

# Year 7 Autumn Term Workbook

## Fantasy Fiction

Core Text: 'Coraline'



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This term, you will be building on your reading and writing skills. You will read and study a fantasy novel called 'Coraline'. This is a story about an adventurous young girl who enters a parallel world and demonstrates bravery and resilience to overcome evil. You will also develop your own descriptive writing using your knowledge of the fantasy genre.

### **Reading Skills**

- Retrieve explicit information from a fiction text
- Develop inferences
- Identify specific words and phrases to describe a character
- Explain the effects of a writer's choice of language
- Use quotations and subject terminology to comment on how a writer describes a character.
- Consider writer's purpose

### **Writing Skills**

- Use a range of effective and appropriate vocabulary and imagery in to describe a character.

### **By the end of Autumn 1, you will know:**

- Features of the fantasy genre (including setting, characters, themes and plots)
- Key vocabulary related to the genre
- Character types – protagonist
- Subject terminology to identify language (adjective, verb, noun, adverb, imagery, simile, metaphor)
- The concept of a quotation
- The concept of tension
- The purpose of an epigraph
- The plot of a full-length novel and its key characters, settings and themes.
- The concept of writer's purpose

### **By the end of Autumn 2, you will know:**

- Typical villainous characters from the fantasy genre
- A range of effective vocabulary related to the genre
- The success criteria for describing a character (adverbs, precise verbs, adjectives, imagery)



## Quick starters

Whilst waiting for your teacher to be ready, choose one of the activities to complete in your book. You can complete these in any order.

1. Use your knowledge organiser to write out the definitions of the terminology in section 1	2. Copy out each word and say whether it is an adjective or verb: Afraid: Crept: Sinister:	3. Write down three things that you learned last lesson.	4. Explain the fantasy genre in exactly ten words.
5. Think of three questions you would ask the other mother if you met her.	6. Write out the alphabet. Think of a word or phrase to do with the fantasy genre for each letter.	7. Explain the difference between the fantasy and horror genre.	8. Learn/cover/write and check the definitions of five of the key words on your KO.
9. Use 3 key words from your KO in a sentence.	10. Look back to last lesson's Lesson Enquiry. Answer the question in two sentences.	11. Think of three questions you would ask Neil Gaiman if you met him.	12. Choose five key words from your KO and spell them incorrectly. See if your partner can correct them.
13. Explain the story of Coraline so far in five bullet points.	14. Think about where we are in the novel. Give Coraline 3 pieces of advice that she might need.	15. Write down three questions you have about the story so far. See if your partner can answer them.	16. Explain the difference between SHOWING and TELLING.
17. Think of three adjectives to describe Coraline so far. Explain your choices in your own words.	18. What do Voldemort and the other mother have in common?	19. Imagine there was a portal to a parallel world at Harrow High. Where would it be? Explain your choice.	20. Explain why someone should read 'Coraline' in fifteen words.

## **Lesson Enquiry**

### **What is English at HHS?**

**Answer the questions in full sentences**

- 1.What was your favourite subject at primary school and why?
- 2.What books did you read in primary school?
- 3.What was your favourite book in primary school?
- 4.Do you have a favourite author and, if so, why?
- 5.Do you read in your own time and, if so, what do you like to read?
- 6.What is your favourite genre (e.g. horror) of book?
- 7.Do you like writing stories?
- 8.Did you read poems in primary school?
- 9.Have you ever written a poem and, if so, what was it about?
- 10.What sorts of things do you think you will be learning about in English at HHS?

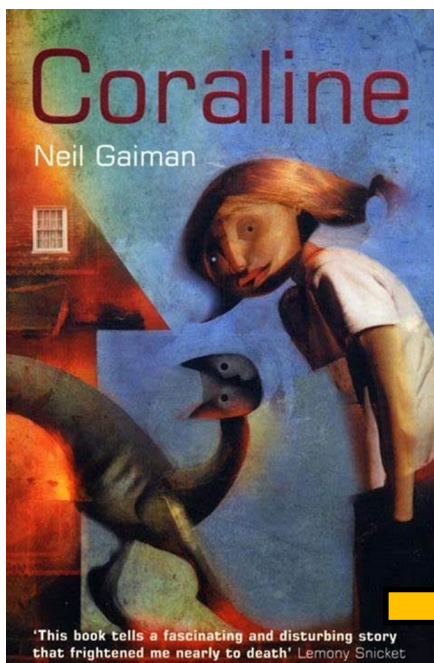
11. In English lessons, is there anything that you are worried about?

12. What do you like to do outside of school?

13. Is there anything you would like your English teacher to know before they start teaching you?

### In English at HHS, you can look forward to...

- Studying challenging novels, plays and poems
- Writing your own poems and stories
- Read and write speeches, articles and letters
- Interesting debates and discussions
- Learning the language of Shakespeare
- Theatre trips (STOMP, Peter Pan, A Monster Calls, Charlie and the Chocolate Factory)
- Cinema trips
- EAL Conversation Club
- Access to lots of brand new books (come to the English office at lunch and break if you'd like to borrow one)



The first novel you will study is 'Coraline'. It is a fantasy novel with elements of horror.

