

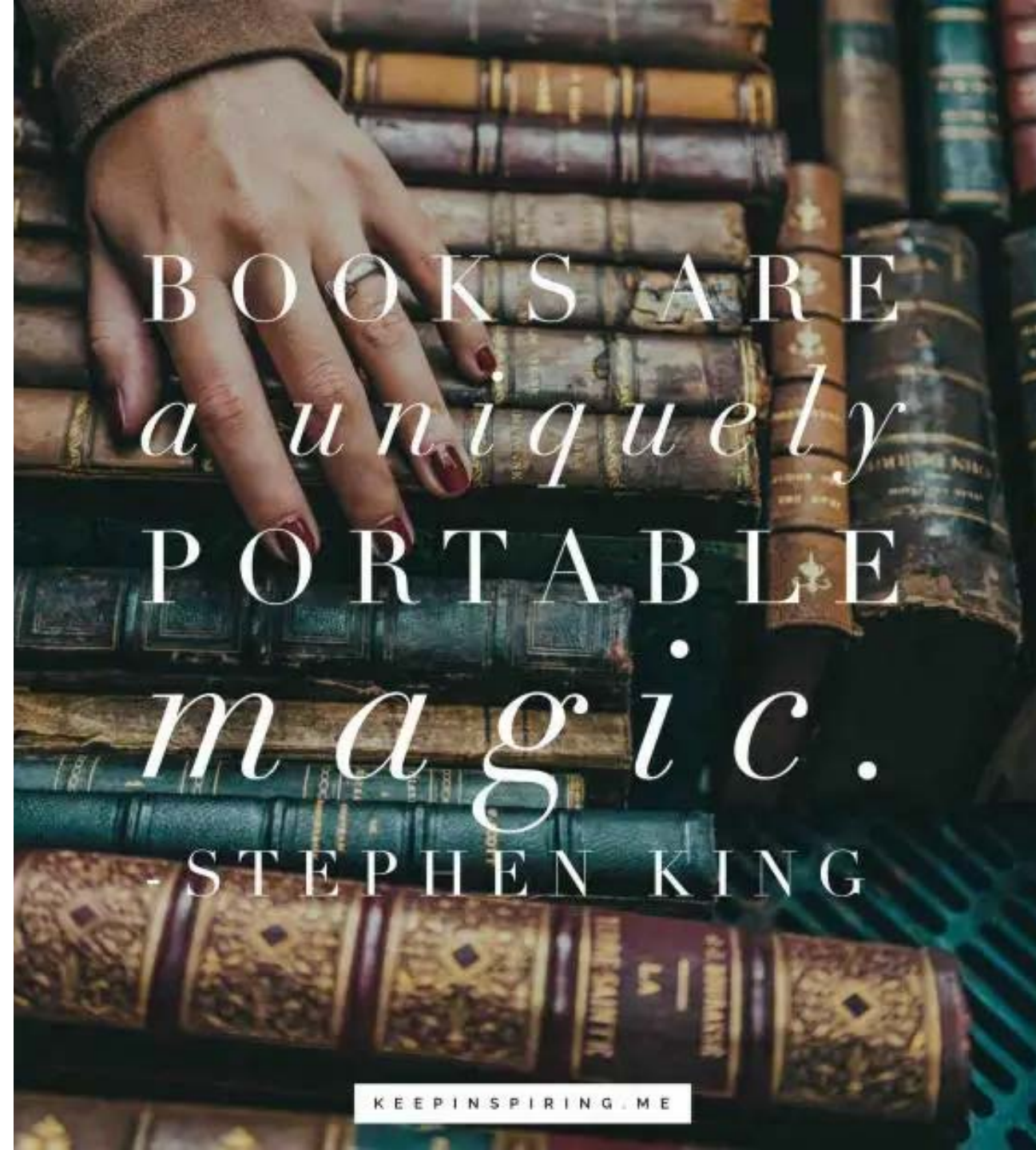
Excellence in English

**By Alex Weston,
Head of Secondary English**

Thank you for attending our workshop.

“One glance at a book and you hear the voice
of another person, perhaps someone dead for
1,000 years. To read is to voyage through time.”
– *Carl Sagan*

“A book is a garden, an orchard, a storehouse,
a party, a company by the way, a counselor, a
multitude of counselors.” – *Charles Baudelaire*



BOOKS ARE
a uniquely
PORTABLE
magic.
- STEPHEN KING



Welcome

Focus:

- What does English look like as an academic subject and how do we teach our students at BISS?
- What makes a successful student in English?
- The significance of reading.
- A taste of being an English student.
- Questions.



