







# Year 9

# The Blurb

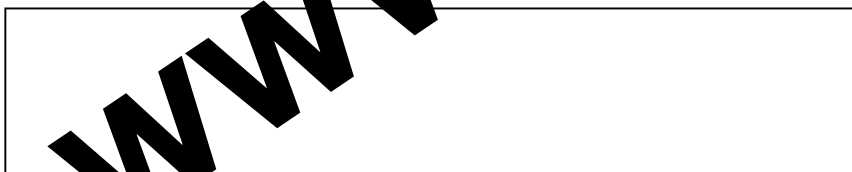
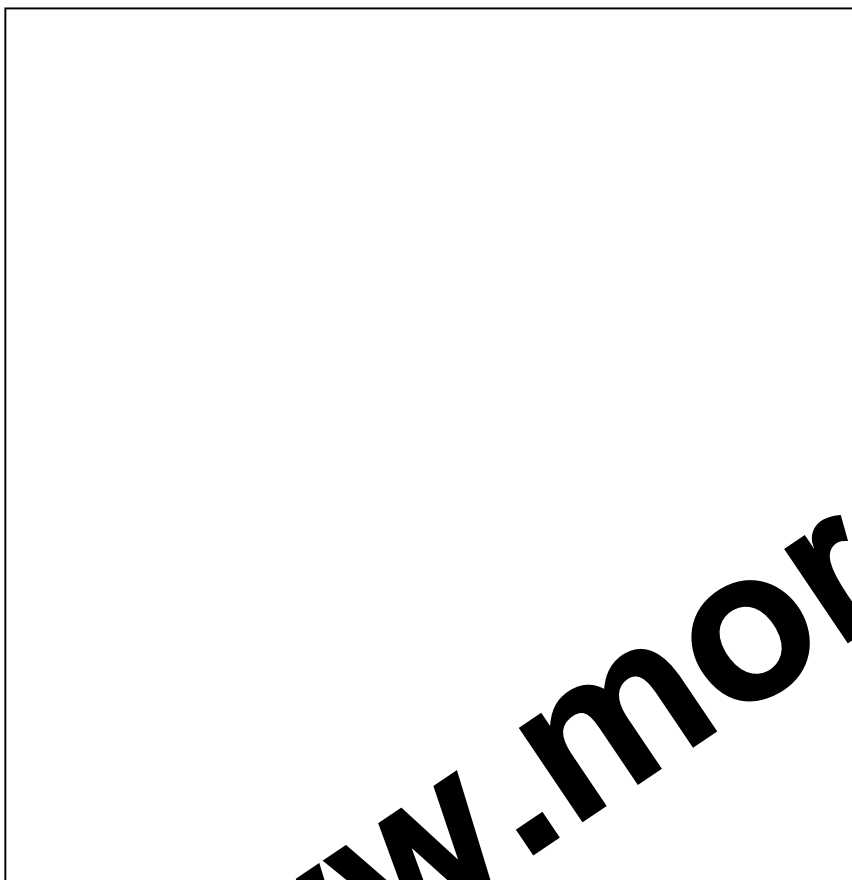
| Author             | Title                       |
|--------------------|-----------------------------|
| Jennifer Donnelly  | A Northern Light            |
| Philip Pullman     | Northern Lights             |
| Edward Bloor       | Tangerine                   |
| Gerald Durrell     | My Family and Other Animals |
| George Orwell      | Animal Farm                 |
| Laurie Lee         | Cider With Rosie            |
| Vera Brittain      | Testament of Youth          |
| Jenny Nimmo        | The Rinaldi Ring            |
| Susan Hill         | Strange Meeting             |
| Arthur Conan Doyle | Sherlock Holmes stories     |
| Elsie McCutcheon   | Summer of the Zeppelin      |
| Robert Swindells   | Brother in the Law          |
| Louise Lawrence    | Children of the Dust        |
| Rachel Anderson    | The Star Ocean              |
| Robert Westall     | Gulf                        |
| Esther Freud       | Hideous Kinky               |
| Jerzy Kozlowski    | Being There                 |
| Chinua Achebe      | No Longer at Ease           |
| Jon Pausewang      | The Final Journey           |

This is the bit of writing on the back of the book that aims to encourage a person to read the book without giving the plot away. Read what is written on the back of the book you've just read and then have a go at re-writing it. Think about what it was that made you pick up the book and read it and write from there. Include some enthusiastic quotations from reviewers and make some up if you can't find any!

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## A New Front Cover

Look carefully at the front cover of the book you have just read. Do you like it? Does it encapsulate the themes, characters, plot of the novel as you see it? What do you think the cover should look like? Draw your ideas below and in the box underneath explain your suggestions.



## Some reading activities

Reading is not a passive activity. All the time you are reading you are absorbing and interpreting information. When you finish a book it is easy to forget what you have learnt, enjoyed or even disliked about what you have read.

On the following pages are some activities which will help you think about the book you have just completed and what has interested you (or otherwise) whilst reading it.

Each time you read a book, make a note of the title and author on the reading log page at the back of this booklet, fill in one of the reading sliders (which you can get from your English teacher) and complete one of the activities on the following pages.

