

Read Ch7&8: Characterisation

Lesson 6

LO: to understand characterisation.

To apply your knowledge of characterisation to a character in Skellig

Answer the questions underneath each passage.

I thought he was dead. He was sitting with his legs stretched out, and his head tipped back against the wall. He was covered in dust and webs like everything else and his face was thin and pale. Dead bluebottles were scattered on his hair and shoulders. I shone the torch on his white face and his black suit.

1. Write down four adjectives that are used to describe Skellig's appearance.
2. Explain why these adjectives help you imagine what Skellig looks like.

His face was pale as dry plaster. His black suit hung like a sack on his thin bones.

3. Write down four nouns that are used to describe Skellig

Similes

To describe a character effectively, writers also use similes to help the reader picture the character. Read the following passage and see if you can spot the similes:

I put the tray down on the floor beside him and shone the torch on him. There were hundreds of tiny creases and cracks all over his pale face. A few fine colourless hairs grew on his chin. The red sauce below his lips was like congealed blood. When he opened his eyes again, I saw the tiny red veins like a dark net across the whites of his eyes. There was a smell of dust, old clothes, dry sweat.

1. Copy out the two similes from the passage above and illustrate them.
2. Choose one of the similes and explain how it helps you picture Skellig.

Questions on chapter 7.

1. What two things does the man eat while Michael is watching him?
2. What two things does the man want from Michael?
3. Find the two similes used to describe the man's appearance.
4. Did the man like Ernie Myers? How do you know?
5. What impression do you get of the man?
6. Who does Michael meet at the end of the chapter?

Questions on chapter 8.

7. What are 27 and 53?
8. What reason does Michael give for not letting his dad eat his leftovers?
9. What does his father eat instead?
10. How do you know Michael's mum is worried about him?
11. Why do you think Michael's mum is worried about him?
12. What does Michael do with the take-away?

Answers

- 1) A spider and a bluebottle/fly (2 marks)
- 2) Aspirin, 27 and 53 (1 mark)
- 3) "His face was as dry plaster" and "His black suit hung like a sack on his thin bones" (1 mark for each)
- 4) No. Quote: "That old git? Coughing his guts and spewing everywhere?" (2 marks - no marks at all without a quote)
- 5) Any of the following(2 marks - nothing without a reason why):

Impression	Why
He is rude or wants to be left alone	He keeps telling Michael to go away / the way he talks about Ernie Myers
He is ill or in pain	He has a cracked, squeaky voice / he wants aspirin
He is unhappy	He doesn't smile when he laughs / he sighs like he's sick to death of everything

- 6) Mina (1 mark)
- 7) Spring rolls and pork char sui (1 mark)
- 8) He says he will get fat: "You'll get fat" (2 marks for a comment and a quote, nothing for one or the other)
- 9) A bottle of beer and a big lump of cheese (2 marks for both, nothing for one or the other)
- 10) She tried to pay him attention and asked him what he'd been doing: "She tried to make a fuss of me and kept asking about the journey and about school" (2 marks from a good comment supported by a quote, nothing for one or the other)
- 11) Mum knows Michael is feeling left out because of the baby and he misses his old home.
- 12) He tips it in the take-away tin and puts it in the outside bin so that he can take it to the man in the garage later (2 marks for what he does and an explanation, nothing for one or the other)

Additional task - Descriptive Writing

You are now going to invent your own mysterious character. Use the ideas below to help you and try to use a variety of interesting nouns, adjectives and verbs. You should also try to use at least one simile.

Make notes on the following:

Face
Body

Clothes
Eating Habits

Speech

Once you have planned your mysterious character, write a paragraph describing your character to someone who has never seen it. Try to describe the character as carefully and accurately as possible.

Once you have done this re-draft your work carefully and illustrate it.

You could begin with the sentence:

I thought he/she was dead...

Chapter nine: Mina

LO: Recap on Characterisation and apply our knowledge to the character of Mina.

What does Chapter Nine reveal about Mina?

