

1. What is the name of your book?

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2. Who wrote the book?

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3. Have you read any other books by this author before? If so, what are they called and why did you enjoy them?

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4. What attracted you to this book?

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5. What genre (type) of book do you think this is going to be? Murder mystery, romance, thriller, horror, comedy, science fiction ...? What makes you think that this is the genre that your chosen book will be?.....

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THE COVER STORY

When you look at a new book in a library or bookshop the first thing you see is the front cover. Think about the front cover of your book. Discuss the following questions in your groups and write down your ideas.

What information does the front cover suggest?

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What genre does the front cover remind you of?.....

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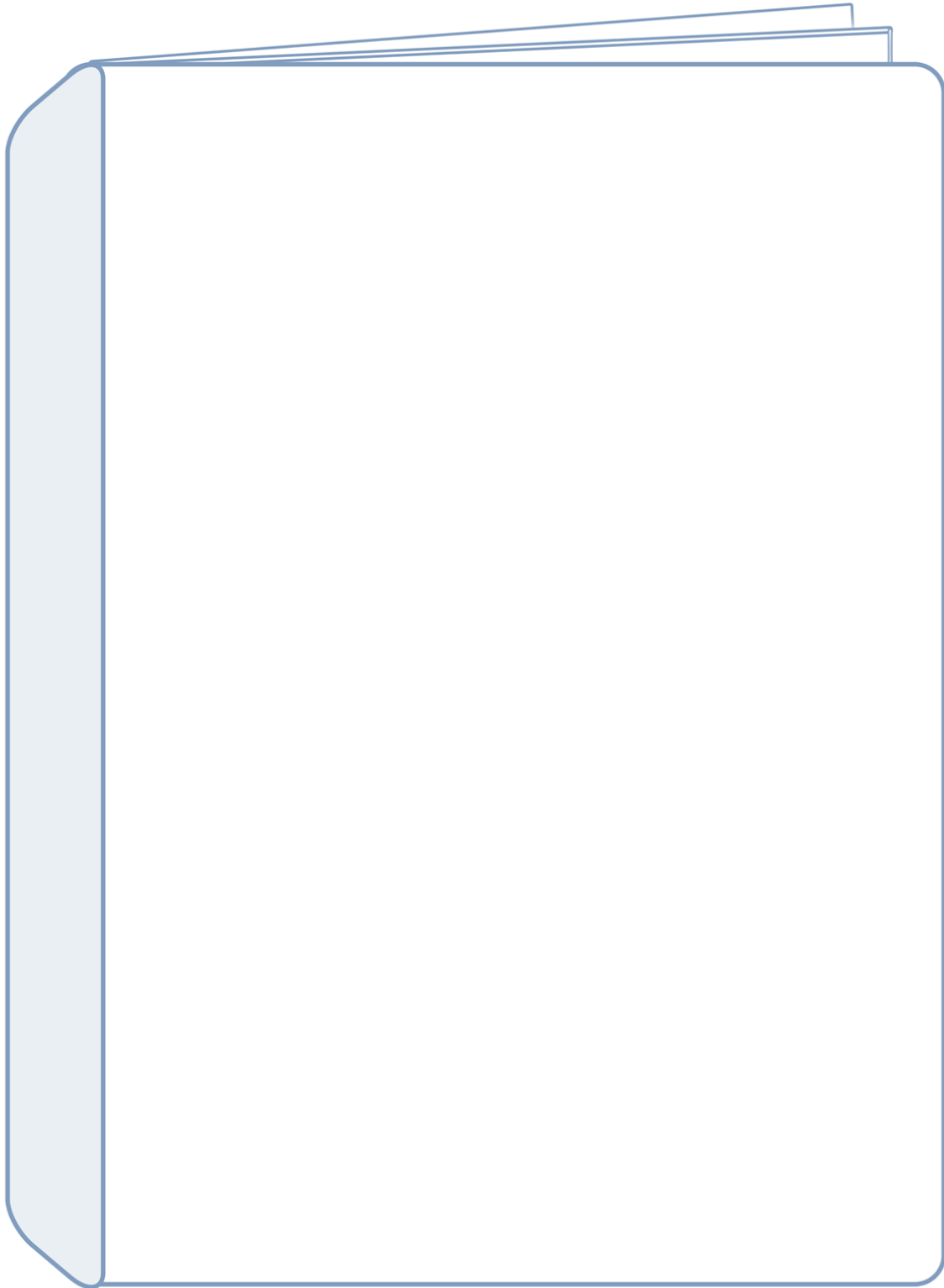
How much does the front cover influence the books you choose to read?