1. Have you ever read Coraline?
2. Have you ever read a fantasy novel?
3. Have you ever read a horror novel?

"This book tells a fascinating and disturbing story that frightened me nearly to death" - **Lemony Snicket**

## Lesson Enquiry

### What are literary genres and how do we identify them?

Literary genres are categories or types of literature.

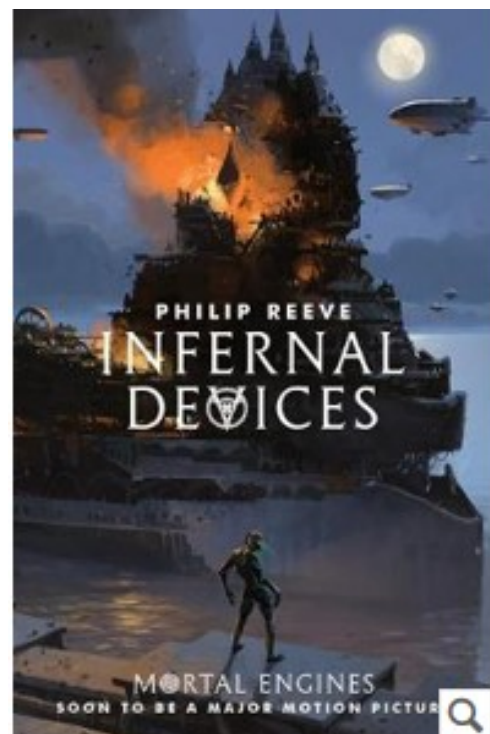
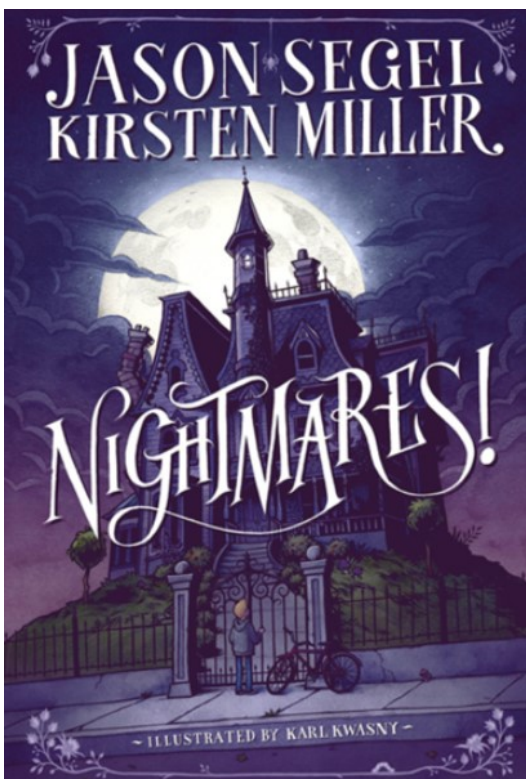
What genres do we know? Discuss as a class and make a list below:

Literary genres have features. Features help us to identify the type of novel we are reading.

They might include:

- Characters
- Settings
- Plot devices
- Types of language

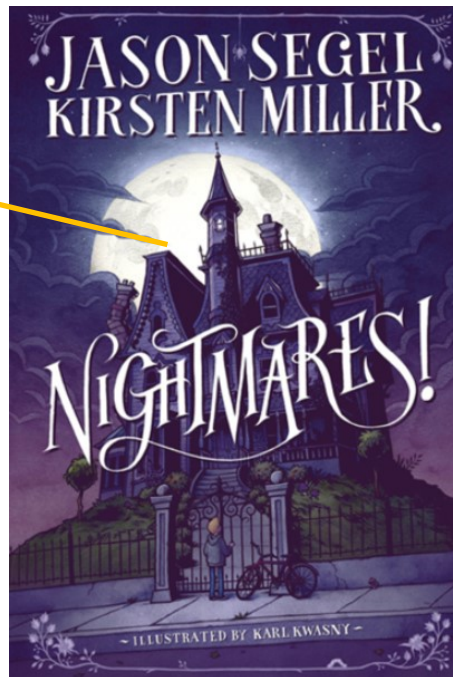
Look at the front covers of the two novels below. What genres do you think they are? How do you know? Discuss in pairs, then as a class.



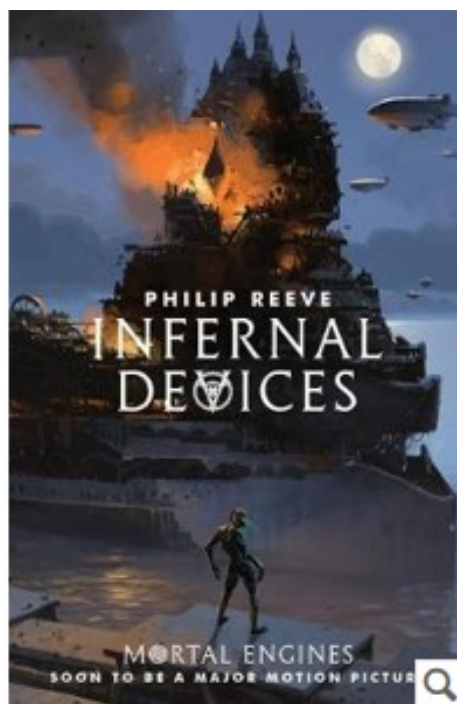
During our class discussion, annotate each image with our notes.