The Secondary English Team

- Alex Weston
- Doug Sillett
- James Moan
- Lucy O'Neill

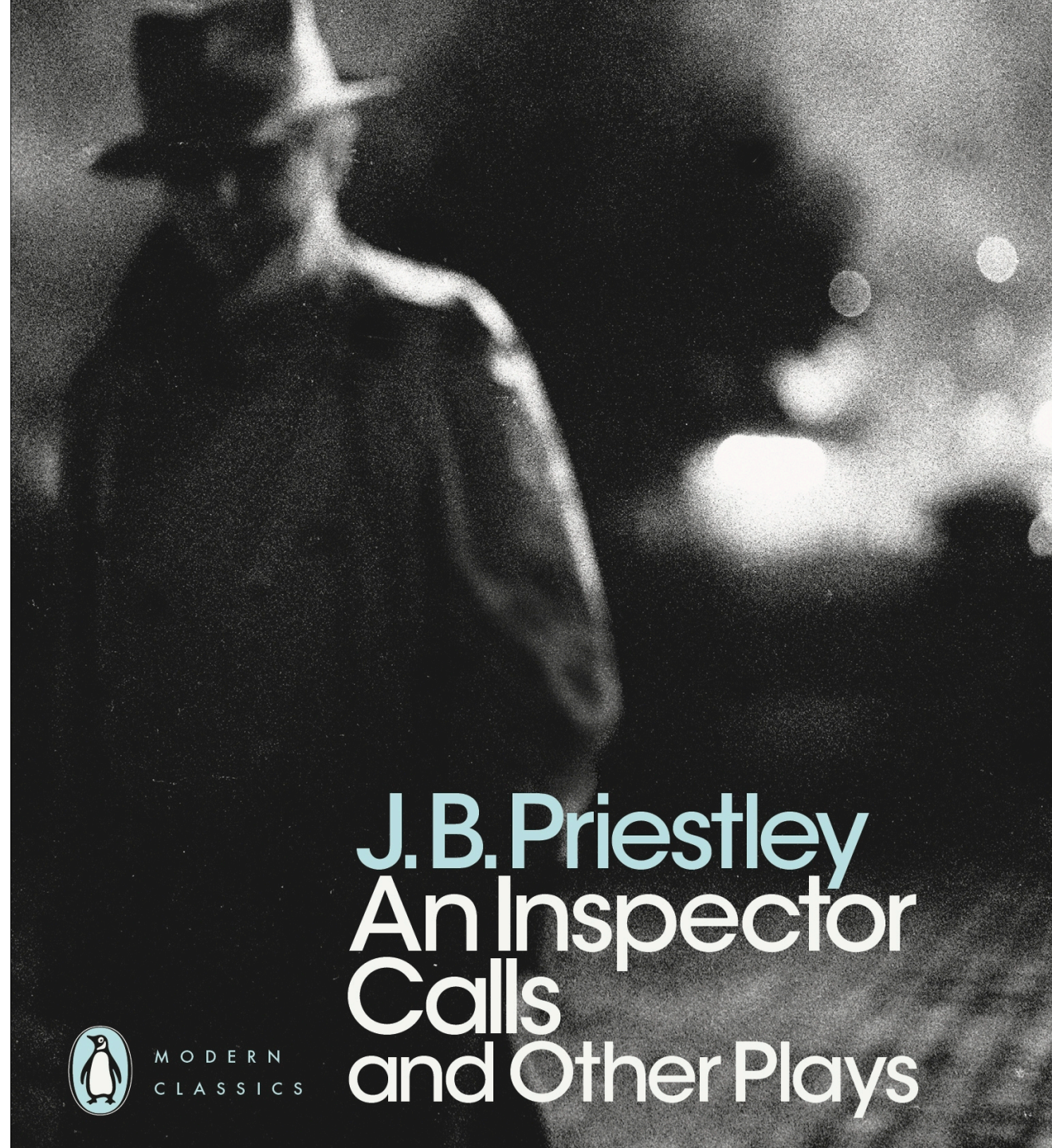


What does English look like as a subject?

- Thinking skills- students explore a wide range of concepts/themes/ideas + times & places!
- Problem solving (empathetic thinking).
- Reading/building effective reading strategies to decode challenging and interesting texts. Learning to read on a deeper level.
- Writing for a range of audiences & purposes.
- Technical skills & knowledge (grammar).
- Developing discussion, debate & verbal presentational skills.
- Extended essays; building effective examination responses.



**What does English look
like as a subject?**



J. B. Priestley
An Inspector
Calls
and Other Plays



MODERN
CLASSICS

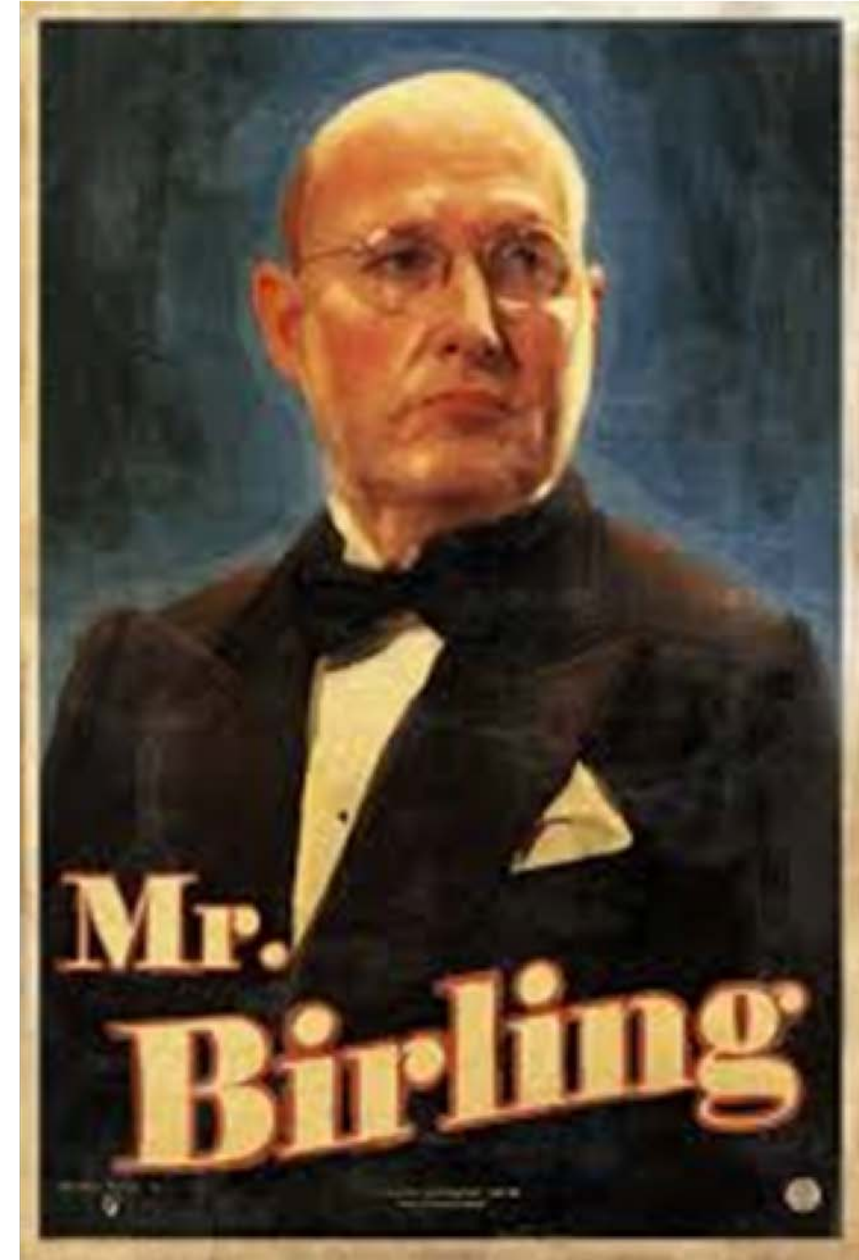
‘Mr Birling is the most powerful character in the play. He is rich and male.’

Why do you think this?

Agree?