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What else influences your choice of book? Book reviews, recommendations from friends, films, television ...?

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Paying attention to your choice of graphics and typography, design an alternative front cover for your book. Make sure that your version conveys information and grabs the readers' attention effectively.



All books have a 'blurb'. The 'blurb' is important for several reasons. With a partner, discuss the purpose and effect of the blurb then answer the following questions.

THE BLURB

Why do books have a blurb?

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Why do you think it's called the blurb?

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Now read the blurb on the back cover of your book and write notes for the following points

Pick out five pieces of information that are given in the blurb

1.
2.
3.
4.
5.

Identify at least five words that make your book seem like an interesting or exciting book. Explain why you think they have been used.....

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How does the blurb give you a clue about the main character(s) in your book?.....

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HOW DO THEY HOOK US?

1. The first chapter is sometimes as far as some readers get. How do you ensure that your audience is hooked from the start ?

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2. Think of the books you enjoy reading. Is there a particular type of story that is guaranteed to grab you? How important is the first chapter?.....

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3. Can you think of an example of a book that has grabbed your attention from the first chapter? Give details

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4. Briefly summarise the main events of the first chapter of your book.

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5. How has the author ensured that we want to read on from the few events that we witness in the first chapter?

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6. Does any character intrigue you yet? If so then who, and why?

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WHO'S WHO?

Often books centre around a small number of key characters and the events that they are involved in. Sometimes there are good characters, sometimes baddies, sometimes there is conflict between the characters. Think about the characters in the book you are reading and answer the following questions.

1. Who is the main character in your book? How do you know this? Think about the narration of the book (first or third person?), the events surrounding the character and how much of the story is centred upon them.

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2. Who is close to this character and what is their involvement in the story?

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3. Does the main character have any enemies? Is there any conflict (problem) between the main character and any other characters? If so, explain who these other characters are and what the problem is between them and the main characters.

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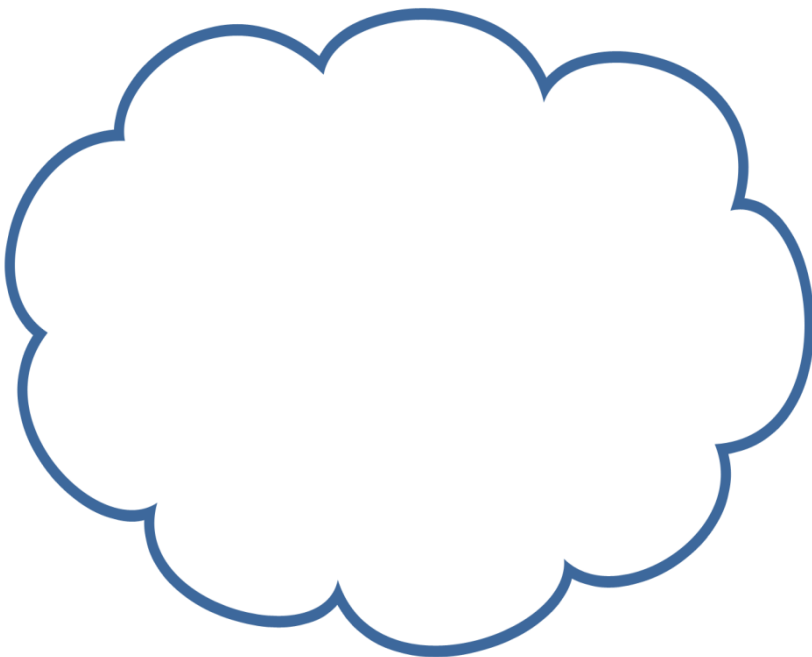
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MAIN CHARACTER

Draw a picture of the main character

Quotations about the main character which relate to appearance:

What are your predictions for this character?



