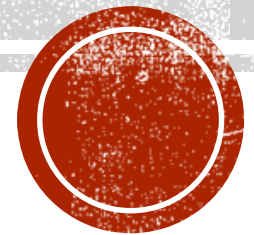


LO: TO UNDERSTAND A TEXT



SKELLIG BY DAVID ALMOND (PREDICTION)



- Look at the title, author, pictures and any subheadings
- Where is/might the text be found? Why does the source matter?
- What do you know about the author?
- What do you think the text might be about?
- What type of text might it be? Fiction? Non-fiction? How do you know?
- Who do you think the intended audience is? Why is the audience important? How does this affect the writing?
- Use the title to generate questions about the text.
 - Who?
 - What?
 - When?
 - Where?
 - Why?
 - How?



SKELLIG BY DAVID ALMOND

WHO?

WHAT?

WHEN?



WHERE?

HOW?

WHY?



Skellig by David Almond

We felt for the handle of the room in which we thought we'd left Skellig. We inched the door open. We whispered "Skellig! Skellig!" No answer. We moved forward carefully, arms outstretched, feeling forward with our feet before we took each step. Our breath was fast, shallow, trembly. My heart was thundering. I opened my eyes wide, glared into the dark, seeking the shape of his body on the floor. Nothing there, just the blankets, the pillow, the plastic dish, the bottle rolling away from my stumbling feet.



"Where is he?" whispered Mina.

"Skellig," we whispered. "Skellig! Skellig!"

We turned back to the landing again, we stumbled up the next flight of stairs, we opened many doors, we stared past them into pitch black rooms, we whispered his name, we heard nothing but our own breath, our own uncertain feet, his name echoing back to us from bare floorboards and bare walls, we turned back to the landing again, we stumbled up the next flight of stairs. We halted. We gripped each other's hands. We felt each other shuddering. Our heads were filled with the darkness of the house. Beside me was nothing but Mina's face, its silvery bloom.



"We must be more calm," she whispered. "We must listen like we listened to the squeaking of the blackbird chicks."

"Yes," I said.

"Stand still. Do nothing. Listen to the deepest deepest places of the night."

We held hands and listened to the night. We heard the endless din of the city all around us, the creaking and cracking of the house, our own breath.

"You hear?" said Mina.

I listened and it was as if she guided me to hear what she heard. It was like hearing the blackbird chicks cheeping in the nest. It came from above us, a far-off squeaking, whistling sound. Skellig's breathing.

"I hear it," I whispered.

We climbed the final flight of stairs towards the final doorway. Gently, fearfully, we turned the handle and slowly pushed open the door.



SKELLIG (VOCABULARY)

- Read the text on your own
- Highlight any vocabulary (or phrases) you don't know or find interesting
- Feedback as a class about vocabulary



SKELLIG (MODEL AND ECHO)

- Read the text to the class
- Choose sections for the class to 'echo' which focus on using punctuation, expression, speed, volume.

"Where is he?" whispered Mina.

"Skellig," we whispered. "Skellig! Skellig!"

We turned back to the landing again, we stumbled up the next flight of stairs, we opened many doors, we stared past them into pitch black rooms, we whispered his name, we heard nothing but our own breath, our own uncertain feet, his name echoing back to us from bare floorboards and bare walls, we turned back to the landing again, we stumbled up the next flight of stairs. We halted. We gripped each other's hands. We felt each other shuddering. Our heads were filled with the darkness of the house. Beside me was nothing but Mina's face, its silvery bloom.



SKELLIG(Q&A)

- Discuss the question
 - What questions word is used?
 - What is it asking for (a name, a date, a place, and explanation, a quote)?
 - Should we answer in one word or a full sentence?
 - How many things does it ask for?
 - What words are useful to help us find the answer?
 - Where might we look?
 - What skills can we use (skimming/scanning)?
 - What information should we highlight in the text?
 - **Does the questions ask for evidence?**
 - How can we write the answer if it does ask for evidence?



SKILLS (VIPERS)

These are skills we practice in guided reading. Which ones do you think you have practised today?

- **Word reading:** Use a range of strategies including accurate decoding of text to read for meaning
- **Identify and retrieve key information from texts:** Identify main idea from one or more paragraphs and summarise this (succinctly)
- **Identify and retrieve key information from texts:** Explain and discuss their understanding of the text (through presentations and formal debates)
- **Deduce, infer and predict:** Deduce characters thoughts, feelings, and motives for their actions (explain the deduction process)
- **Understand structure and organisation of texts:** Comment on structural devices (reasons)
- **Writer's choice and use of language:** Give reasoned choices for how grammatical choices are used
- **Writer's choice and use of language:** Comment on language choices (evaluate)
- **Identify key themes** related to social issues (explain, compare and contrast)