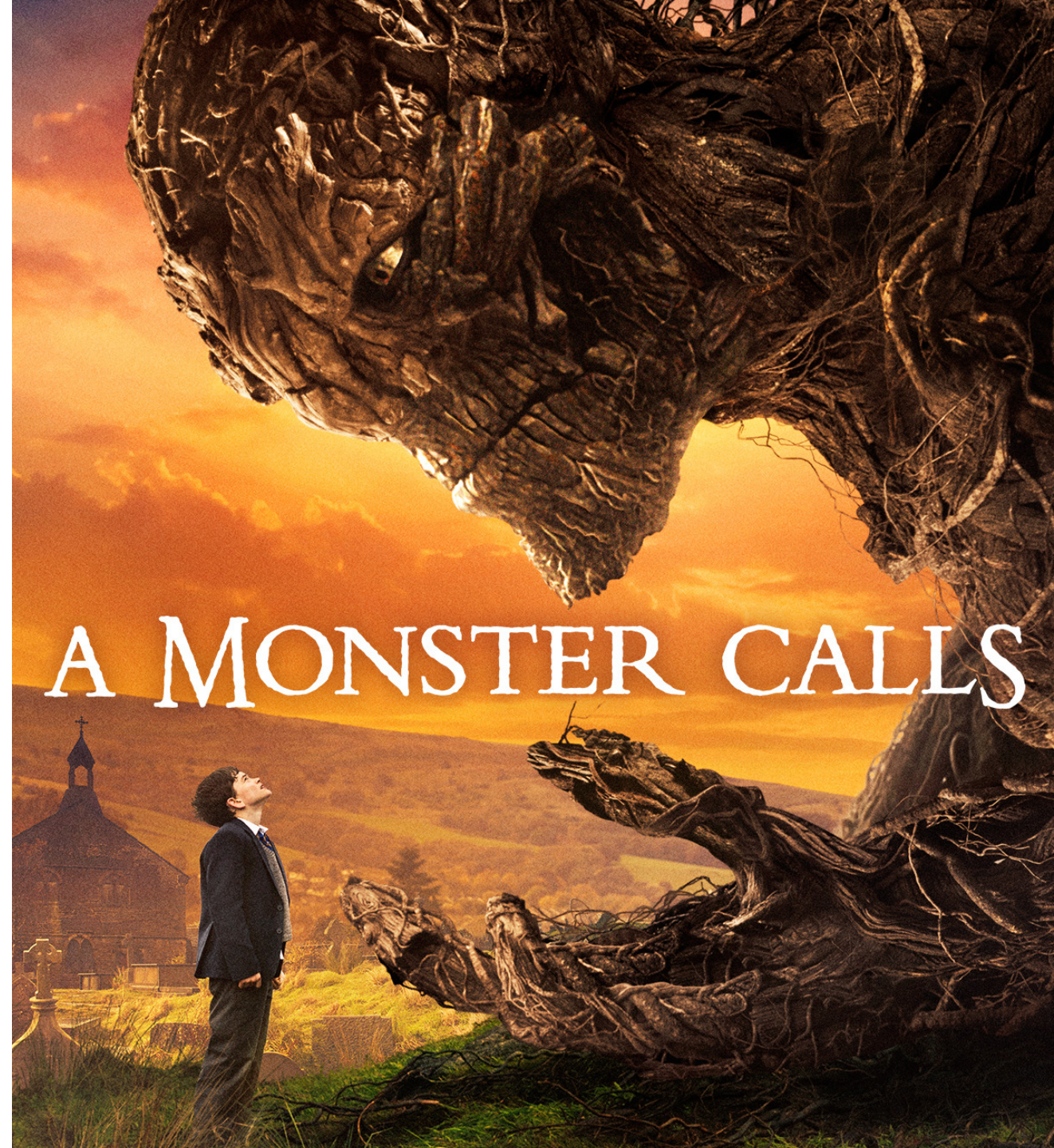
Disagree?

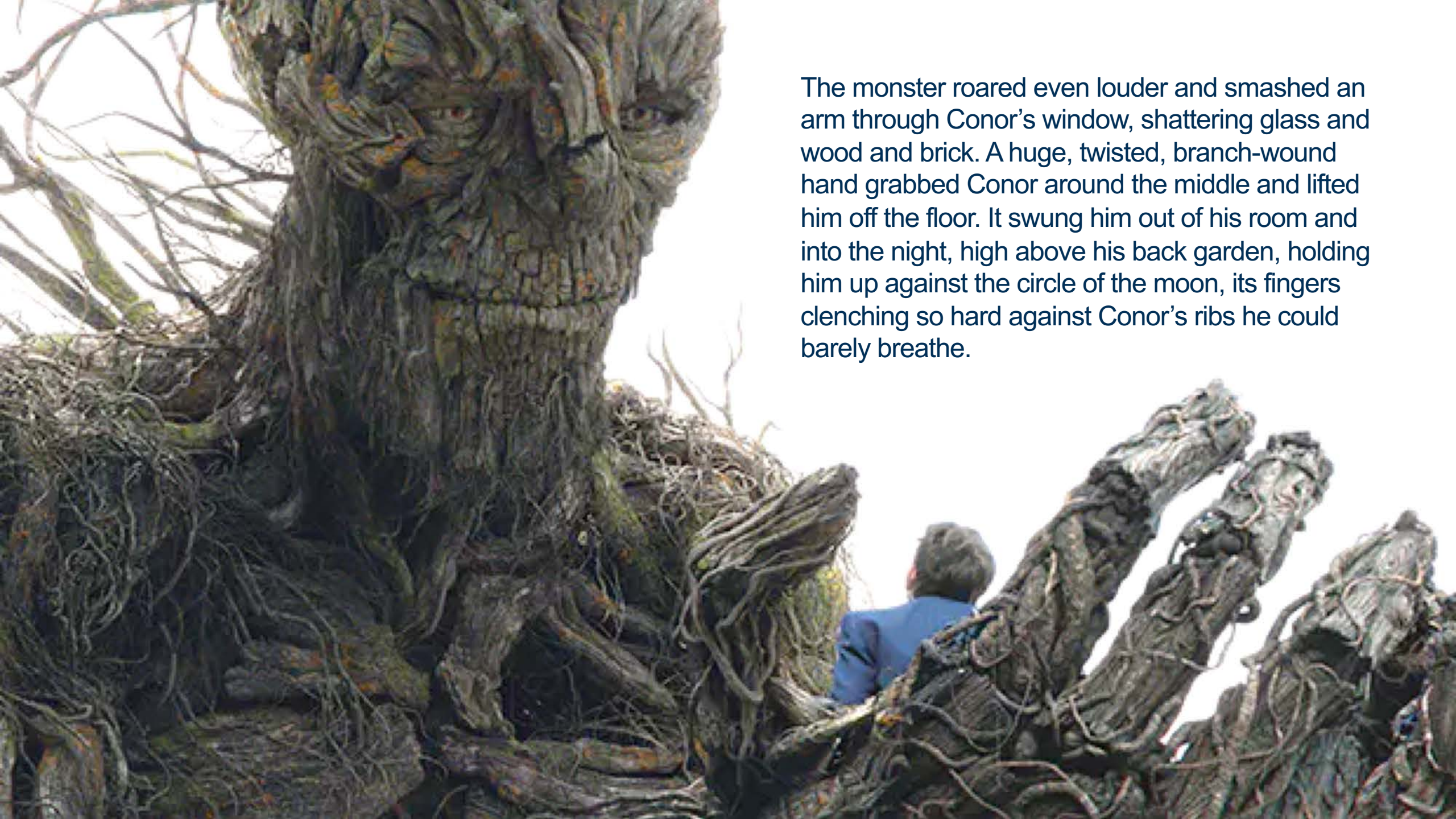
Problem?



Year 7 Reader

A Monster Calls





The monster roared even louder and smashed an arm through Conor's window, shattering glass and wood and brick. A huge, twisted, branch-wound hand grabbed Conor around the middle and lifted him off the floor. It swung him out of his room and into the night, high above his back garden, holding him up against the circle of the moon, its fingers clenching so hard against Conor's ribs he could barely breathe.