Genre: \_\_\_\_\_

*Full moon is associated  
with werewolves and  
the supernatural*



Genre: \_\_\_\_\_



Complete the table with **features** of these **genres**.

Genre	Characters	Settings	Themes	Language
<u>Horror</u>				
<u>Science-Fiction</u>				

Read the extract from a novel below. What **genre** might it be? How do you know?

The star was classified as an A7 on the Morgan-Keenan system, hotter and brighter than the G2-class star which humans had evolved under. At two and a half AUs out, where Zoreia orbited, Nigel Sheldon had to wear sunglasses; not even his modified green eyes could cope with the sharper light of his new world's sun.

He reached the top of a gentle rise, where he could see the lush green of terrestrial grass sweeping out across the landscape in all directions. Grass was always the easy part of terraforming a new world. After Zoreia's land had been seed-bombed, the colonists had waited thirty years for the roots and microbes and insects and worms and dead leaves to generate a deep enough layer of soil before starting on larger plants. Nigel stared at the forests that had spread out across the rumpled ground. Birds flocked among the higher branches, their nests safe from the predatory animals that stalked between the trunks. Now that the biosphere was complete, they were slowly introducing more sophisticated animals.

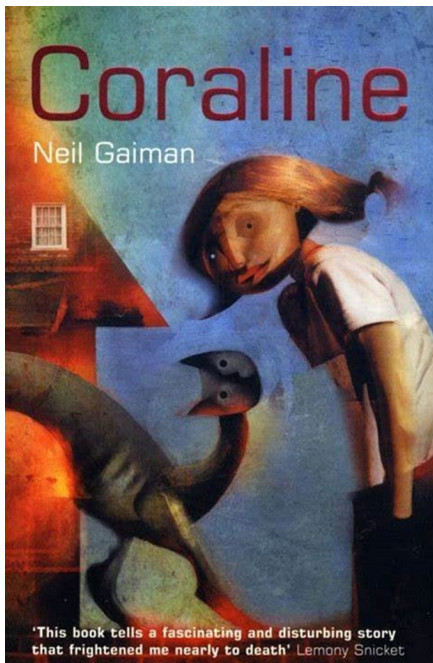
Zoreia was a modest triumph, given that only two hundred and fifty years ago, when the fleet of colony starships had come thundering into the star system, it had been an airless, barren rock. They had achieved so much, and not just on the planet. Oran and Bourke, two of the huge city habitats, were visible in the clear topaz sky, orbiting a hundred and fifty thousand kilometres out, far above the two small moons they'd manoeuvred into orbit to create some spectacular tides.

### Because, but, so...

This extract could be taken from a science-fiction novel because.... \_\_\_\_\_

This extract could be taken from a science-fiction novel, but... \_\_\_\_\_

This extract could be taken from a science-fiction novel, so... \_\_\_\_\_



1. Can you remember who and what the novel, 'Coraline' is about?

2. Can you remember which genre/s it conforms to?

3. What do you already know about the **fantasy** genre? Mind map your ideas below. You can use the prompts at the side of the page.

Characters?

Settings?

Themes?

Plot lines?

**Fantasy genre**

## Lesson Enquiry

What are the features of the fantasy genre?

### Knowledge Review

1. What is the definition of 'literary genre'?

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2. What might we use to identify the genre of a text?

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3. What are some typical characters of the horror genre?

---

4. In which genre would you expect to read about a spaceship?

---

5. In which genre might you expect to encounter a ghost?

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Remember that 'genre' is different to 'form'.

Form give shape to writing (play, poem, novel), but genre dictates its contents (setting, theme, character, plot)

Ask your teacher to explain this if you are unsure of the difference.

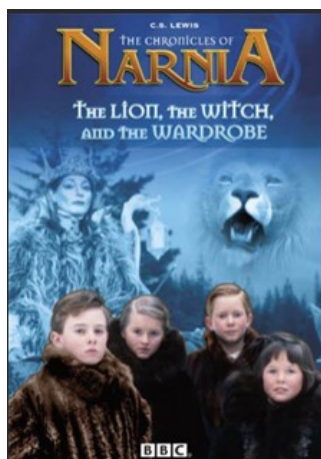
Watch one trailer for each of these films based on fantasy novels. Make notes about the types of **characters**, **settings** and **themes** of these stories.



Characters:

Settings:

Themes:



Characters:

Settings:

Themes:



Characters:

Settings:

Themes:

1. Complete the table with the features of the fantasy genre.

Genre	Characters	Settings	Themes	Language
<b>Fantasy</b>				

2. Which of these would you NOT expect to see in a fantasy novel?

- a talking animal
- a mythical creature
- a serious detective
- an old man with magic powers



1. What can you see in this image?

2. How might you infer that this image is taken from a fantasy novel?

***'The Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe' by C.S. Lewis was written in 1950. It is a story about a group of siblings who have been evacuated to a large country house in England during World War Two. They step through a wardrobe and discover a fantasy world, where an evil white witch rules the land of Narnia, creating a permanent Winter. The children join forces with Narnia's true ruler—the great lion, 'Aslan' to battle the witches army. Lucy, the youngest of the children is the first to enter the world of Narnia, where she meets Mr Tumnus, a magical faun. You are about to watch and then read this extract from the novel.***