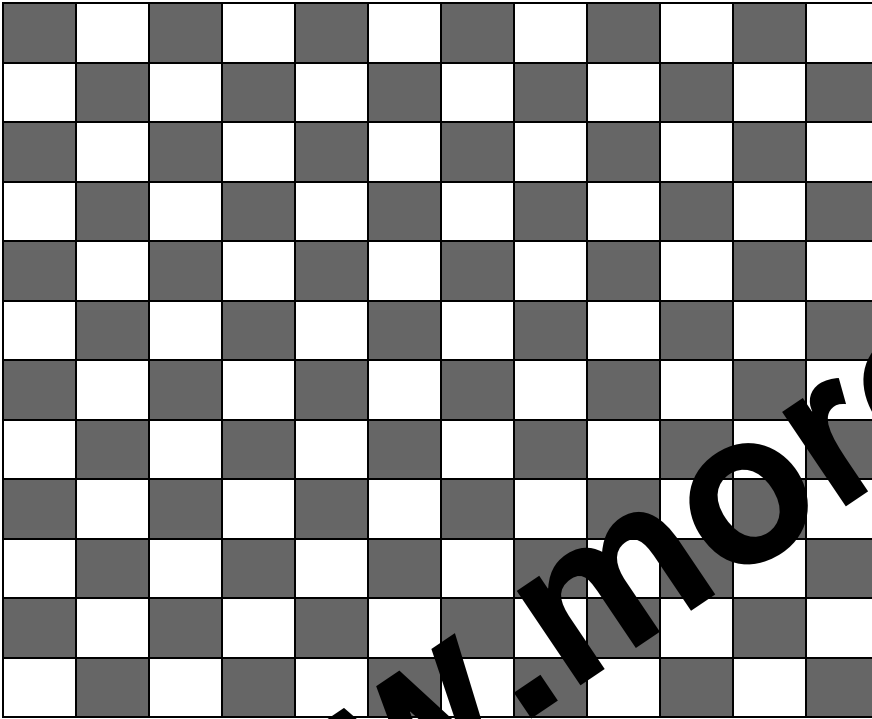
Show the activity to your English teacher in order to claim two house points and then ... choose another book!

You do not have to limit yourself to the books on the lists in these pages; in fact the more widely you read the more skills you are acquiring. Look in the school library or your local library for more books, check in the newspapers and on the internet for book reviews by people your age and keep an eye out for book awards. <http://www.ucalgary.ca/~dkbrown/awards.html> is a good place to begin your search for various national book awards. Although the site itself is now rather out of date it names the awards that a number of countries have available for children's and young people's literature.

Happy reading!

## A Wordsearch

Use the box below to create a wordsearch of important words from the novel you have just read. It might be character or place names, themes, words to do with the plot or new words that you came across whilst reading. Aim to put at least 12 words in your wordsearch, and remember to write out a list so that the person doing the wordsearch knows what they are looking for.



Words to look for:

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## A Cartoon Strip

Use the boxes below to create a cartoon strip of the main events of the novel. Underneath each box, write a caption to explain what is happening.

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## A Review

You know those comments that you often find on the back of books such as, "unputdownable" and "a riveting read"? They are always taken from reviews of the book, written by critics who, like you, have read the book and have an opinion on it.

Imagine you are employed by one of the big daily newspapers or one of the weekend supplements and have been asked to write a review of the book you have just read. Remember to include the genre of the book (is it a mystery, a comedy, a romance for example), a very brief plot synopsis (or summary) but don't give away any key mysteries or events, why you liked or disliked the book (avoid using the word 'nice') and the age of readers you think would most enjoy the book.

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## A Quiz

Think of twenty tricky questions to ask another reader of the same book. Remember, they can not be really obvious or terribly obscure. Try to ask open questions which require more than a 'yes' or 'no' answer. You could make some of them multiple choice to add some variety and make several 'true' or 'false' questions.

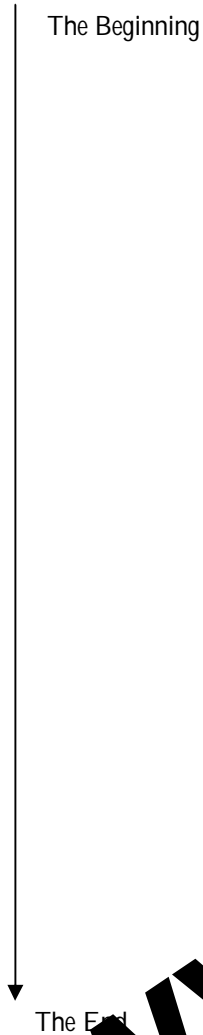
Include the answers (upside down) at the bottom of the page in case the recipient of the quiz gets really stuck.

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The Answers:

# A Timeline of Events

Decide on the most important events in the novel and create a timeline: a sequential summary of what happens.



# A Letter to the Author

Did you enjoy the book or not? Do you have a burning question to ask about one of the characters, or perhaps you would like to know what inspired the setting of the book? Write a letter to the author and ask all the questions you have been wondering about.

Make sure you set your letter out as in the example below and remember that formal letters to people we don't know, but know the name of, should end 'Yours sincerely'.

Your street goes here

Your town or city goes here

Your state goes here

Your postcode or zip code goes here

If you know the author's address, write their name here

Write the author's street here

The author's town or city goes here

The author's state (or county) goes here

The author's postcode or zip code goes here

The date goes here

(At last!) Dear \_\_\_\_\_

Yours sincerely

(Now leave 7 lines for your signature)

Your name is printed here