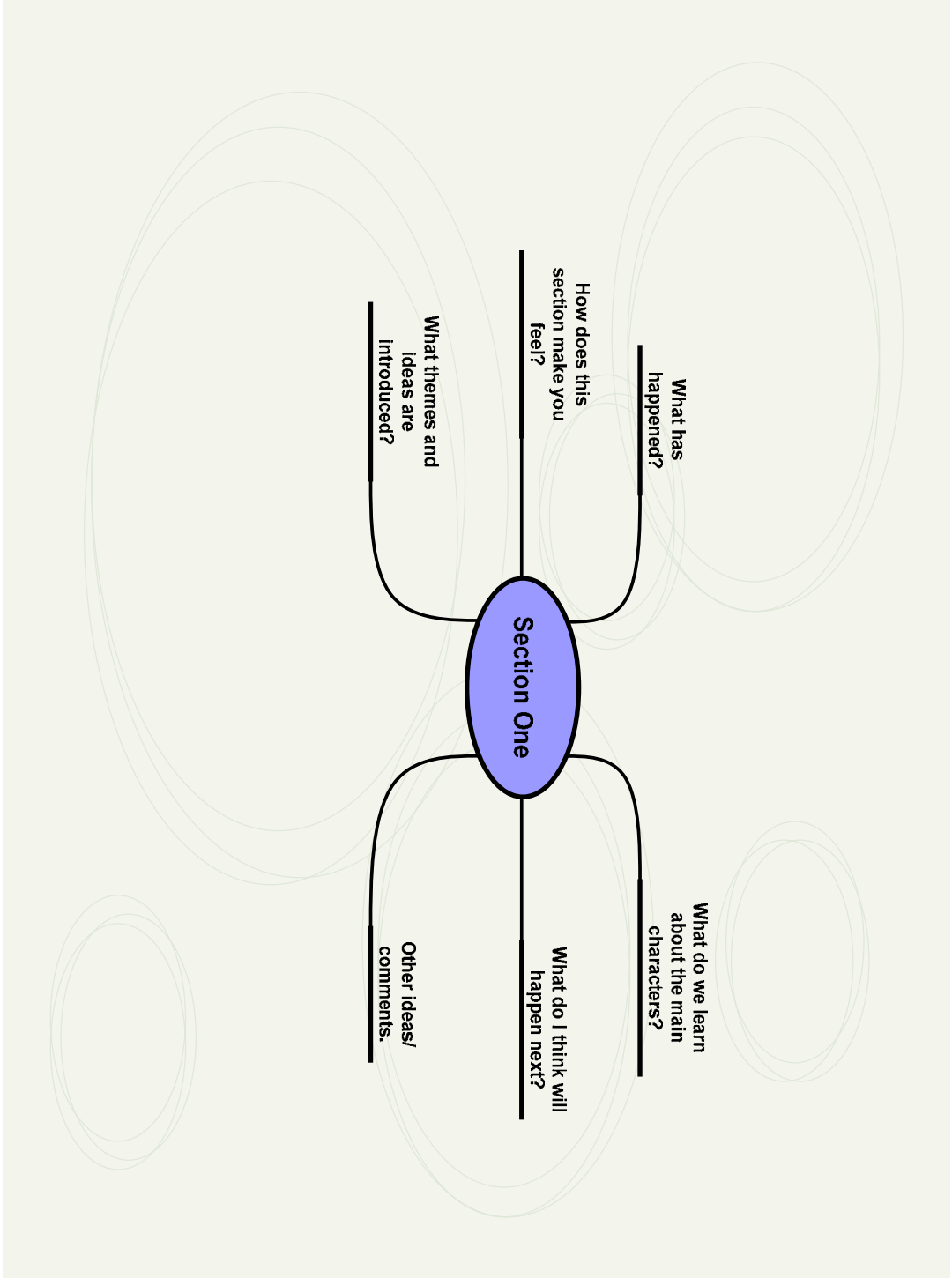


## Read and respond

As you read your book, you should record your personal responses to what you have read. Split your book into four roughly equal sections (for example, chapters 1-4, 5-8, 9-12 and 13-16).

After you have read each section you should record your thoughts and ideas. Use the templates on the next four pages to help you do this. You are going to record your ideas in four different ways.

**Section one: chapters \_\_ to \_\_.**



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Section two: chapters \_\_ to \_\_.

Question	Response
What happened in this section?	
How does this section make you feel?	
What themes and ideas are introduced in this section?	
What do you learn about the main characters in this section?	
What do you think will happen next?	
Any other comments/ideas.	





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## **Section four: chapters \_\_\_ to \_\_\_.**

**Using full sentences and paragraphs, write down your responses to the fourth section of your book.**

**You should consider the following:**

- ⇒ what has happened in this section
- ⇒ how this section has made you feel
- ⇒ what themes and ideas have been presented
- ⇒ what you have learned about the main characters
- ⇒ what you think will happen next
- ⇒ any other points that you think are important.

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# reading journal



## the setting

Where is the book set?

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When is the book set?

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What places does the author describe?

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## the characters

Write a list of the characters in the book:

- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....



# reading journal



## the most interesting character

Choose one of the main characters in the novel. Describe your chosen character in the space below.

You should use quotations from the book to support your ideas.

Remember: Point Evidence Explanation.

You should think about:

- how they look
- what kind of person he/she is
- his/her relationship with other people
- how you feel towards the character
- your reasons for choosing this character.

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# reading journal

the blurb



the plot

Explain in no more than fifty words what your book was about!

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Read the blurb on the back of your book. Think carefully about the way in which it is written, i.e. the language it uses.

Now write your own blurb for this book using similar language.

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# reading journal

Find a review for the book you have chosen. You might find one in a newspaper, magazine or on the internet.

Cut out the review you have found and paste it in the space below.

Now read the review carefully and think about the language it uses.



# Book review

Now write your own review for the book you have read.

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reading journal



# reading journal

**your verdict**

Which words would you use to describe your chosen book?  
Think of five adjectives and try to make them as varied  
and accurate as possible. List your chosen words in the  
space below:

- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....
- .....

**I enjoyed/did not enjoy the book because:**

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.....  
.....  
.....

**Would you read other books by this author?**

**Give reasons for your response.**

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**Would you read other books belonging to this genre?**

**Give reasons for your response.**

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**Would you recommend this book to a friend?**

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**Signed:** .....

**Date:** .....

