

Term Two Author Study

LEARNING INTENTIONS:

At the completion of your author study you will understand that:

- The theme of a story is the common thread that links characters and action to tell the story
- Literature can be shaped by perspective
- Powerful writing can change a reader's point of view
- Readers must read and reread text to get a better understanding of the characters and the plot

This term, in reading, you will be undertaking an author study. An author study explores several books by the same author to help you to delve deeply into their life and craft.

The purpose of this author study is so you can:

- Critically evaluate your author's chosen themes, characters and writing style
- Make connections between your author's life and work.
- Reflect on how you personally respond to your chosen author's books by making personal connections between your own experiences and those of the author and their characters.

I have put together this booklet to help you organise your time and assist you with your individual tasks. Take a moment to read it thoroughly first so you have an idea of what will be required of you as you read your novels. You will notice that the tasks have been colour coded. There are three colours:

GREEN – You must complete this task before reading your novel

PINK – You must complete during reading

BLUE – You must complete after reading

BOOK ONE

TASK 1

The first helpful thing to do when beginning your book selection process is to choose an author. On the next page is a list of authors that makes a good starting point. You can ask Ms Depiazzi for advice, Mrs Bourke in the Library, explore your library at home, ask your peers, or use the internet. Remember that you must choose an author that has written at least two books.

TASK 2

The next thing to do is to choose your books.

Check author and titles of books with Ms Depiazzi before commencing your author study.

TASK 3

Before starting to read your novels, you must undertake some basic research on your author and complete an Author Profile Sheet. You must include the following:

- Author's name
- Author's picture
- One short paragraph providing an overview of your author. You might like to include when they were born, why they decided to write, hobbies, their genre or style of writing, any awards they may have won. This paragraph will serve as an introduction to your author. It is not meant to be a biography and must be no longer than one paragraph.
- List of books they have written

HINT: Your author may already have a personal webpage, publisher's webpage or a biography written about where you can find lots of information about them.

TASK 4

Prediction – what do you think the story be about? Explain any hints the cover of the book gives you that helps you to predict what the story will be about.

TASK 5

Analyse your character. Character traits describe a character's personality. They describe how they are on the inside. A character's actions, thoughts and dialogue help determine character traits. Look for these clues from the author as evidence to support your thinking. Some examples of traits are; boisterous, hard-working, sensitive, creative, trusting, tenacious, thoughtful.

Choose four characters from your book and complete the chart below. Make sure you give an example from the text and the page number.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Novel title:				
Character	Trait	Example of character's dialogue to support character trait. Include page number	Example of character's actions to support trait. Include page number from novel	Example of character's thoughts to support trait. Include page number from novel

TASK 8

CHARACTER REPORT

Provide a Character Report Card for your four characters. After reading, make judgements and think critically about the characters. Use an A – E rating to grade each character. Defend your grade in the comments using evidence from your chart in the previous task.

CHARACTER REPORT CARD

CHARACTER	REPORT GRADE	REASON WHY YOU GAVE THIS GRADE

TASK 9

TEXT TO SELF CONNECTIONS

Connecting your life to a fiction text. Think about how you can connect with your novel? Do you have something in common with a character? Have you experienced a similar event that has happened in your novel?

Explain how you connect with this text?

TASK 10

TEXT TO TEXT CONNECTIONS

Think about other novels you have read. How can you connect the novel you have just read to a novel you have read previously? Could they have a similar plot, character, twist?

Explain your Text to Text connection

TASK 11

TEXT TO WORLD CONNECTIONS

Think about the novel you have just read. How can you connect it to the world? Are there references to something in the novel that has happened in history or is in the news right now?

Explain your Text to World connection

TASK 12

DETERMINING THE IMPORTANCE OF PLOT

Think about what has happened in your novel. A novel follows a similar format to a narrative in that there is an introduction where the main characters and setting are introduced. However, there is usually more than one event or problem, with some more important than others. Your task is to work out which events are not important, important or very important. In each section, give a very short one sentence explanation of the problem. There may be more than one problem in each section.

DETERMINING THE IMPORTANCE OF PLOT

GREEN LIGHT NOT IMPORTANT EVENTS	ORANGE LIGHT IMPORTANT EVENT	RED LIGHT VERY IMPORTANT EVENT

TASK 13

DESIGNING A NEW BOOK COVER

Now is your time to be creative! Design a new front cover for your novel and a blurb to go on the back cover.

BOOK 2

TASK 14

Prediction – what do you think the story be about? Explain any hints the cover of the book gives you that helps you to predict what the story will be about.