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=gwuqA1Ys9Zo>

Watch the video and note down anything that happens that suggests this is a fantasy story:

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 



**Read the extract as a class. Don't forget to make notes as your teacher explains tricky vocabulary etc.**

Looking into the inside, she saw several coats hanging up - mostly long fur coats. There was nothing Lucy liked so much as the smell and feel of fur. She immediately stepped into the wardrobe and got in among the coats and rubbed her face against them, leaving the door open, of course, because she knew that it is very foolish to shut oneself into any wardrobe. Soon she went further in and found that there was a second row of coats hanging up behind the first one. It was almost quite dark in there and she kept her arms stretched out in front of her so as not to bump her face into the back of the wardrobe. She took a step further in - then two or three steps always expecting to feel woodwork against the tips of her fingers. But she could not feel it.

"This must be a simply enormous wardrobe!" thought Lucy, going still further in and pushing the soft folds of the coats aside to make room for her. Then she noticed that there was something crunching under her feet. "I wonder is that more mothballs?" she thought, stooping down to feel it with her hand. But instead of feeling the hard, smooth wood of the floor of the wardrobe, she felt something soft and powdery and extremely cold. "This is very queer," she said, and went on a step or two further.

Next moment she found that what was rubbing against her face and hands was no longer soft fur but something hard and rough and even prickly. "Why, it is just like branches of trees!" exclaimed Lucy. And then she saw that there was a light ahead of her; not a few inches away where the back of the wardrobe ought to have been, but a long way off. Something cold and soft was falling on her. A moment later she found that she was standing in the middle of a wood at night-time with snow under her feet and snowflakes falling through the air.

Lucy felt a little frightened, but she felt very inquisitive and excited as well. She looked back over her shoulder and there, between the dark tree trunks; she could still see the open doorway of the wardrobe and even catch a glimpse of the empty room from which she had set out. (She had, of course, left the door open, for she knew that it is a very silly thing to shut oneself into a wardrobe.) It seemed to be still daylight there. "I can always get back if anything goes wrong," thought Lucy. She began to walk forward, crunchcrunch over the snow and through the wood towards the other light.

minutes she reached it and found it was a lamp-post. As she stood looking at it, wondering why there was a lamp-post in the middle of a wood and wondering what to do next, she heard a pitter patter of feet coming towards her. And soon after that a very strange person stepped out from among the trees into the light of the lamp-post.

He was only a little taller than Lucy herself and he carried over his head an umbrella, white with snow. From the waist upwards he was like a man, but his legs were shaped like a goat's (the hair on them was glossy black) and instead of feet he had goat's hoofs. He also had a tail, but Lucy did not notice this at first because it was neatly caught up over the arm that held the umbrella so as to keep it from trailing in the snow. He had a red woollen muffler round his neck and his skin was rather reddish too. He had a strange, but pleasant little face, with a short pointed beard and curly hair, and out of the hair there stuck two horns, one on each side of his forehead. One of his hands, as I have said, held the umbrella: in the other arm he carried several brown-paper parcels. What with the parcels and the snow it looked just as if he had been doing his Christmas shopping. He was a Faun. And when he saw Lucy he gave such a start of surprise that he dropped all his parcels.

"Goodness gracious me!" exclaimed the Faun.

1. Read the first paragraph. Find a quote that suggests there is something unusual about the wardrobe.

2. Read the second paragraph. Find a quote which makes the reader feel **tense**.

3. Write down two things you find out about the new place that Lucy has found herself in.

4. Find three **adjectives** from the fourth paragraph that tell you how Lucy feels.

5. What is unusual about the place that Lucy has arrived in?

6. Find three quotes which describe the Faun's **appearance**.

7. Summarise the faun's appearance in your own words.

8. How do you know that the faun was surprised to see Lucy?

**Lesson Enquiry: What are the features of the fantasy genre?**

Because, but, so...

This extract is clearly from a fantasy novel because \_\_\_\_\_

Lucy appears to have no magic powers, but \_\_\_\_\_

After walking through the wardrobe, Lucy found herself in another world, so... \_\_\_\_\_

## Lesson Enquiry

Can you make inferences and select evidence to support these?

### Knowledge Review

1. What **characters** would you expect to find in a fantasy novel?  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. What **settings** would you expect to find in a fantasy novel?  
\_\_\_\_\_
3. What **themes** would you expect to find in a fantasy novel?  
\_\_\_\_\_
4. What is the name of the fantasy world that Lucy discovers when she walks through the wardrobe?  
What is this place like?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
5. Who does Lucy meet in this fantasy world?  
\_\_\_\_\_



A **portal** is a passage or entrance to another world (**a parallel world**). It is the gateway between the real world and the other fantasy world. In 'The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe', the wardrobe is the **portal** to Narnia.

Do you know any other stories with **portals** in them?

## Let's re-read the extract from last lesson

Looking into the inside, she saw several coats hanging up - mostly long fur coats. There was nothing Lucy liked so much as the smell and feel of fur. She immediately stepped into the wardrobe and got in among the coats and rubbed her face against them, leaving the door open, of course, because she knew that it is very foolish to shut oneself into any wardrobe. Soon she went further in and found that there was a second row of coats hanging up behind the first one. It was almost quite dark in there and she kept her arms stretched out in front of her so as not to bump her face into the back of the wardrobe. She took a step further in - then two or three steps always expecting to feel woodwork against the tips of her fingers. But she could not feel it.