RAVEM

Character analysis



Values

- What is important to the character?
- What do they hold dear?
Consider big issues like family/ friends/ loyalty etc.
- What do they think society should be like.

Motives

- What makes a character act and behave the way they do?
- What do they hope/want to get?
- What do they want to happen?

Attitudes

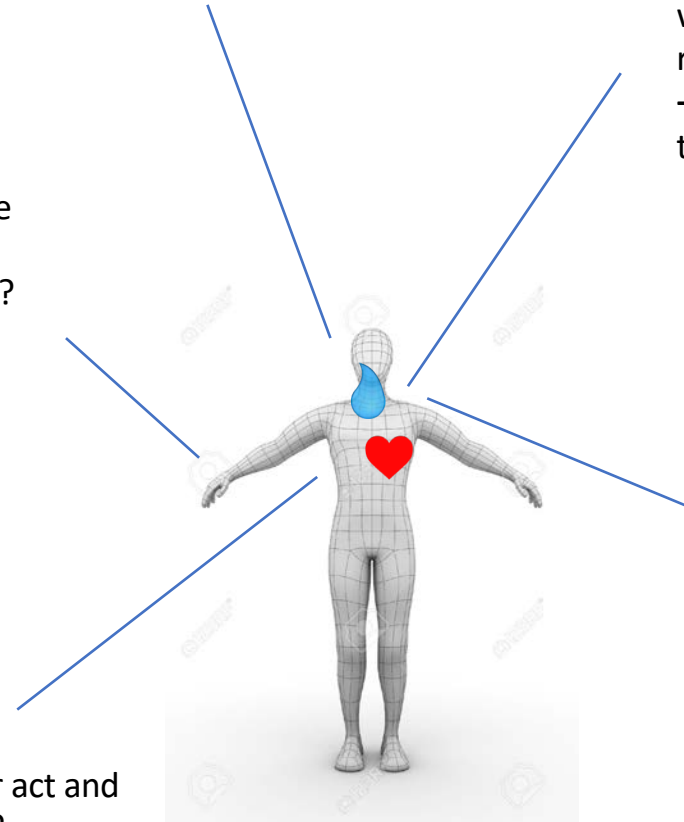
- what is the character's approach to the issues?

Relationships

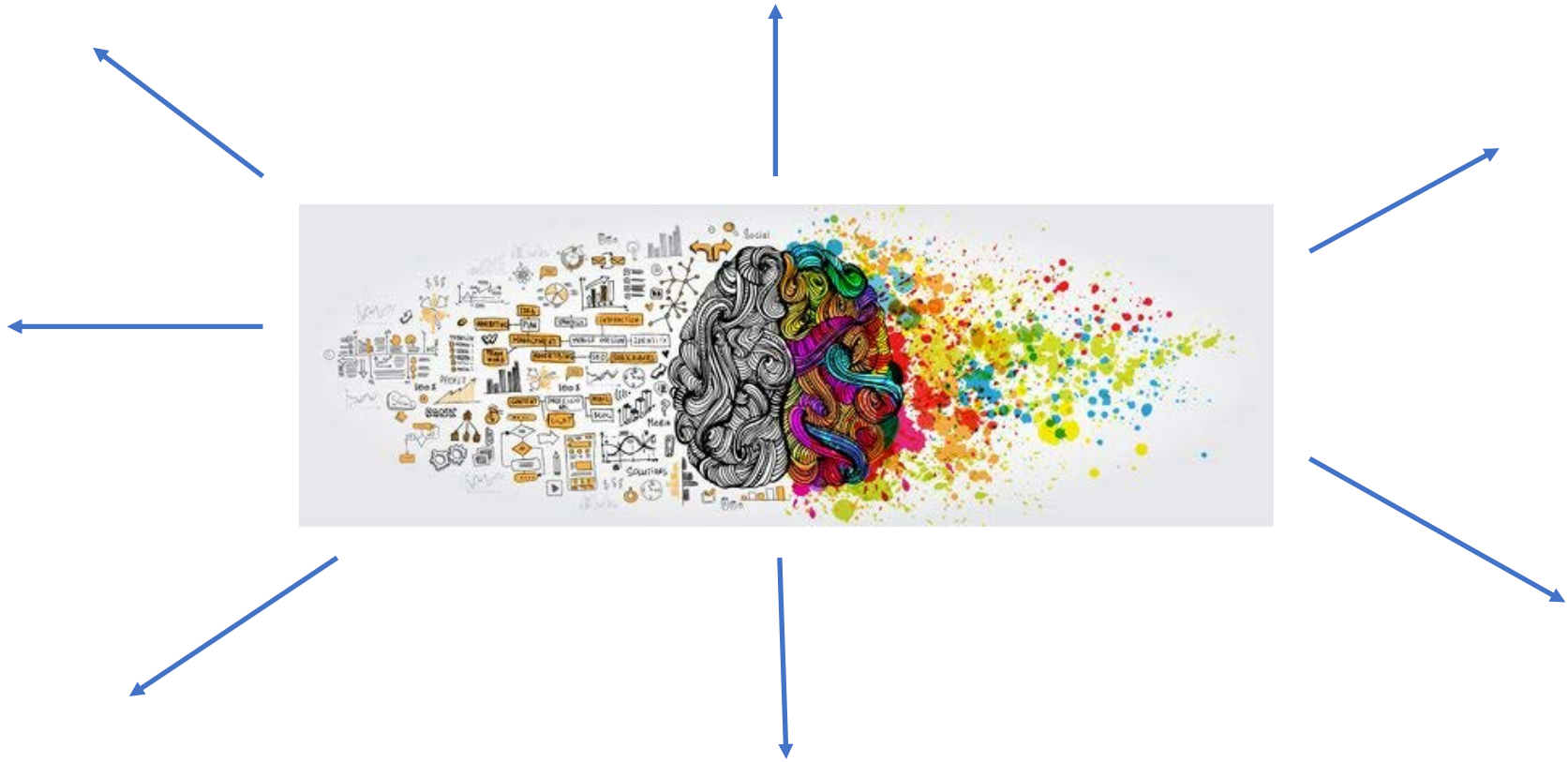
- It's important to consider what a character's relationship is with others?
- How do they feel about those around them.