TASK 15

Analyse your character. Character traits describe a character’s personality. They describe how they are on the inside. A character’s actions, thoughts and dialogue help determine character traits. Look for these clues from the author as evidence to support your thinking. Some examples of traits are; boisterous, hard-working, sensitive, creative, trusting, tenacious, thoughtful.

Choose four characters from your book and complete the chart below. Make sure you give an example from the text and the page number.

CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Novel title:				
Character	Trait	Example of character’s dialogue to support character trait. Include page number	Example of character’s actions to support trait. Include page number from novel	Example of character’s thoughts to support trait. Include page number from novel

TASK 16

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Hyperbole, onomatopoeia and alliteration are descriptive ways of creating ‘mind movies’, ideas that you can picture in your head. Hyperbole is when exaggeration is used, onomatopoeia is when words sound similar to their meaning such as; ‘the buzz of bees’, and alliteration is the sound repeated at the beginning of closely placed words.

FIGURATIVE LANGUAGE

Sentence Example	Hyperbole	Onomatopoeia	Alliteration
‘This shopping is going to cost me a million dollars.’ (p.60)	yes		

TASK 17

WOW WORDS

While you are reading, try to spot some WOW words and add them to the table below. WOW words are words that really give a vivid visual picture in the reader’s mind. For instance; the word clandestine is a better WOW word than secret. The man held a clandestine (secret) meeting with the police.

WOW WORDS

WOW WORD	PAGE NUMBER	DICTIONARY MEANING

TASK 18

TEXT TO SELF CONNECTIONS

Connecting your life to a fiction text. Think about how you can connect with your novel? Do you have something in common with a character? Have you experienced a similar event that has happened in your novel?

Explain how you connect with this text?

TASK 19

TEXT TO TEXT CONNECTIONS

Think about other novels you have read. How can you connect the novel you have just read to a novel you have read previously? Could they have a similar plot, character, twist?

Explain your Text to Text connection

TASK 20

TEXT TO WORLD CONNECTIONS

Think about the novel you have just read. How can you connect it to the world? Are there references to something in the novel that has happened in history or is in the news right now?

Explain your Text to World connection

TASK 21

Creating an Excitement Bar Graph

Now is your time to be creative!

Choose six parts of the story that stand out to you.

Draw a small picture depicting each of your chosen parts and include a very small caption.

Using a scale of 1 – 5, with 1 being no excitement at all and 5 being extremely exciting, rank your six chosen parts of the story.

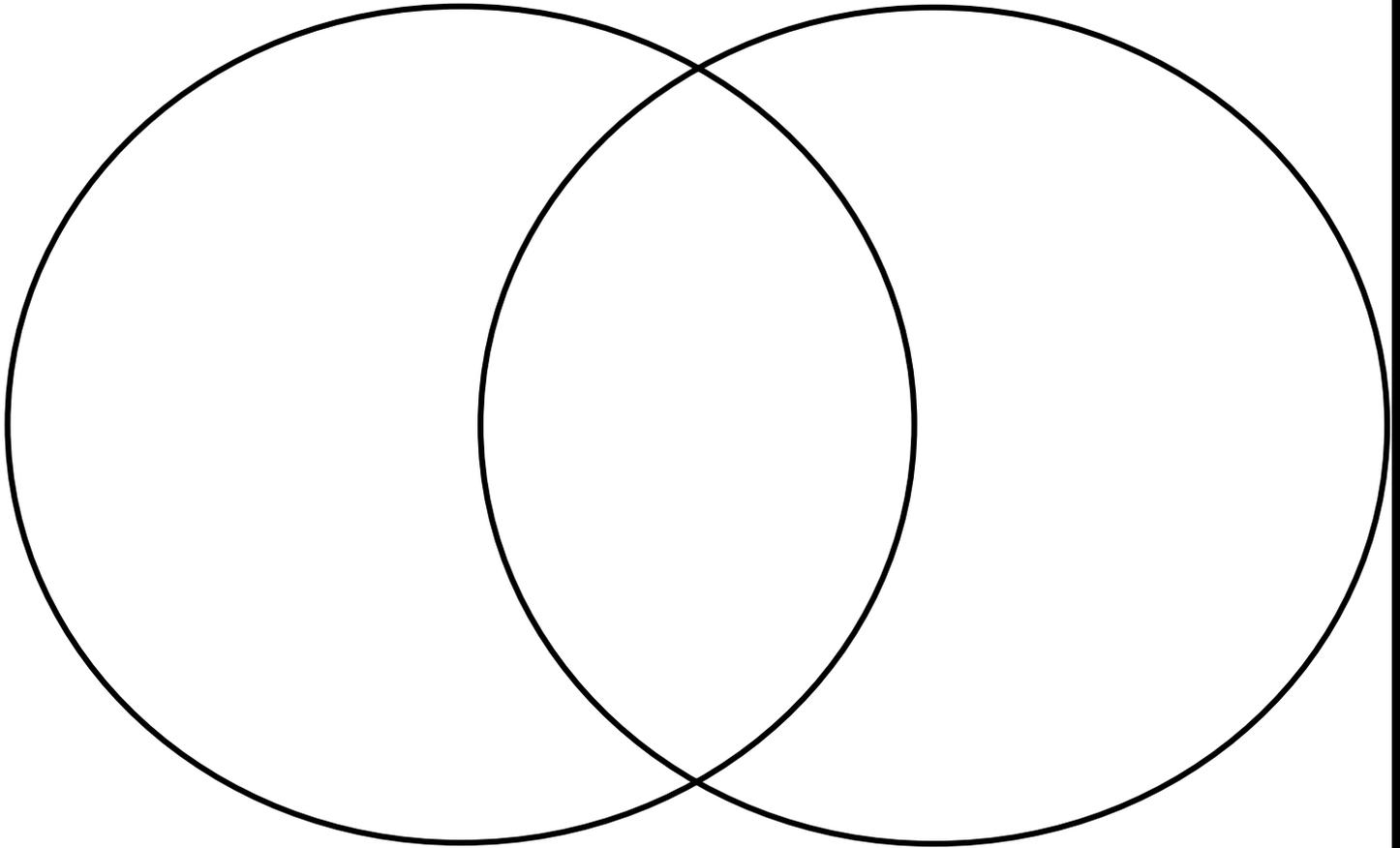
Glue these onto a bar graph, similar to the one shown below.

