

Slide the Corner

By Fleur Beale



Name:

How to study a novel

When looking at a text we need to study...

- **Character**
Usually a person created by the author.
Characters behave in certain ways to reveal something about human nature.
- **Plot**
The events in the story linked together to show what happens to the characters.
- **Setting**
The time and place in which the events of the plot take place.
- **Theme**
The ideas which the author wants you to think about as you study the text.
- **Important Events**
In a novel there are usually a few significant events that help develop the themes and the characters.

Checklist

As you read through the novel make sure you have completed all the following assignments.

- Pre-reading questions
- Chapter comprehension questions
- Plot summary fill in the gaps worksheet
- Response to text worksheet
- Greg's character profile
- Greg's character evidence worksheet
- Essay on Greg's character
- Mr Mannering character worksheet
- Mr Mannering character essay
- Minor character's brainstorm worksheet
- Theme questions
- Theme essay
- Conflict page
- Important events page
- Important quote page
- Essay test

Pre-Reading Questions

1. Do you enjoy reading?
2. What are the titles of some novels have you have read before?
3. Have you ever been called “Thick”. How did this make you feel?
4. Do you have hidden talents? What are they?
5. Do you this school recognises non-academic talents? (talents that aren't to do with school work).
6. What do you want to do when you leave school?

Chapter comprehension questions

Chapters One and Two

1. What is Greg (the narrator) like?
2. Who are the members of Greg's family?
3. What important decision does Greg make?

Chapters Three, Four and Five

1. Who are the Chattertons?
2. What are they like? (Give at least THREE examples)
3. How is Greg's job problem solved?
4. What is Greg's objection to Brad teaching him to drive better?
5. How does Brad change Greg's mind?

Chapters Six, Seven, Eight, Nine and Ten

1. What does Greg say to try and convince his parents that he should become a mechanic?
2. What happens when Greg's parents visit Brad and Holly's house?
3. What is Brad and Holly's new baby called?
4. What happens at the garage while Brad is visiting Holly in the hospital?
5. How does Greg get all the gear he needs for rallying?

Chapters Eleven, Twelve and Thirteen

1. Who is Megan and what is she like?
2. Why does Brad slow down when he sees the group of spectators?
3. Who are the teams that Brad wants to beat?

4. Who is Mr Shepherd and why is he interested in rallying?

Chapters Fourteen, Fifteen and Sixteen

1. How does Greg help Holly?

2. What does Greg offer to do for his dad?

3. How do Brad and Greg go in the rally?

4. How can Greg afford to buy the mini?

5. Greg plans to drive his mini in a rally. Who does he get to help him?

6. What happens on the road to Auckland?

Chapters Seventeen, Eighteen, Nineteen and Twenty

1. How does Greg go in the first rally he drives himself?

2. How does Greg's dad stand up for him?
3. What is Greg going to do when he leaves school at the end of the year?
4. What is the problem with the sponsorship?
5. Who goes with Greg to watch the international rally?

The End of the Book

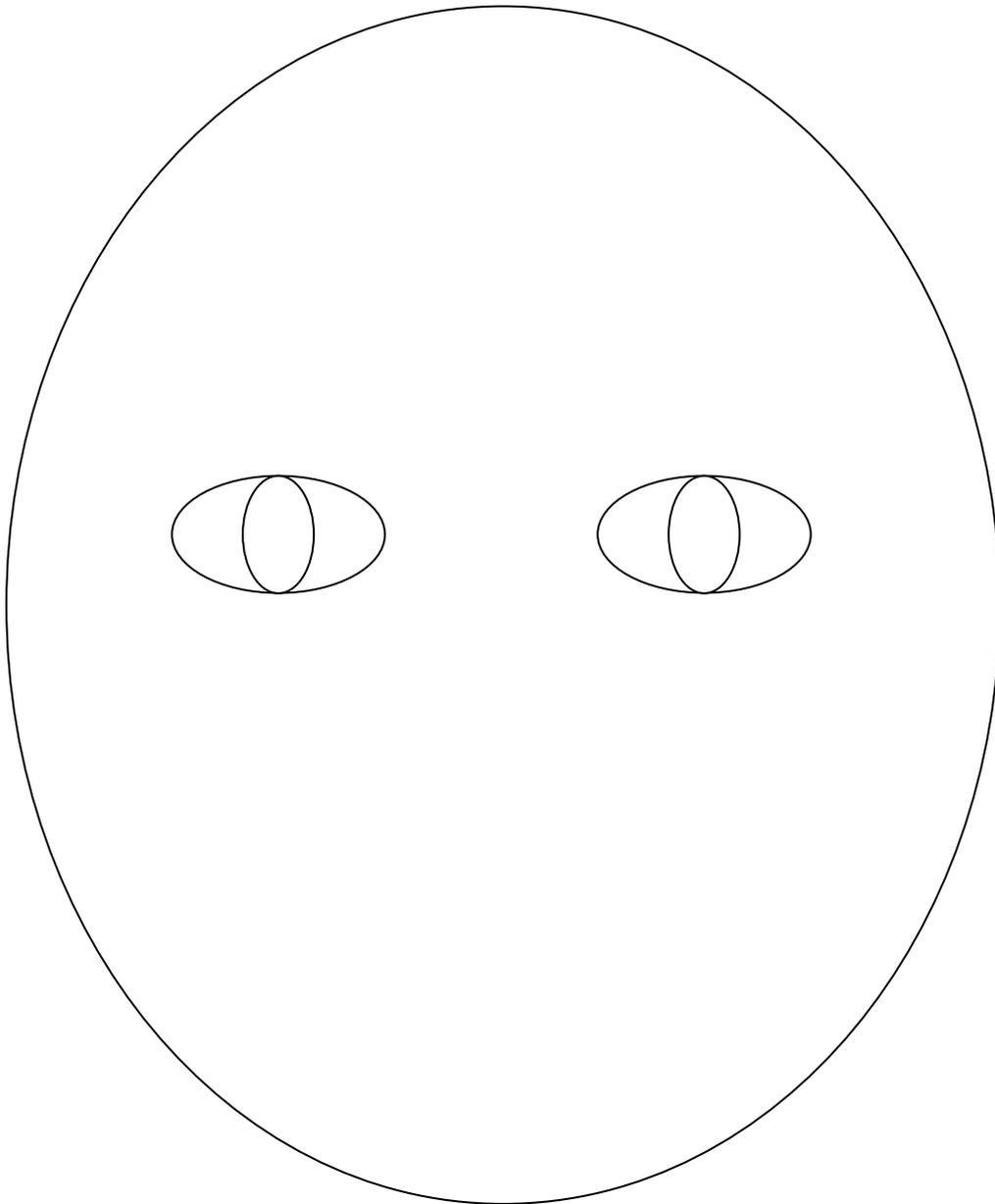
1. What does Greg get for his birthday?
2. Why does Greg get a chance to drive in the national rally?
3. How are Brad and Greg going to be able to afford to upgrade the car?
4. How does the novel end happily for Greg?
5. How has Greg's relationship with his dad changed?