“She was in a tree”

“She had a book and a pencil in her hand”

“She was little and she had hair as black as coal and the kind of eyes you think can see right through you.”

“You’ve scared it away. Typical.”

“She opened her book”

“**Do you like birds? [...] Do you like drawing?**”

“Drawing makes you look at the world more closely”

“I look forward to seeing you again. I’d also like to see your baby sister if that can be arranged.”

Explain what the quotations tell us about Mina. Write a list of adjectives that could describe Mina.

Lesson 8

Read Chapter 10

Analysing a text:

- What do you think the following quote about Skellig shows?

'The red sauce trickled down from his lips, down over his chin on to his black jacket.'

- He was Hungry?
- He had no table manners?
- Something else
- If you think he was hungry, find me another quote to support that idea.
- If you think he had no table manners, why do you think he has none?
- If you think something else... what?

Using Point, Evidence, and Explanation (PEE)

- When you are writing about a text or discussing a text it is very important that you use quotes to back up what you are saying.
- Using PEE is a way of writing about a text making sure that you include **textual evidence**.

'The red sauce trickled down from his lips, down over his chin on to his black jacket'

Point

We know that Skellig had no table manners and was a messy eater as it says in the book:

Evidence

'The red sauce trickled down from his lips, down over his chin on to his black jacket.' (Page 27)

This shows that he eats in a disgusting way and gets food all over himself. It could be because he is in a rush to get food as he hasn't eaten for a long time, or perhaps he is not used to other people watching him eat.

Explanation

Identify the point, evidence and explanation.

Michael thinks that Skellig smells awful. We know this because it says in the book: 'I tried not to breathe, not to smell him.' (page 29) Even though Michael is helping Skellig he doesn't want to smell the horrible smell coming from him.

Identify the point, evidence and explanation.

(Point) Michael thinks that Skellig smells awful. We know this because it says in the book: (Evidence) 'I tried not to breathe, not to smell him.' (page 29)
(Explanation) Even though Michael is helping Skellig he doesn't want to smell the horrible smell coming from him.

Copy the following down to help you use Point / Evidence / Explanation (PEE)

- Point - What does the quote show in very simple terms?
- Evidence - This is a quote taken from the text to prove or support what it is that you are saying.
- Explanation - This is where you give a more detailed explanation of the point. It is good to include your own personal opinion here.

Your turn to PEE on Skellig

- Use one of the following quotes and analyse it using PEE.
 - "The red sauce below his lips was like congealed blood."
 - "He belched again. His breath stank." (page 28)
 - "'I'm nearly nobody,' he said." (page 29)

Ch10: Characterisation of Skellig continued from Chapter 8...

He dipped his finger in. He licked his finger and groaned. He stuck his finger in again and hooked a long slimy string of beansprouts and sauce. He stuck his tongue out and licked. He slurped out pieces of pork and mushrooms. He shoved the spring rolls into his mouth. The red sauce trickled down from his lips, down over his chin on to his black jacket.

4. Write down five verbs which describe how Skellig eats the Chinese takeaway.
5. Why do you think the author has chosen these verbs? How do they help you to imagine Skellig eating?
6. Which verb, in particular, really emphasises the sound of Skellig's eating (an example of onomatopoeia)?



Skellig

When you have finished Chapter 10, use the information in Chapters 7 - 10 to draw an outline of the creature in the garage. Inside the outline write language and phrases from the text which describe him. Outside the figure write things he might say.

You should have already collected this information from your work in Chapters 8 and 10.

Lesson 9

Read Chapters 11 and 12

Active reading

Think about: why is Michael's dad looking for the aspirin significant?

Using Chapter 12 – Class discussion.
Find quotations to support the following statements:

- The family doctor is given an ominous name.
- Michael's mum loses her temper.
- Michael's mum breaks into tears.
- Michael's dad tries to convince his son that everything will be well.
- Angels are referred to, hinting at death.
- Skeletons are also referred to, yet again suggesting death.
- Michael's mum tries to be cheerful for Michael.