5						
4						
3						
2						
1						
0	A	B	C	D	E	F

TASK 22

COMPARING AND CONTRASTING NOVELS

Think deeply about the two novels you have read. What is similar about them? What is different about them? Think about the type of language used, the traits of the characters, the manner in which the plot unfolded.



TASK 23

THEME

What is the theme in your two novels? Give information from your text to support your answer. Examples of themes are; good versus evil, compassion, love, family, heroism.

TITLE OF NOVEL	THEME (INCLUDE INFORMATION FROM TEXT TO SUPPORT YOUR ANSWER)

Suggestions of Authors

Available in Lorna Dickson Library

Bancks, Tristan	✓
Clark, Sherryl	✓
Di Camillo, Kate	✓
Ellis, Deborah	✓
French, Jackie	✓
Gregg, Stacy	✓
Harvey, Jacqueline	✓
Ho-Yen, Holly	✓
Ibbotson, Eva	✓
Leonard, M.G.	✓
Lively, Penelope	✓
Mass, Wendy	✓
Morpurgo, Michael	✓
Murrell, Belinda	✓
Nesbit, E.	✓
Norriss, Andrew	✓
Paver, Michelle	✓
Pullman, Philip	✓
Rodda, Emily	✓
Rowling, J.K.	✓
Wang, Gabrielle	✓
Webb, Holly	✓
Wilson, Jacqueline	✓
Wolfer, Diane	✓
Cresswell, Helen	
Cross, Gillian	
Evans, Maz	
Kastner, Erich	
King-Smith, Dick	
Noslinger, Christine	
Rundell, Katherine	
Vashti, Hardy	

TERM TWO AUTHOR STUDY
Due Dates for Work Completion

TASK	DUE DATE	COMPLETED
Task 1 Choice of author	Monday 4 May	
Task 2 Choice of two books for reading	Monday 4 May	
Task 3 Author profile sheet	Wednesday 6 May	
Task 4 Prediction	Thursday 7 May	
Task 5 Character Analysis	Wednesday 27 May	
Task 6 Figurative Language	Wednesday 27 May	
Task 7 WOW Words	Wednesday 27 May	
Task 8 Character Report Card	Thursday 28 May	
Task 9 Text to Self	Thursday 28 May	
Task 10 Text to Text	Thursday 28 May	
Task 11 Text to World	Thursday 28 May	
Task 12 Importance of Plot	Thursday 28 May	
Task 13 Designing a Book Cover	Friday 29 May	
Task 14 Prediction	Tuesday 2 June	
Task 15 Character Analysis	Tuesday 16 June	
Task 16 Figurative Language	Tuesday 16 June	
Task 17 WOW words	Tuesday 16 June	
Task 18 Text to Self	Thursday 17 June	

Task 19 Text to Text	Wednesday 17 June	
Task 20 Text to World	Wednesday 17 June	
Task 21 Excitement Bar Graph	Thursday 18 June	
Task 22 Comparing and Contrasting Novels	Friday 19 June	
Task 23 Theme	Friday 19 June	