"This must be a simply enormous wardrobe!" thought Lucy, going still further in and pushing the soft folds of the coats aside to make room for her. Then she noticed that there was something crunching under her feet. "I wonder is that more mothballs?" she thought, stooping down to feel it with her hand. But instead of feeling the hard, smooth wood of the floor of the wardrobe, she felt something soft and powdery and extremely cold. "This is very queer," she said, and went on a step or two further.

Next moment she found that what was rubbing against her face and hands was no longer soft fur but something hard and rough and even prickly. "Why, it is just like branches of trees!" exclaimed Lucy. And then she saw that there was a light ahead of her; not a few inches away where the back of the wardrobe ought to have been, but a long way off. Something cold and soft was falling on her. A moment later she found that she was standing in the middle of a wood at night-time with snow under her feet and snowflakes falling through the air.

Lucy felt a little frightened, but she felt very inquisitive and excited as well. She looked back over her shoulder and there, between the dark tree trunks; she could still see the open doorway of the wardrobe and even catch a glimpse of the empty room from which she had set out. (She had, of course, left the door open, for she knew that it is a very silly thing to shut oneself into a wardrobe.) It seemed to be still daylight there. "I can always get back if anything goes wrong," thought Lucy. She began to walk forward, crunchcrunch over the snow and through the wood towards the other light. In about ten minutes she reached it and found it was a lamp-post. As she stood looking at it, wondering why there was a lamp-post in the middle of a wood and wondering what to do next, she heard a pitter patter of feet coming towards her. And soon after that a very strange person stepped out from among the trees into the light of the lamp-post.

He was only a little taller than Lucy herself and he carried over his head an umbrella, white with snow. From the waist upwards he was like a man, but his legs were shaped like a goat's (the hair on them was glossy black) and instead of feet he had goat's hoofs. He also had a tail, but Lucy did not notice this at first because it was neatly caught up over the arm that held the umbrella so as to keep it from trailing in the snow. He had a red woollen muffler round his neck and his skin was rather reddish too. He had a strange, but pleasant little face, with a short pointed beard and curly hair, and out of the hair there stuck two horns, one on each side of his forehead. One of his hands, as I have said, held the umbrella: in the other arm he carried several brown-paper parcels. What with the parcels and the snow it looked just as if he had been doing his Christmas shopping. He was a Faun. And when he saw Lucy he gave such a start of surprise that he dropped all his parcels.

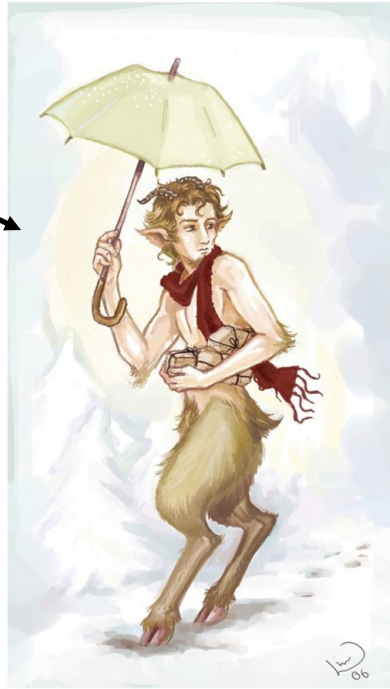
"Goodness gracious me!" exclaimed the Faun.

### Re-read the extract in the blue box.

1. **Who is being described here?**
2. **Highlight any words or phrases which tell you something about his appearance.**
3. **Highlight any words or phrases which tell you something about how he feels.**

1. What is a **quotation**?
2. What do you need to remember when you write a **quotation**?
3. Label the image of Mr Tumnus with short **quotations**.

"he carried over his head an umbrella, white with snow"



Quotation	Inference and interpretation
"A very strange person stepped out from among the trees"	This <b>suggests</b> that <b>Mr Tumnus is a peculiar looking character</b> because of the <b>word "strange"</b> .
"...out of the hair there stuck two horns, one on each side of his forehead."	This <b>emphasises</b> that Mr Tumnus is
"...when he saw Lucy he gave such a start of surprise that he dropped all his parcels."	This <b>implies</b> that Mr Tumnus is
"From the waist upwards he was like a man, but his legs were shaped like a goat's"	This <b>presents</b> Mr Tumnus as a

#### Subject Terminology

**Word/adjective/verb/noun/adverb**

**Image/metaphor/simile/personification**

#### Language of Interpretation (shows)

- **Portrays/presents/conveys**
- **Suggests/implies**
- **Highlights/emphasises**

## Lesson Enquiry

Can you make inferences and select evidence to support these?

1. Are these **inferences** and **interpretations** about Mr Tumnus true or false?

- A. Mr Tumnus is a very ordinary person. \_\_\_\_
- B. Mr Tumnus seems to be a magical or mythical creature. \_\_\_\_
- C. Mr Tumnus seems furious to see Lucy. \_\_\_\_

2. What do we mean by a **quotation**?

3. Next lesson we will be reading from an extract from another fantasy novel, 'The Wonderful Wizard of Oz'. What can you **infer** about this novel based on these images below? Note down your ideas below:

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 



## Lesson Enquiry

Can you use evidence and terminology to develop inferences?