Plot summary

Cut up the mixed up plot and glue it in the right order:

Greg's character profile

Complete the face from the description of Greg on page two.
Around the face write adjectives that describe Greg's character.



Greg's Character

Complete the following table by finding evidence from the novel to back up each point.

Qualities and Characteristics	Evidence from the novel
Not good at school subjects	
Likes cars	
Is good at mechanical things	
Friendly and helpful	
Enjoys rallying	
Learns to stand up for himself	

Character paragraphs: Greg

Use the SEER structure to write some paragraphs about the Greg.

Statement: Greg was not good at school work.

Explanation: By this I mean _____
_____.

Example: This is shown in the text when _____

_____.

Refer back: This was important because _____
_____.

2nd Paragraph

Statement: Greg learnt that he had talents of his own.

Explanation: By this I mean _____
_____.

Example: This is shown in the text when _____

_____.

Refer back: This was important because _____
_____.

Mr Mannering

Brainstorm some characteristics of Mr Mannering's character.
Find evidence from the novel to support your ideas.

Qualities and Characteristics	Evidence from the novel

Character paragraphs: Mr Mannering

Use the SEER structure to write some paragraphs about the Mr Mannering.

Statement: One of the reasons Mr Mannering was important was _____

Explanation: By this I mean _____
_____.

Example: This is shown in the text when _____

Refer back: This was important because _____

2nd Paragraph

Statement: Another reason Mr Mannering was important was _____

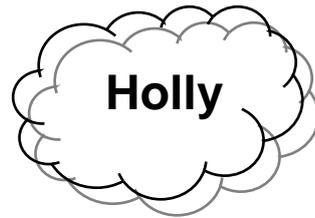
Explanation: By this I mean _____
_____.

Example: This is shown in the text when _____

Refer back: This was important because _____

Minor characters

Brainstorm characteristics of the following minor characters.



4. Greg's dad also learns a lesson in the novel. What is this?

5. Find TWO specific examples from the novel that show that Greg's dad has learnt his lesson.

- Example One:

- Example Two:

6. An important idea in the novel is that **everyone is good at different things**. Find THREE examples from the book that prove this idea.

- Example One:

- Example Two:

- Example Three:

Why is this idea important in the novel? Give TWO reasons .

Conflict

An author will often use conflict to demonstrate important ideas and to show us things about the characters.

The biggest conflict in '*Slide the Corner*' is between Greg and his parents (especially his dad).

Summarise what happens in this conflict:

Find some quotes in the novel that show this conflict taking place:

What ideas does this conflict help us to learn about?

What does this conflict show about the characters?

Important Events

A novel often centres around a few major events that shape and develop the plot. '*Slide the Corner*' could be seen as centring around the following list of events.

For each event write why this is significant in the story:

- Greg sees the Cosworth
- Greg helps Holly with her tyre
- Greg's first day working for Brad
- Greg's parents come to see Brad and Holly
- Greg drives in his first rally
- Greg buys his mini
- Greg's family travel to Auckland
- Greg drives the mini in the rally
- The final rally
- The end of the novel

Important quotes to remember

As you work through the workbook write down the important quotes from the novel that will help you with your essays.

“your son has a real flair for machinery”

“He’s good tempered and considerate”

“I dreamed of being a rally driver”

I was good. I could learn”

“...I can’t learn. I’m dumb”

“...Dad might respect me more if I stand up for myself”

“I’ve listened to you for over 16 years. Telling me I’m thick, I’m no good, I’m useless.”

I was the dumb one in a family of brains

Thick as crude oil

Why couldn’t I be like them?

I’m thick. And dumb. And stupid.

I wanted to be a rally driver. A dream. An impossible dream.

This was my life. Not theirs. I’d do it my way.

You might find your dad respects you a bit more if you stand up for yourself.

I can't learn

Your brother and sister sound like they're good at certain things, while you're good at something different

They liked me and wanted to be friends with me. Me. Not just anybody. Me.

You want me to be brainy- good at exams. I'm not. I never will be, and I'm not going to waste my life trying.

You're lucky my son is such a good driver

He hadn't called me thick in ages

I reckon I'd slid around the corner and now I was off up the straight.