What other characters say about the main character

CHARACTERISATION

We find out about people in lots of different ways. What they say, what they do and what others say about them all influence our impression. It's exactly the same in a book! How does the author of your chosen book build the main character?

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What does the main character look like? Find a description in your book and jot down a description of them in your own words.

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What are the key actions of the main character and what does that say about them?

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What do other people think about the main character? How does this affect what you think of them?

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What does the main character say and what does this suggest about them?

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What are the main character's problems or flaws?.....

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HOT SEAT

Imagine that you will interview one of the main characters in your partner's book. Think of three open questions that you would like to ask the character. Working in pairs, ask each other your questions.

Question 1

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Question 2

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Question 3

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DEAR DIARY

Choose one of the key characters from the book and write a diary entry from their perspective for a specific event.

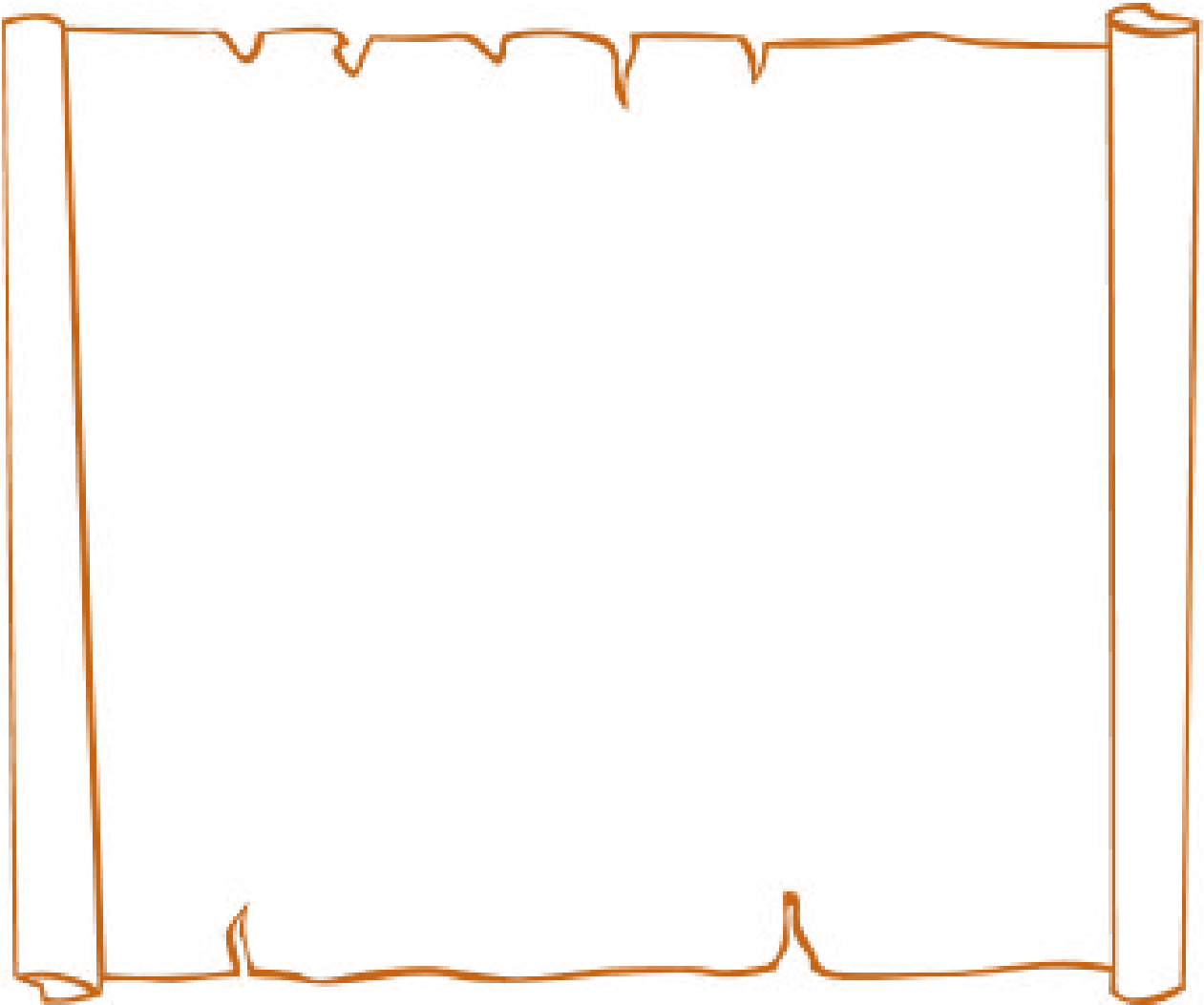
Character:

My chosen point in the plot:



SETTING

Draw a map of the main setting for your book.



Write about one of the key events in the novel. Why is it an important event? Where did your chosen event take place? How was setting important for the event?

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DICTIONARY CORNER

Choose a page or two of the book and pick out six words that you do not know the meaning of. Write them below and use the dictionary to look up their definition. Then write a sentence of your own that uses the word in the correct context.

1. Word:.....

Definition:

Sentence:

2. Word:.....

Definition:

Sentence:

3. Word:.....

Definition:

Sentence:

4. Word:.....

Definition:

Sentence:

5. Word:.....

Definition:

Sentence:

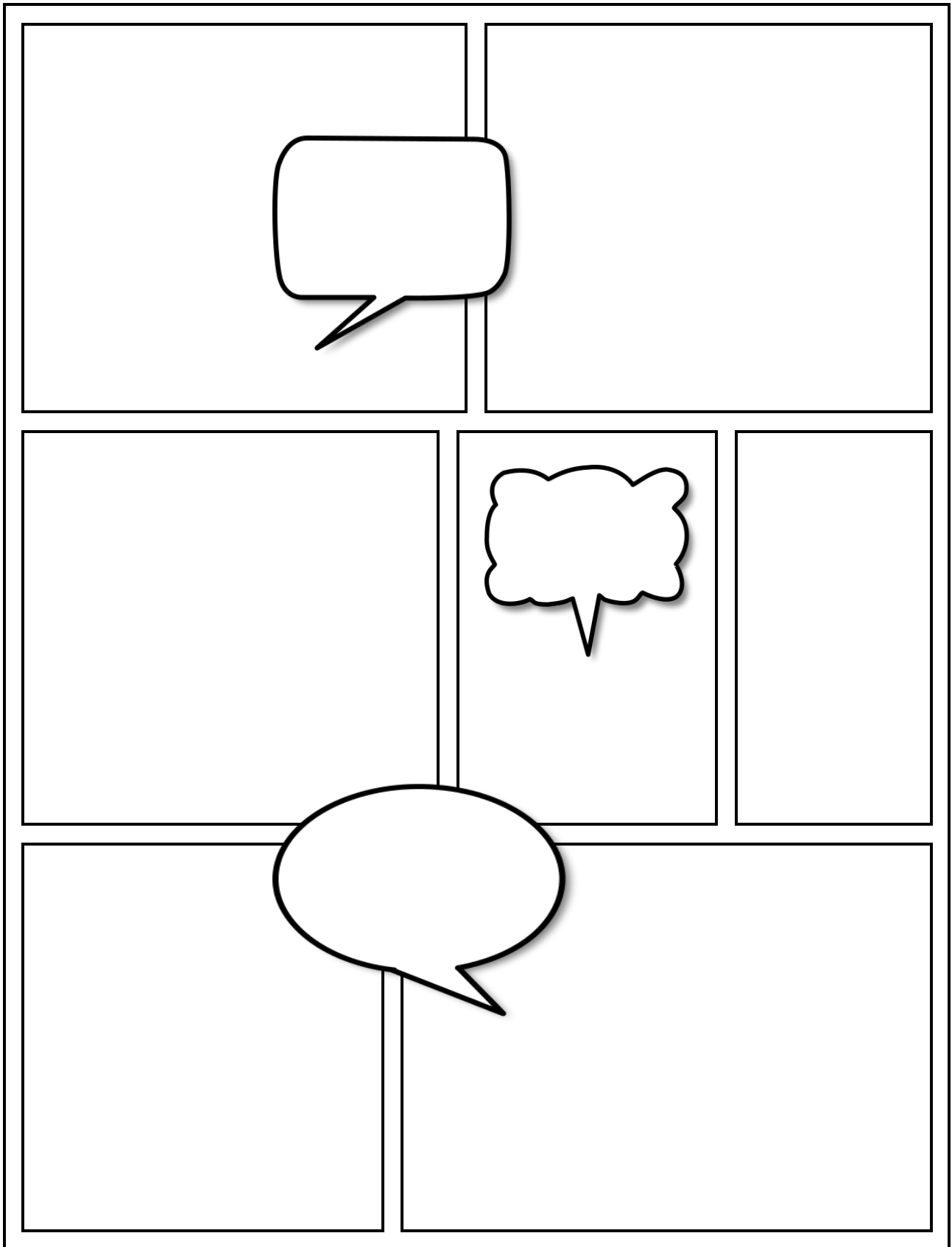
6. Word:.....

Definition:

Sentence:

COMIC STRIP

Choose a favourite section of the book and turn it into a comic strip!



THEMES

Often in a book there are one or two ideas that tie the whole book together. We call these ideas the *themes* of the book. A theme is simply a reoccurring idea or issue in a book. For example in *Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone* 'belonging' is a theme as Harry doesn't feel that he belongs in the muggle world and finds that he does in the wizarding world. Can you think of any other themes from *Harry Potter*? Think about magic, good versus evil, friendship etc.

1. What theme do you think is the most important in your book and why?

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2. Give three examples of where your theme is important in your book.

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3. Find three quotations which show the importance of your chosen theme and explain why it shows the theme's importance.....

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REVIEW

Your task is to review the book that you have read. You must give information about the characters, events, themes and you must also rate how good the book is. The purpose of this review is to give potential readers a good idea about the book and whether or not they would like to read it. Below is a guide to help you to structure your review.

Section 1

- Get your reader interested!
- Give a clue about what's juicy and exciting about the book but *don't give too much away!*
- Give a brief outline of the story. Concentrate on the beginning so you don't give too much away. Try to get your reader interested in what happens next.

Section 2

- Who is the main character of the book?
- Describe the main character.
- What is interesting about the character? What makes them tick? What do they get up to?
- Try to give a good idea about the type of person the main character is. Would your reader like them? Did you like them? Why/why not?

Section 3

- What were the main themes of the book?
- What did the book make you think about?
- Were there any issues in the book that would be of interest to your readers?
- Did the book help you to deal with or think about any important issues in life?

Section 4

- Did you like the book? Why/why not?
- Give your honest opinion of the book.
- Who do you think would enjoy the book?

Other sections

- Give basic information about the book somewhere on your review. This should be separate from the main body of your review.
- Give a rating for your book.
- Give a quick guide to the book. You could do this by having single word/phrase answers to brief questions or by having brief bullet points about important aspects of the book.