### Knowledge Review

1. List three features of the fantasy genre (character/setting/theme)
2. What is a **portal** in fantasy fiction?
3. How could we infer that Mr Tumnus was a fantasy character?
3. What is a **quotation**?



‘The Wonderful Wizard of Oz’ is an American children's novel written by author L. Frank Baum. In the story, a little girl named Dorothy and her pet dog, Toto, get swept away into the Land of Oz by a Kansas tornado.

Look at the image and read the information next to it. How **might** we be able to **infer** that this is a fantasy novel?

#### Language of Interpretation (shows)

- Portrays/presents/conveys
- Suggests/implies
- Highlights/emphasises

**Read the extract as a class. Don't forget to make notes as your teacher explains tricky vocabulary etc.**

She was awakened by a shock, so sudden and severe that if Dorothy had not been lying on the soft bed she might have been hurt. As it was, the jar made her catch her breath and wonder what had happened; and Toto put his cold little nose into her face and whined dismally. Dorothy sat up and noticed that the house was not moving; nor was it dark, for the bright sunshine came in at the window, flooding the little room. She sprang from her bed and with Toto at her heels ran and opened the door.

The little girl gave a cry of amazement and looked about her, her eyes growing bigger and bigger at the wonderful sights she saw.

The cyclone had set the house down very gently—for a cyclone—in the midst of a country of marvellous beauty. There were lovely patches of greensward all about, with stately trees bearing rich and luscious fruits. Banks of gorgeous flowers were on every hand, and birds with rare and brilliant plumage sang and fluttered in the trees and bushes. A little way off was a small brook, rushing and sparkling along between green banks, and murmuring in a voice very grateful to a little girl who had lived so long on the dry, grey prairies.

While she stood looking eagerly at the strange and beautiful sights, she noticed coming toward her a group of the queerest people she had ever seen. They were not as big as the grown folk she had always been used to; but neither were they very small. In fact, they seemed about as tall as Dorothy, who was a well-grown child for her age, although they were, so far as looks go, many years older.

Three were men and one a woman, and all were oddly dressed. They wore round hats that rose to a small point a foot above their heads, with little bells around the brims that tinkled sweetly as they moved. The hats of the men were blue; the little woman's hat was white, and she wore a white gown that hung in pleats from her shoulders. Over it were sprinkled little stars that glistened in the sun like diamonds. The men were dressed in blue, of the same shade as their hats, and wore well-polished boots with a deep roll of blue at the tops. The men, Dorothy thought, were about as old as Uncle Henry, for two of them had beards. But the little woman was doubtless much older. Her face was covered with wrinkles, her hair was nearly white, and she walked rather stiffly.

When these people drew near the house where Dorothy was standing in the doorway, they paused and whispered among themselves, as if afraid to come farther. But the little old woman walked up to Dorothy, made a low bow and said, in a sweet voice:

"You are welcome, most noble Sorceress, to the land of the Munchkins. We are so grateful to you for having killed the Wicked Witch of the East, and for setting our people free from bondage."

Dorothy listened to this speech with wonder. What could the little woman possibly mean by calling her a sorceress, and saying she had killed the Wicked Witch of the East? Dorothy was an innocent, harmless little girl, who had been carried by a cyclone many miles from home; and she had never killed anything in all her life.

But the little woman evidently expected her to answer; so Dorothy said, with hesitation, "You are very kind, but there must be some mistake. I have not killed anything."

"Your house did, anyway," replied the little old woman, with a laugh, "and that is the same thing. See!" she continued, pointing to the corner of the house. "There are her two feet, still sticking out from under a block of wood."

Dorothy looked, and gave a little cry of fright. There, indeed, just under the corner of the great beam the house rested on, two feet were sticking out, shod in silver shoes with pointed toes.

"Oh, dear! Oh, dear!" cried Dorothy, clasping her hands together in dismay. "The house must have fallen on her. Whatever shall we do?"

"There is nothing to be done," said the little woman calmly.

"But who was she?" asked Dorothy.

"She was the Wicked Witch of the East, as I said," answered the little woman. "She has held all the Munchkins in bondage for many years, making them slave for her night and day. Now they are all set free, and are grateful to you for the favour."

**1. “She was awakened by a shock, so sudden and severe that if Dorothy had not been lying on the soft bed she might have been hurt.”**

A. How does this quotation **imply** that something unusual or unexpected has happened to Dorothy?

B. Which individual words **might** make the reader feel tense or worried for Dorothy?

**2. “As it was, the jar made her catch her breath and wonder what had happened; and Toto put his cold little nose into her face and whined dismally”**

C. Find words or phrases that **emphasise** that Dorothy feels shocked and confused?

D. What does Toto the dog do that **might convey** that he feels scared?

**3. “She sprang from her bed and with Toto at her heels ran and opened the door.”**

E. Which **verbs might highlight** that Dorothy was eager to get outside and see what had happened?

**4. “The little girl gave a cry of amazement and looked about her, her eyes growing bigger and bigger at the wonderful sights she saw.”**