Individual activity.

Think about how Michael's mum is feeling in chapter 12. Write a feeling and then include a quotation to show how you know this. Use the prompt sheet to help you (Use the discussion from the previous slide to help you).

Skellig Chapter 12 Michael's Mum

How is Michael's mum feeling in Chapter 12? Fill in the boxes below to describe her feelings, then find a quotation in the text to show how you know this.

Feeling:

Quotation:

Feeling:

Quotation:



Feeling:

Quotation:

Feeling:

Quotation:

Starter: Translate these phrases into their literal meaning:

Were you born in a barn? _____

A penny for your thoughts _____

Behind bars _____

Difficulty making ends meet _____

Half-baked idea _____

The sky's the limit _____

Spit it out _____

Have 40 winks _____

You can't just sit like you're waiting to die.

My arms were aching and my skin was stinging. Dust and pollen clogged my nose and throat. I crawled through the weeds, dug down into the earth, slashed and pulled at the stems. I dreamed of the baby crawling out here. She was strong and she kept on giggling and pointing at the birds. Then I saw how close to the garage I had crawled and I thought of the man in there, how he just sat there, how he seemed to be just waiting to die.

I stood up and went to the garage door. I stood listening. There was nothing but the usual scuttling and scratching.

'You can't just sit there! I called. 'You can't just sit there like you're waiting to die!'

There was no answer. I stood listening.

