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|  | *The Book Thief* |  | |
|  |  |  | *The Book Thief*  Student workbook |
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| **1** | What is the difference between a *writer* and a *narrator?* |  |
|  | |  | | --- | | **A writer** | |  | | |  | | **A narrator** | |  | | |  |
| **2** | What is a *narrative voice?* |  |
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| **3** | What are your expectations for a novel which is narrated by Death? Think about :  - the content  - the narrative voice. |  |
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|  | Now read the opening part of the novel, below: |  |  |
|  | First the colours.  Then the humans.  That’s usually how I see things.  Or at least, how I try. | |
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| **4** | What impression of the narrator is created in these opening lines? Use quotations to support your answer. |  |
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|  | Now read the opening part of the novel, below: |  | *The Book Thief*  Student workbook |
|  | HERE IS A SMALL FACT  You are going to die.  I am in all truthfulness attempting to be cheerful about this whole topic, though most people find themselves hindered in believing me, no matter my protestations. Please, trust me. I most definitely can be cheerful. I can be amiable. Agreeable. Affable. And that’s only the As. Just don’t ask me to be nice. Nice has nothing to do with me. | |
|  | REACTION TO THE AFOREMENTIONED FACT  Does this worry you?  I urge you - don’t be afraid.  I’m nothing if not fair. |  |
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| **5** | In this section, the writer creates a conversational tone, making it seem like the narrator is talking to the reader.  List two ways in which he does this. Support each one with a quotation. |  |
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| **6** | What effect does this conversational tone have on the reader and their reaction to the narrator? |  | *The Book Thief*  Student workbook |
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|  | Here is the next part of the extract: |  |
|  | Of course, an introduction.  A beginning.  Where are my manners?  I could introduce myself properly, but it’s not really necessary. You will know me well enough and soon enough, depending on a diverse range of variables. It suffices to say that at some point in time, I will be standing over you, as genially as possible. Your soul will be in my arms. A colour will be perched on my shoulder. I will carry you gently away. | |
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| **7** | In the last part of this extract, the writer uses three simple sentences to describe the moment of death: |  |
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|  | Your soul will be in my arms. A colour will be perched on my shoulder. I will carry you gently away. | |
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|  | How do these simple sentences make dying sound? Explain your answer. |  |
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| **8** | What impression of the narrator is created by each of the following quotations? |  | *The Book Thief*  Student workbook |
|  | |  |  |  | | --- | --- | --- | | **Quotation** | **Technique** | **Effect** | | ‘Where are my manners?’ | Question |  | | ‘At some point in time, I will be standing over you, as genially as possible.’ | Connotations of the word ‘genially’ |  | | ‘I will carry you gently away.’ | Connotations of the word ‘gently’. |  | |  |
|  | Here is the next part of the extract: |  |
|  | At that moment, you will be lying there (I rarely find people standing up). You will be caked in your own body. There might be a discovery; a scream will dribble down the air. The only sound I’ll hear after that will be my own breathing, and the sound of the smell, of my footsteps. The question is, what colour will everything be at that moment when I come for you? What will the sky be saying? | |
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| **9** | In this part of the text, the writer uses *synaesthesia*, using more than one sense in his description. Give two examples: |  | *The Book Thief*  Student workbook |
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| **10** | What effect do you think the use of synaesthesia has here? You might want to think about:  - the effect on the narrative  - the effect on our impressions of the narrator. |  |
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|  | Now read the next part of the extract: |  | *The Book Thief*  Student workbook |
|  | Personally, I like a chocolate-coloured sky. Dark, dark chocolate. People say it suits me. I do, however, try to enjoy every colour I see – the whole spectrum. A billion or so flavours, none of them quite the same, and a sky to slowly suck on. It takes the edge off the stress. It helps me relax.  A SMALL THEORY  People observe the colours of a day only at its beginnings and ends, but to me it’s quite clear that a day merges through a multitude of shades and intonations, with each passing moment. A single hour can consist of thousands of different colours. Waxy yellows, cloud-spat blues. In my line of work, I make it a point to notice them.  As I’ve suggested, my one saving grace is distraction. It keeps me sane. It helps me cope, considering the length of time I’ve been performing this job. The trouble is, who could ever replace me? Who could step in while I take a break, in your stock-standard resort-style holiday destination, whether it be tropical or of the ski-trip variety? The answer, of course, is nobody, which has prompted me to make a conscious, deliberate decision – to make distraction my holiday. Needless to say, I holiday in increments. In colours. | |
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| **12** | What impression of the narrator does the writer create here? Use quotations to support your ideas. |  |
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|  | | Here is the next part of the extract: | |  | *The Book Thief*  Student workbook |
|  | | Still, it’s possible that you might be asking, Why does he even need a holiday? What does he need distraction from?  Which brings me to my next point.  It’s the leftover humans.  The survivors.  They’re the ones I can’t stand to look at, although on many occasions, I still fail. I deliberately seek out the colours to keep my mind off them, but now and then, I witness the ones who are left behind, crumbling amongst the jigsaw puzzle of realisation, despair and surprise. They have punctured hearts. They have beaten lungs. | | |
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| **13** | | Here, the writer describes people who are grieving for those who have died. Answer the following questions to explore the effects of his language choices: | |  |
| 2. What connotations does this verb have? How does it make the people sound?  3. What effect does this metaphor have?  4. What technique is used here? What effect does it have?   1. What effect does this phrase have? |  | | |  |
|  | I witness the ones who are left behind, crumbling amongst the jigsaw puzzle of realisation, despair and surprise. They have punctured hearts. They have beaten lungs. | |  |  |
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| **14** | A student read the extract printed above question 13 and said, ‘The writer’s presentation of the narrator changes here, and it makes me feel really sorry for the narrator.’  To what extent do you agree?  Support your ideas with quotations and analysis. |  | *The Book Thief*  Student workbook |
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