F. Find an **image** which **highlights** that Dorothy felt a sense of wonder and surprise at what she saw.

G. Which **adjective implies** that Dorothy saw interesting and amazing sights?

**Read the extract below. It describes the setting.**

***The cyclone had set the house down very gently—for a cyclone—in the midst of a country of marvelous beauty. There were lovely patches of greensward all about, with stately trees bearing rich and luscious fruits. Banks of gorgeous flowers were on every hand, and birds with rare and brilliant plumage sang and fluttered in the trees and bushes. A little way off was a small brook, rushing and sparkling along between green banks, and murmuring in a voice very grateful to a little girl who had lived so long on the dry, grey prairies.***



Cyclone = tornado  
Greensward = grass covered ground  
Stately = majestic and grand  
Rich = intense or lots of something, in abundance  
Luscious = juicy and delicious  
Plumage = feathers  
Brook = stream  
Prairie = dry, flat grassland



*The cyclone had set the house down very gently—for a cyclone—in the midst of a country of marvellous beauty. There were lovely patches of greensward all about, with stately trees bearing rich and luscious fruits. Banks of gorgeous flowers were on every hand, and birds with rare and brilliant plumage sang and fluttered in the trees and bushes. A little way off was a small brook, rushing and sparkling along between green banks, and murmuring in a voice very grateful to a little girl who had lived so long on the dry, grey prairies.*

1. After reading the extract, what are your first impressions of this setting?
2. Write down as many **adjectives** as you can that the writer uses to **portray** the setting as attractive and pleasant.
3. Write down two **verbs** used to describe the actions of the birds.
4. Write down two **verbs** used to describe the way the brook moved and looked.
5. Write down any **descriptions of nature (natural imagery)** used to describe the setting.
6. Can you find any examples of **personification**?

#### Subject Terminology

Word/adjective/verb/noun/adverb

Image/metaphor/simile/personification

#### Language of Interpretation (shows)

- Portrays/presents/conveys
- Suggests/implies
- Highlights/emphasises

### Lesson Enquiry

Can you use evidence and terminology to develop inferences?

Quotation	Interpretation
"country of marvellous beauty"	The adjective "marvellous" emphasises that this place is amazing and the word "beauty" implies that it is a very attractive setting.
"lovely patches of greensward all about"	
"stately trees bearing rich and luscious fruits"	
"banks of gorgeous flowers"	
"birds with rare and brilliant plumage sang and fluttered in the trees and bushes"	
"...small brook, rushing and sparking along"	

#### Subject Terminology

Word/adjective/verb/noun/adverb

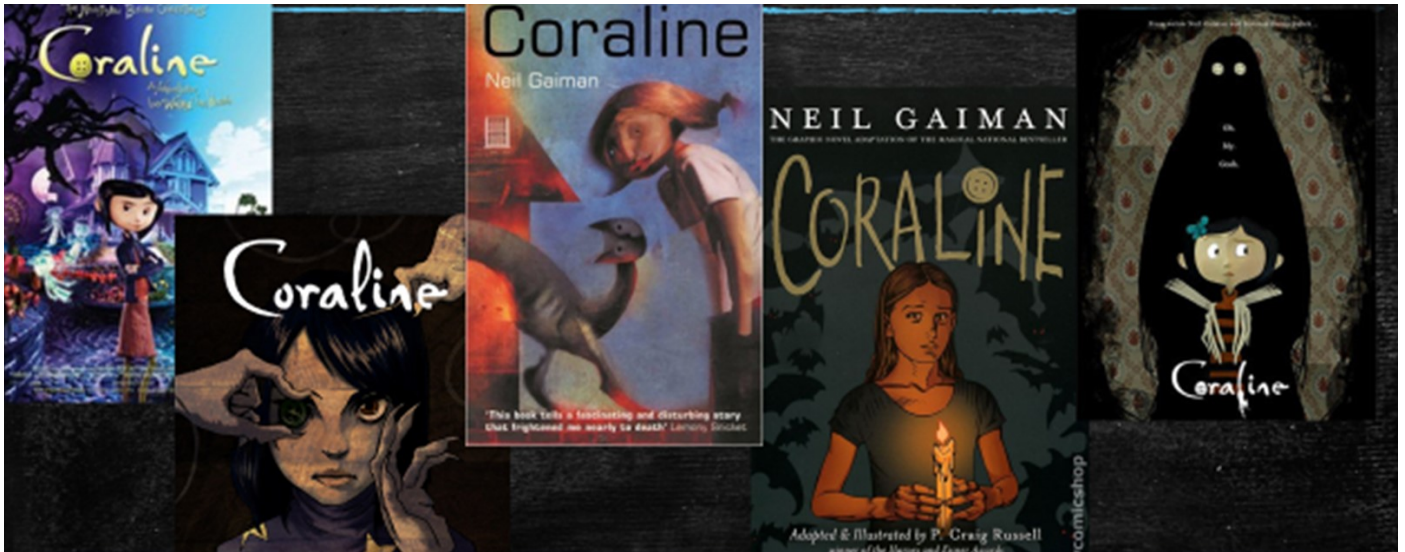
Image/metaphor/simile/  
personification

#### Language of Interpretation (shows)

- Portrays/presents/conveys
- Suggests/implies
- Highlights/emphasises

## Lesson Enquiry

Can you use evidence and terminology to develop inferences?