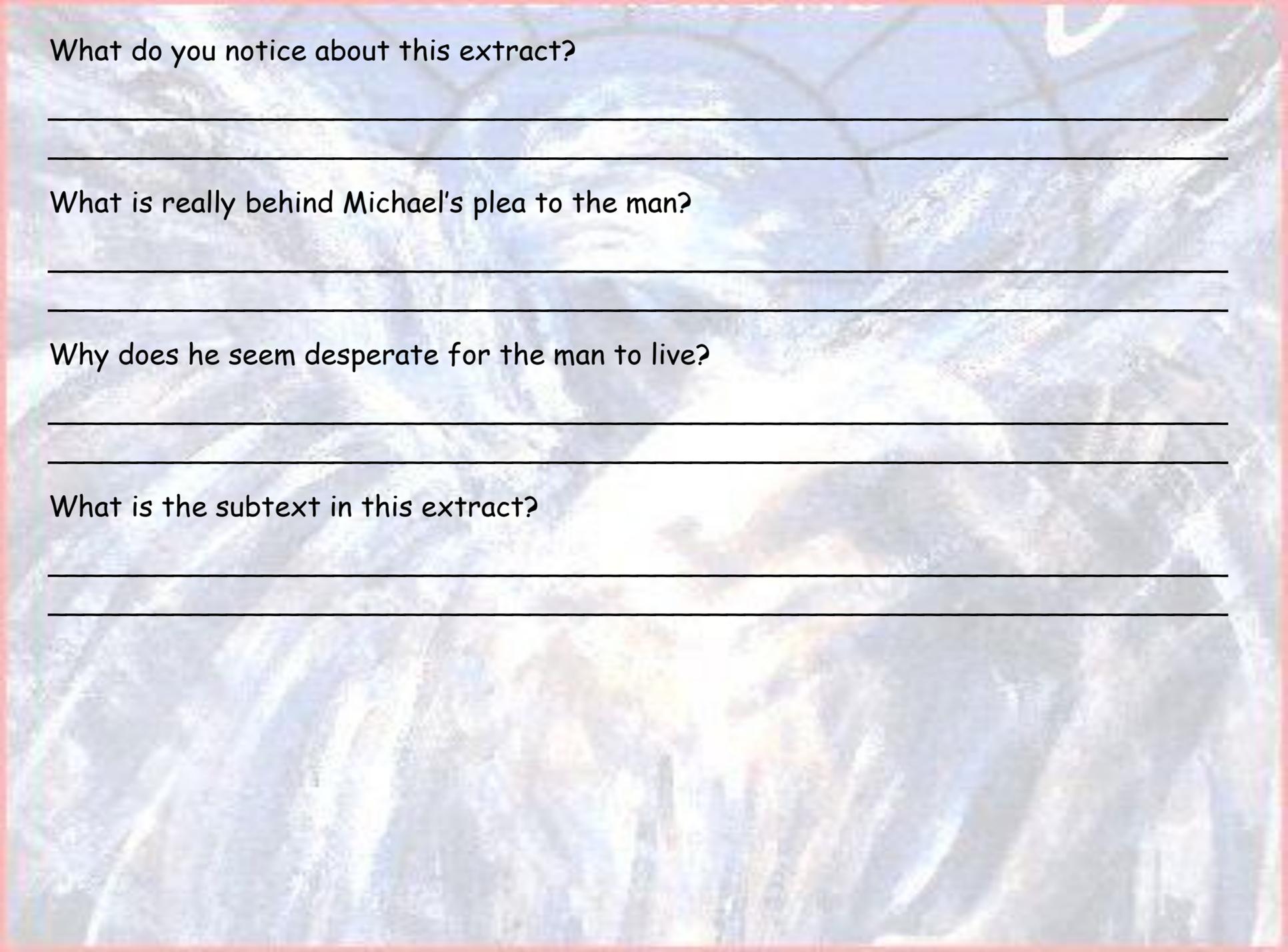
'You can't!' I said

No answer.

Highlight all the words that you associate with darkness, struggling and negativity in grey.

Highlight all the words associated with light and happiness in yellow.

Answer the following questions.
Extension: Try and use PEE



What do you notice about this extract?

What is really behind Michael's plea to the man?

Why does he seem desperate for the man to live?

What is the subtext in this extract?

Lesson 10 – part 2

Read Chapters 15 and 16

Answer the comprehension questions on Chapters 11 – 16.

Skellig Comprehension: chapters 11 – 16

Chapter 11

1. What does Rasputin say humans evolved from?
2. What does Michael tell Mrs Dando he is worried about?
3. What story does Miss Clarts tell the class about?

Chapter 12

1. Who is at home when Michael gets back from school?
2. What does Dad say has to happen to the baby?
3. What does Michael's mum say shoulder blades are?

Chapter 13

1. Where does Mina take Michael?
2. Who comes with them?
3. What is in the attic?
4. What does Mina make Michael promise?

Chapter 14

1. What does Michael's Dad suggest that morning?
2. What does Michael do while his Dad is painting?
3. Where do Michael and his Dad go in the afternoon?
4. What are Michael and his Dad having for supper?

Chapter 15

1. Where is Mina educated?
2. What do we find out about Mina's dad?
3. What does Michael show Mina how to do?

Chapter 16

1. Who does Michael go to visit just before dawn?
2. How did the man find out about 27 and 53?
3. What else does he ask for?
4. Who does Michael want to get help from?

Skellig Comprehension answers: chapters 11 – 16

Answers

Chapter 11

- 1 Apes / monkeys.
- 2 He thinks that sometimes the baby stops breathing.
- 3 Polyphemus and Ulysses.

Chapter 12

- 1 Doctor Death.
- 2 She has to go back into hospital.
- 3 They are where our wings were when we were angels, and where they will grow again one day.

Chapter 13

- 1 A boarded-up house in Crow Road.
- 2 Whisper, the cat.
- 3 A nest of owls.
- 4 To tell no-one.

Chapter 14

- 1 That Michael stays off school.
- 2 He starts to clear the weeds in the garden.
- 3 The hospital, to see the baby.
- 4 Chinese takeaway – 27 and 53.

Chapter 15

- 1 At home.
- 2 He died before she was born.
- 3 Hoot like an owl.

Chapter 16

- 1 The man in the garage.
- 2 He heard Ernie ordering it on the phone.
- 3 Brown ale.
- 4 Mina.