Emotions

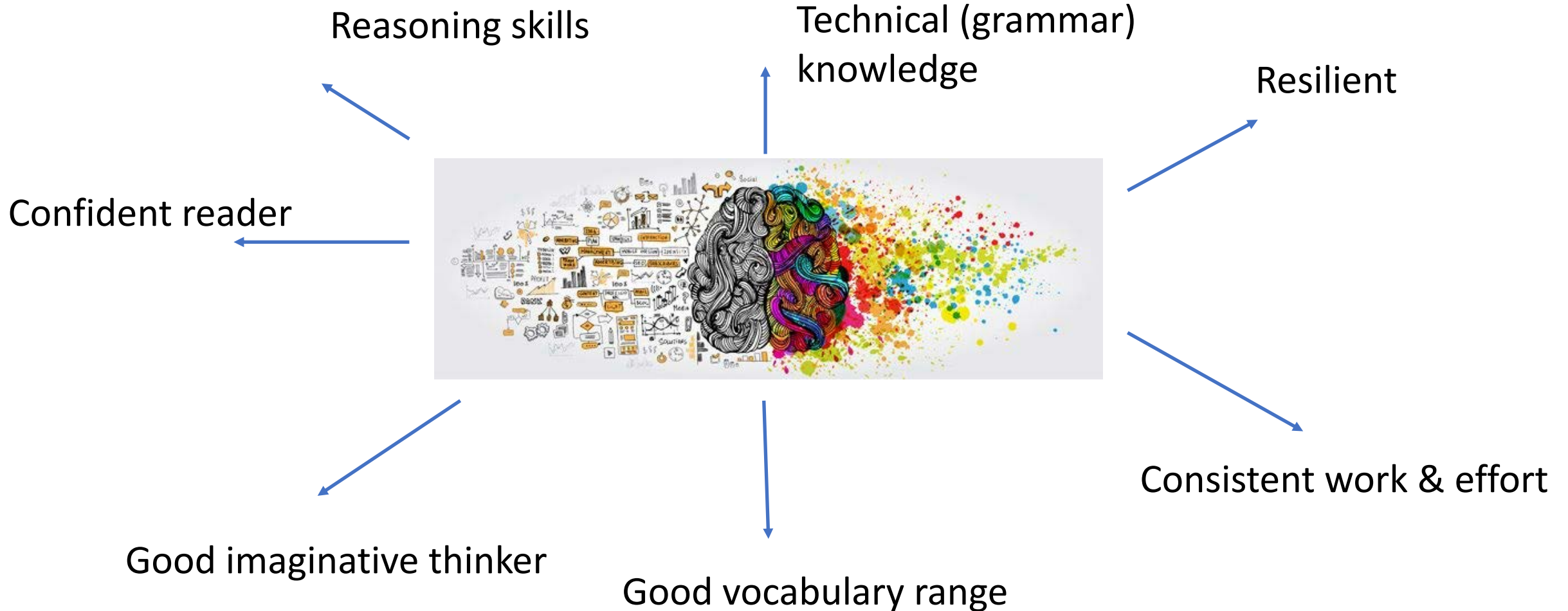
- How does the character feel, particularly in the section you are looking at?
- This will change frequently. In fact one line could show numerous emotions.

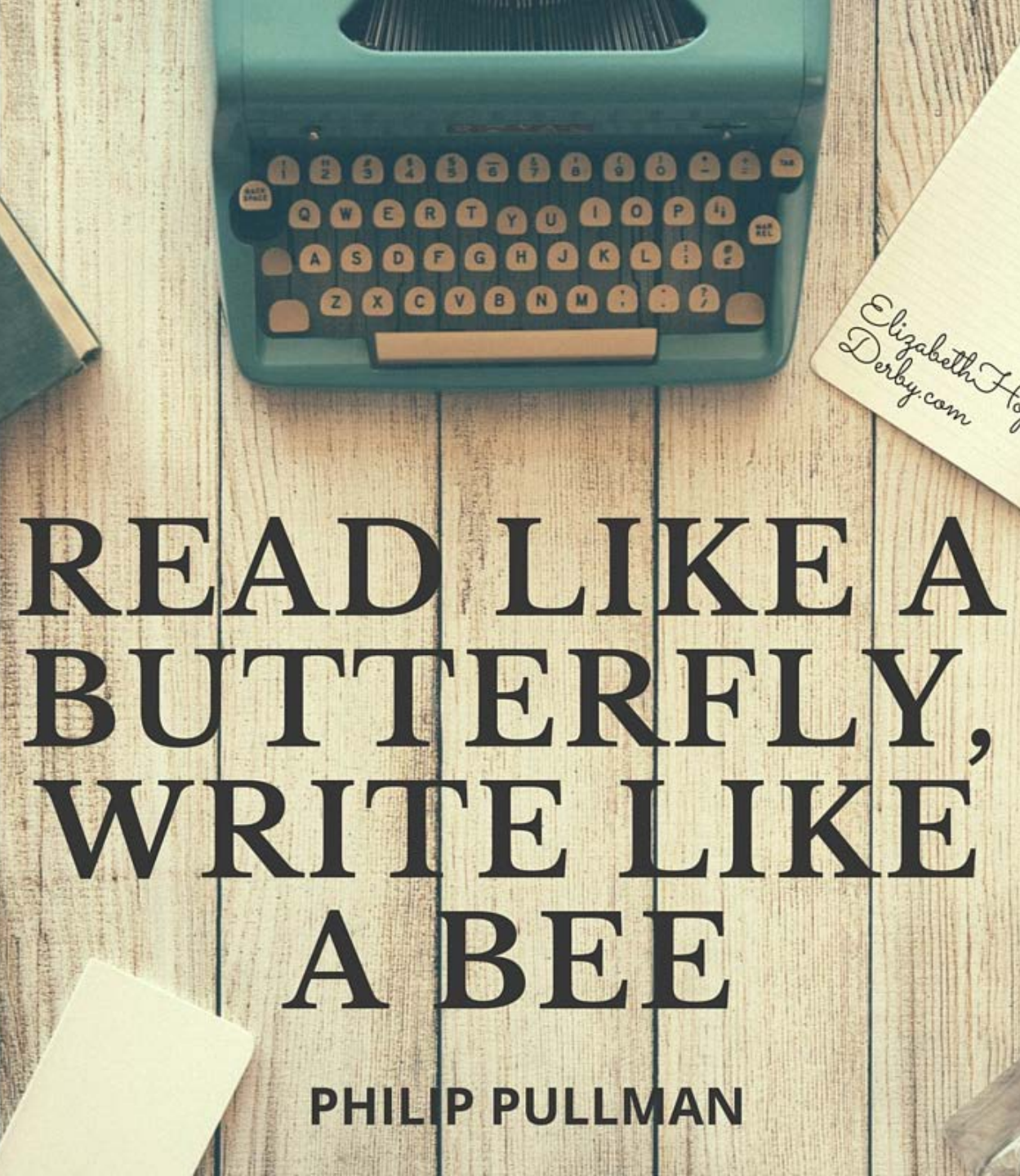


What makes a successful student in English (and why is this so important)?



What makes a successful student in English (and why is this so important)?





READ LIKE A
BUTTERFLY,
WRITE LIKE
A BEE

PHILIP PULLMAN

**Sir Philip Pullman:
"Read like a butterfly,
write like a bee."**



What makes a successful student in English (and why is this so important)?

