**Talking Text: Introducing a novel**

* **Select a range of suitable questions from different AF’s. It is not necessary to use all the questions for every novel.**
* **Note the children’s responses on the accompanying APP sheet.**
* **If you wish, the children could note some of their responses in a reading journal.**
* **Questions do not link to AF 1 as it is not assessed above level 3.**

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| **AF1** | **AF2** | **AF3** | **AF4** | **AF5** | **AF6** | **AF7** |
| *Use a range of strategies, including accurate decoding of text, to read for meaning* | *Understand, describe, select or retrieve information, events or ideas from texts and use quotation and reference to text* | *Deduce, infer or interpret information, events or ideas from texts* | *Identify and comment on the structure and organisation of texts, including grammatical and literary features at text level* | *Explain and comment on the writers’ use of language, including grammatical and literary features at word and sentence level* | *Identify and comment on writer’s purposes and viewpoints and the overall effect of the text on the reader* | *Relate texts to their social, cultural and historical contexts and literary traditions* |

What does the title of the book suggest? Does it give you any clues about the content of the story? (AF3)

Have you heard of or read other books by the same author? If so comment on the author’s style – what type of books does the author generally write? (AF7)

What can we infer from looking at the front cover illustration? (AF3) What questions are raised by the front cover illustration? (AF2)

Read the blurb. What questions does the blurb leave the prospective reader with? (AF2)

Are there any comments from reviewers? Do these comments make you want to read the book? (AF6)

Based on the front cover and the blurb -does the book look appealing or interesting? Do you want to read it? Why or why not? (AF6)

Do the front cover illustration or blurb reveal the genre? What type of story (genre) do you think this story is? How can you tell? (AF7)

Open the book .Apart form the page containing publishing information and the contents page - are there any interesting illustrations or significant texts which preclude the first chapter? E.g. extracts from the story, dedications, prologues, reviews, author information, letters etc . If so, why has this information been included? (AF2+ other AFs dependent on information)

Look at the title of the first chapter – does it give any clue as the chapter’s contents? (AF2/3)

Now begin reading!

**Talking Text: Beginning a novel**

* **Select a range of suitable questions from different AF’s. It is not necessary to use all the questions for every novel.**
* **Note the children’s responses on the accompanying APP tick sheet.**
* **If you wish, the children could note some of their responses in a reading journal.**
* **Questions do not link to AF 1 as it is not assessed above level 3.**

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| **AF1** | **AF2** | **AF3** | **AF4** | **AF5** | **AF6** | **AF7** |
| *Use a range of strategies, including accurate decoding of text, to read for meaning* | *Understand, describe, select or retrieve information, events or ideas from texts and use quotation and reference to text* | *Deduce, infer or interpret information, events or ideas from texts* | *Identify and comment on the structure and organisation of texts, including grammatical and literary features at text level* | *Explain and comment on the writers’ use of language, including grammatical and literary features at word and sentence level* | *Identify and comment on writer’s purposes and viewpoints and the overall effect of the text on the reader* | *Relate texts to their social, cultural and historical contexts and literary traditions* |

Ask the children to read the first few pages or all of chapter one and then discuss the questions below:

Who is the narrator? What viewpoint is the story told from - 1st or 3rd person? (AF2/3)

Is the setting described? How? (AF2)

Are we told when the story is set? (AF2) Or are clues given to help the reader work this out? (AF3)

What characters are introduced? What do we know about the characters so far? (AF2).

 Do we learn about the characters through description? (AF2) Or dialogue? (AF3) Do you like these characters? Why or why not? (AF6)

What do you know? What would you like to know? (AF2)

Are illustrations included? If so how do these help support the text? (AF2/3)

An author needs to engage a reader within the first few pages –in your opinion has the author been successful? Explain how and why (AF6)

Based on what you have read so far make a comment on the author’s style e.g. successfully creates tension...writes in an amusing way... writes realistic fiction...uses effective description etc. (AF6)

What do you think might happen next? (AF3)

Would you like to read the rest of this book? Explain your reasons e.g. make reference to characters, settings, genre, author style, build up of tension etc. Avoid using the word boring or good in your answer! (AF6)