Regular reading of novels





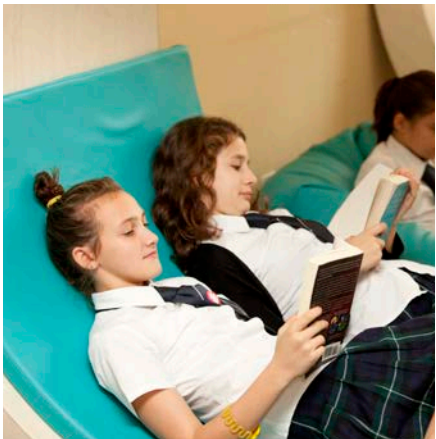
The significance of reading cannot be overestimated!

20 mins of reading per day is the magic number!
The completion of one book every 2 weeks.



When in doubt, go to the library

- *Hermione Granger*



Other magic numbers ...



INCREASES KNOWLEDGE
& VOCABULARY BY 50%



LOWERS STRESS
LEVELS/ANXIETY BY 68%



CAN LENGTHEN LIFE BY
UP TO 2 YEARS!



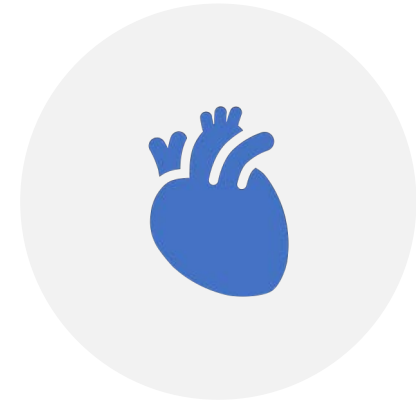
Other key skills



MEMORY: EXERCISES THE BRAIN
AND IMPROVES RECALL SKILLS



IMAGINATION: BUILDS
IMAGINATIONS/ADAPTIVE
THINKING SKILLS



HEART: BUILDS UNDERSTANDING
OF OTHERS/EMPATHY



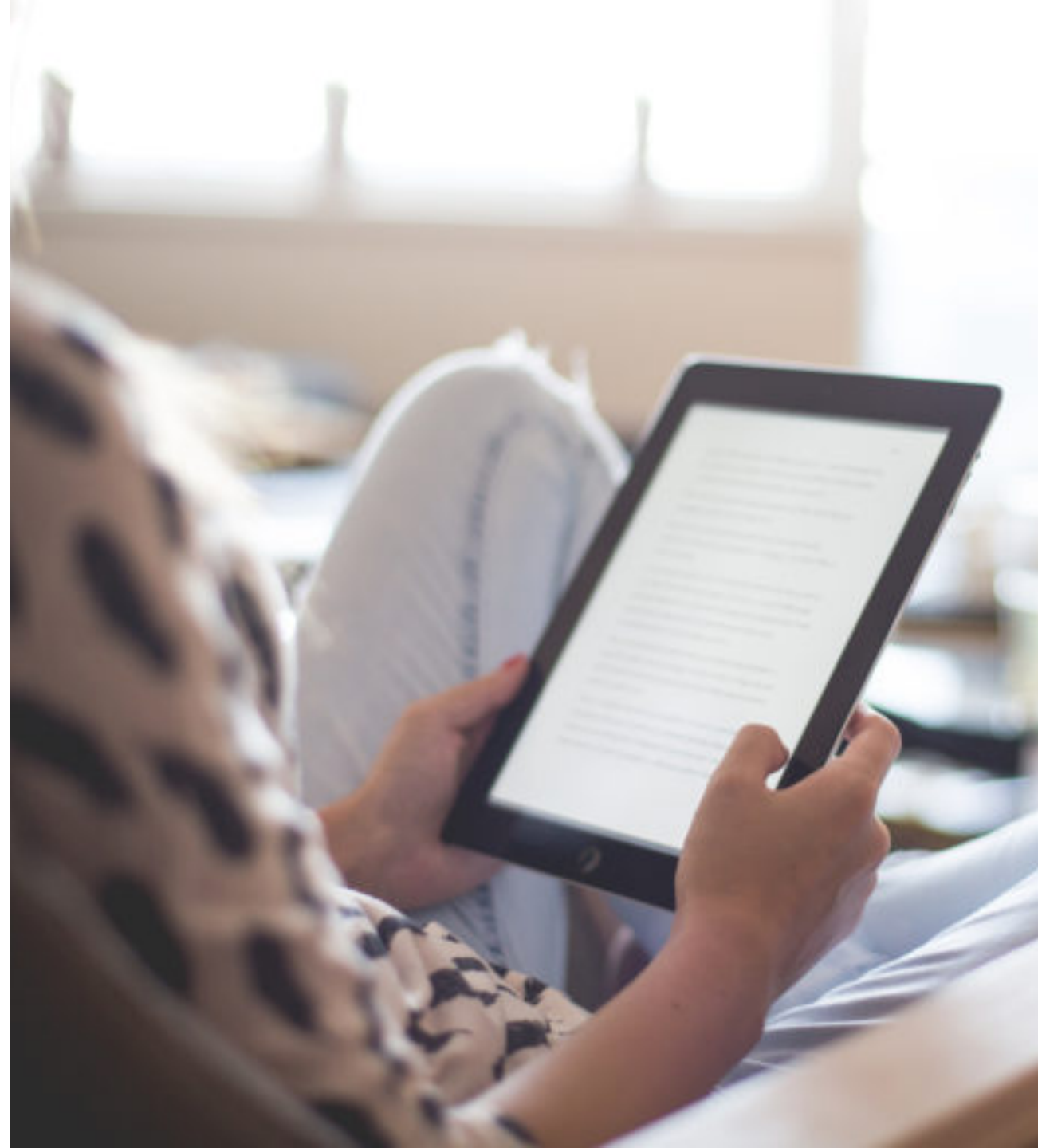
Exam outcomes

Success

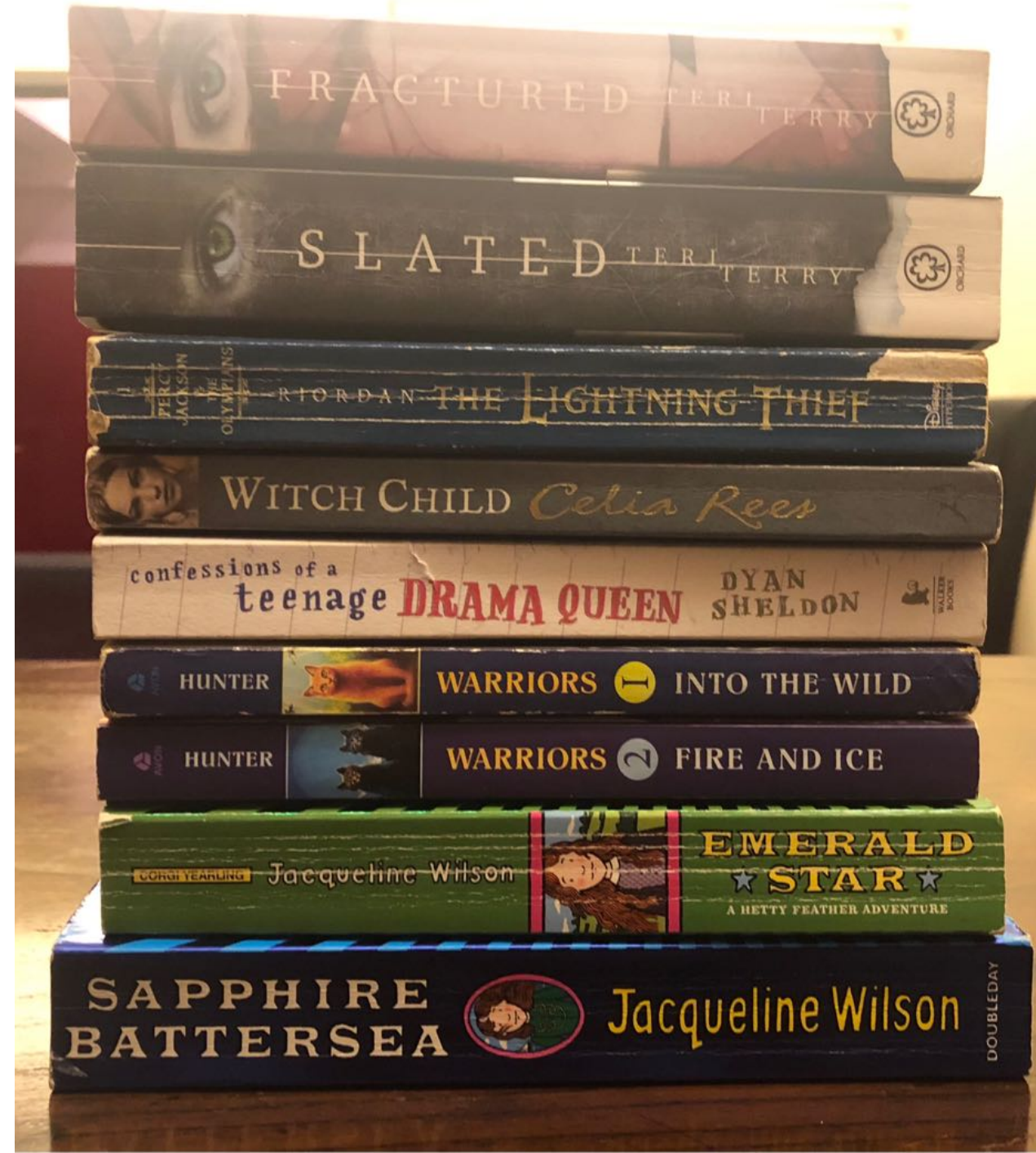
- A strong correlation between students who read and exam success.
- (0.6-0.9 of a grade across the IGCSE English/English Literature components)



**We need to mention
these things**



If at all possible ...



The significance of cross-curricular links

- Embed strategies by linking them to other subjects, e.g. asking questions in a word problem in Maths, summarizing a research article in History, repairing meaning breakdown (inference of unknown words) in Science.

READ the QUESTION

There were **some kids** at the pool. **12 kids** **joined** them at the pool. **Now** there are **25 kids** at the pool. How many kids were at the pool before?

Annotations:

- Is this number important information? (pointing to 'some kids')
- How many we don't know. (pointing to 'some kids')
- joined means put together, so we must have to add. (pointing to 'joined')
- Is this number important information? (pointing to '25 kids')
- "Now" means we are at the end of the problem situation. (pointing to 'Now')



What does a skilled reader look like?



WHAT SKILLS DO THEY
HAVE?

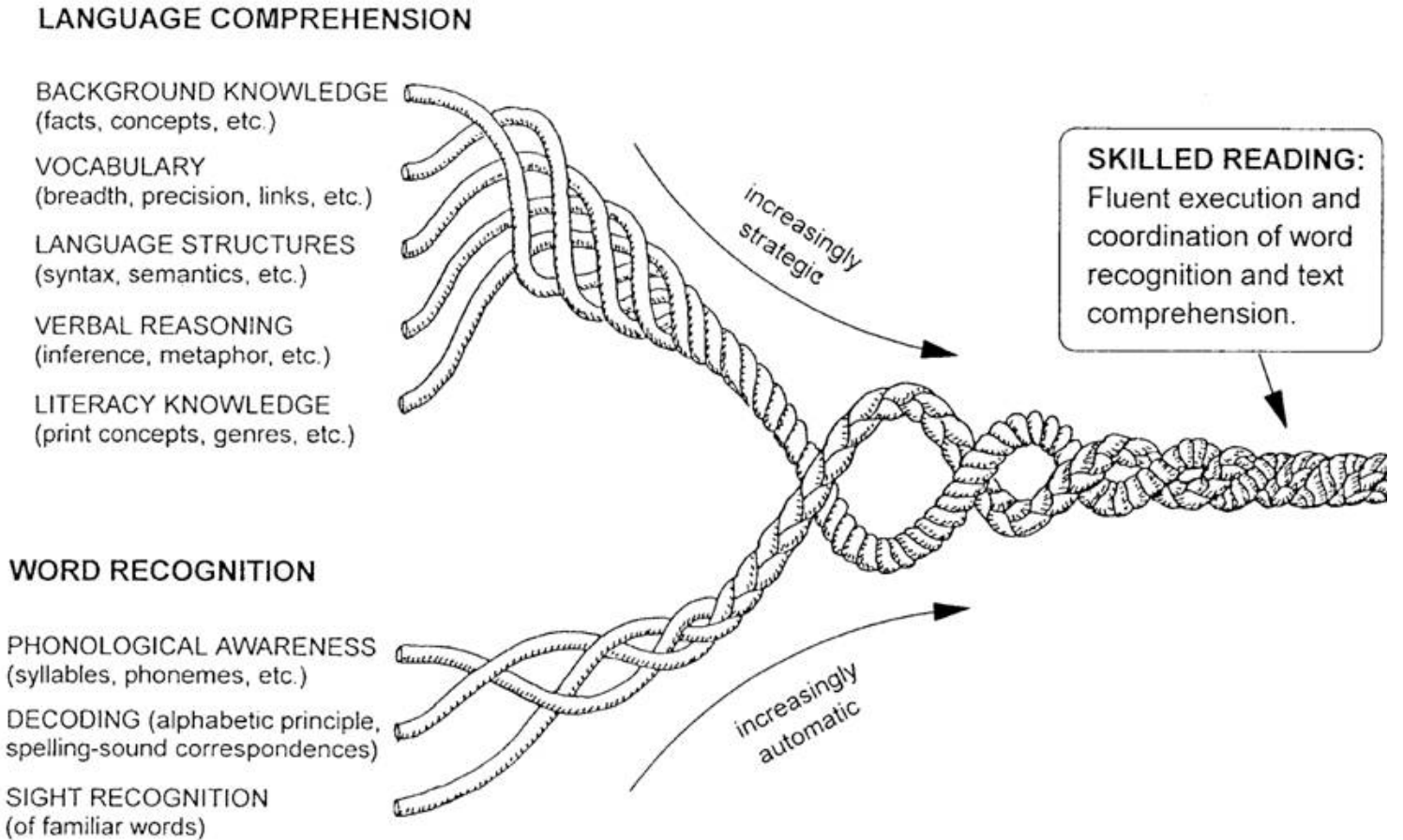


WHAT CAN THEY DO WELL?



The many strands that are woven into skilled reading

Scarborough, H. S. (2001). Connecting early language and literacy to later reading (dis)abilities: Evidence, theory, and practice. In S. Neuman & D. Dickinson (Eds.), Handbook for research in early literacy (pp. 97–110). New York, NY: Guilford Press.

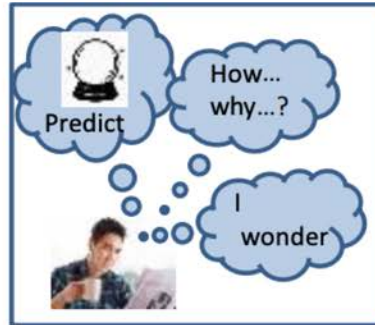


Strategies to help us understand and enjoy reading.

As we read we ...



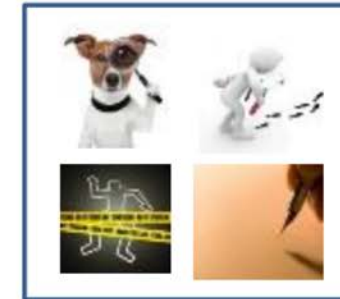
Use our background knowledge and connect to text



Predict, ask questions, I wonder... and read on to find out...



Visualise



Think like a detective-use inference



Notice meaning breakdown...



...and repair it



Watch out for VIP words/phrases/ideas..



...and put together to build GIST





The enormous trees loomed over the mossy green floor and stared down at the creatures below. Thin slivers of sunlight shone between the thick, dense leaves and created spotlights on the beautiful flowers underneath. There was a hum of noise: bees buzzing, monkeys howling, leaves rustling and birds calling. The air was thick with heat. Suddenly, the sky erupted and a downpour of water hit the treetops making a rumbling sound. The colours were incredible! Bright blue bugs, glorious green plants and stunning pinks, yellows and oranges from the unique flowers ran through the vast space.

I wonder if they're unique because this place has never been visited by humans?



Note making

- Note making is essential to the understanding and engagement of a student with the text.
- KS4 example

When does this book take place
A lot of it seems not to be a reminiscence but this first chap implies Ishmael is



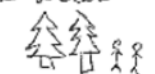
Chapter i
LOOMINGS

The Famous line!
Call me Ishmael. Some years ago -- never mind how long precisely -- having little or no money in my purse, and nothing particular to interest me on shore, I thought I would sail about a little and see the watery part of the world. It is a way I have of driving off the spleen and regulating the circulation. Whenever I find myself growing grim about the mouth, whenever it is a damp, drizzly November in my soul; whenever I find myself involuntarily pausing before coffin warehouses, and bringing up the rear of every funeral I meet; and especially whenever my hypoos get such an upper hand of me, that it requires a strong moral principle to prevent me from deliberately stepping into the street, and methodically knocking people's hats off -- then, I account it high time to get to sea as soon as I can. This is my substitute for pistol and ball. With a philosophical flourish Cato throws himself upon his sword; I quietly take to the ship. There is nothing surprising in this. If they but knew it, almost all men in their degree, some time or other, cherish very nearly the same feelings towards the ocean with me.

according to online:
grim = grim about the mouth
as found online:
hypo = short for hypochondria, a state of depression somewhat more ironic and morbid than "er blues".
from wikipedia:
Marcus Porcius Cato Uticensis (95 BC - 46 BC) a.k.a. Cato the Younger. → a politician & statesman in the late Roman Republic - he killed himself because of a conflict with Caesar.

I can't figure out what this means
in my soul...
haha - that reminds me of hats Mike is - metaphorically speaking...
what kind of hats did these men back then wear?
my attempt at drawing a border...

like the brotherhood of man
I think we all feel the same way about camping or going out into the woods


Reading and Writing ...

- “Writing comes from reading, and reading is the finest teacher of how to write.” – *Annie Proulx*
- “If you don’t have time to read, you don’t have the time (or the tools) to write. Simple as that.” – *Stephen King*



Five facts

- 30% of teens talk face-to-face to communicate.
- Between 60-70% say they are more likely to text than talk on the phone.
- Older girls are the most active on their phones sending & receiving 3000 texts a month.
- In 2020, the average amount of time spent on smart phones is 3.5 hrs per day.
- Around 2hrs of that time is spent on social media.

You are going to write a response to this opinion.
What persuasive devices do you already know?



Speech: Introduction

Pathos: appeals to the audience's values – shows understanding of their dislike of technology.

Counter Argument: to introduce the benefits of technology.

Imperative: 'is' and 'will' present the opinion as a fact.

Technology is relentless. It's like a tidal wave that moves through society, changing everything. It can get exhausting and you might be wondering if it's worth the energy to keep up. But consider how many lives have been improved by technology: from travelling abroad on a plane to being able to instantly video chat with someone on the other side of the world. Technology is a positive force that will transform your life for the better, if you are willing to give it a chance...

Simile: to develop the idea and take it further.

Direct Address: to hold the audience's attention.

Logos: factual information that is undeniable.

Syntax: the audience are left with a challenge.



Adding Conor's backstory

Now write a paragraph giving a little bit more information on Conor's character and history.

What has been going on in Conor's life lately that could have contributed to this event? What was he like before?

Ideas for a starters:

Conor O'Malley, a previously quiet and friendly student, has been experiencing...

While many believe that Conor's actions were out of character, it is well known that...



**Working from the
position of a writer ...**



Working from the position of a writer ...

Using structural features...

1. Change in time (flashback/shift to the future)
2. New character/change in perspective
3. Change in location
4. Zoom-in (Cinematic)
5. Zoom-out (Cinematic)
6. Internal/external (inside to outside)



Working from the position of a writer ...

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5. Zoom-out (Cinematic)
6. Internal/external (inside to outside)

Let's have a go!



Working from the position of a writer ...

1. A warm wind, the first of the season, drifted gently along the wide city streets, bringing with it the scent of early summer.
2. ...
3. ...
4. ...
5. ...
6. ...



Success Criteria

1. Use at least 3 structural techniques you have not used before in your writing. Yes/No
2. Your writing fits together effectively (cohesion) and engages the reader. /10
3. You successfully create a world the reader can visualize. /10





**Reading is essential
for those who seek to
rise above the
ordinary. - *Jim Rohn***



**How can I help
at home?**



**Thank you :)
Questions?**