1. What can you infer about the setting, characters and themes of the book from these images?
2. How do these images conform to (meet) our idea of the fantasy genre?
3. Do they deviate (move away from) from our expectations of the fantasy genre in any way?
4. Are any of the images similar? If so, how?

### Because/but/so...

These images suggest that 'Coraline' is a fantasy novel because...

These images suggest that 'Coraline' is a fantasy novel, but...

These images suggest that 'Coraline' is a fantasy novel, so...



Complete the following sentences. Try to add a few of your own based on the images.

- The expression on the girl's face **might suggest**...
- The shadows and darkness **could imply**...
- The setting of the old house and trees **conveys** a sense of...

Language of Interpretation (shows)

- Portrays/presents/conveys
- Suggests/implies
- Highlights/emphasises

An **epigraph** comes at the start of a novel or short story, and gives the reader a little hint about what's to come. It is a short quotation or saying at the beginning of a book or chapter, intended to suggest its themes or ideas.

Read the **epigraph** from 'Coraline' then try and answer the questions below.

*Fairy Tales are more than true: not because they tell us that dragons exist, but because they tell us that dragons can be beaten --*

**G.K. Chesterton**

1. According to the **epigraph** of 'Coraline' why are fairy-tales 'more than true'?

2. Dragons don't really exist, so what does this **epigraph** mean?

3. What clues might be revealed about the plot and themes of the novel from reading the **epigraph**?



**C**ORALINE DISCOVERED THE DOOR a little while after they moved into the house.

It was a very old house—it had an attic under the roof and a cellar under the ground and an overgrown garden with huge old trees in it.

Coraline's family didn't own all of the house—it was too big for that. Instead they owned part of it.

There were other people who lived in the old house.

Miss Spink and Miss Forcible lived in the flat below Coraline's, on the ground floor. They were both old and round, and they lived in their flat with a number of ageing Highland terriers who had names like Hamish and Andrew and Jock. Once upon a time Miss Spink and Miss Forcible had been actresses, as Miss Spink told Coraline the first time she met her.

"You see, Caroline," Miss Spink said, getting Coraline's name wrong, "both myself and Miss Forcible were famous actresses, in our time. We trod the boards, luvvy. Oh, don't let Hamish eat the fruitcake, or he'll be up all night with his tummy."

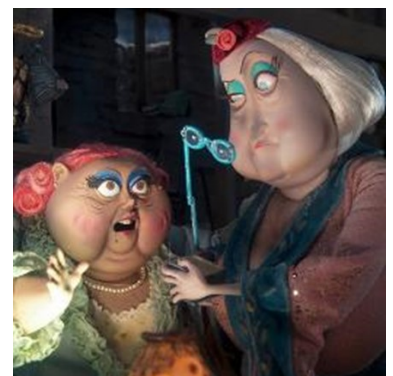
"It's Coraline. Not Caroline. Coraline," said Coraline.

1. What does Coraline discover in the first line of the novel? Why **might** this interest the reader?
2. Which **adjective** is used to describe the house? What **might** this **suggest** about the house?
3. Which **adjective** is used to describe the garden? What **could** this **imply** about the garden?
4. Who else lives in the big house?
5. Coraline corrects Miss Spink when she gets her name wrong. What **might** this **suggest** about the **protagonist**, Coraline.



©Warren Photographic

**Protagonist:**  
**the main character in a novel**



## Lesson Enquiry

### Can you make and develop inferences?

#### Knowledge Review

1. What is an **epigraph**?
2. What is a **protagonist**?
3. What is the name of our novel's protagonist?
4. What does she find at the beginning of the novel?
5. Which adjective is used to describe the house at the beginning of the novel?
6. Which adjective is used to describe the garden at the beginning of the novel?
7. Who are Miss Spink and Miss Forcible?
8. Why might Coraline be described as a confident character?

In the flat above Coraline's, under the roof, was a crazy old man with a big mustache. He told Coraline that he was training a mouse circus. He wouldn't let anyone see it.

"One day, little Caroline, when they are all ready, everyone in the whole world will see the wonders of my mouse circus. You ask me why you cannot see it now. Is that what you asked me?"

"No," said Coraline quietly, "I asked you not to call me Caroline. It's Coraline."

"The reason you cannot see the mouse circus," said the man upstairs, "is that the mice are not yet ready and rehearsed. Also, they refuse to play the songs I have written for them. All the songs I have written for the mice to play go *oompah oompah*. But the white mice will only play *toodle oodle*, like that. I am thinking of trying them on different types of cheese."

Coraline didn't think there really was a mouse circus. She thought the old man was probably making it up.

1. Which **adjectives** are used to describe the man who lives upstairs?
2. What does he tell Coraline?
3. Does Coraline believe the old man? What does this **imply** about the kind of **protagonist** she might be?

Coraline's new neighbours seem a little bit **eccentric**. Eccentric means to be a bit odd, slightly strange and unconventional. This word is derived from a combination of the Greek words *ex*, meaning "out of," and *kentron*, meaning "centre." The original meaning of "eccentric" in English was "not having the same centre"

### Because/but/so..

Coraline's neighbours seem eccentric because....

Coraline's neighbours seem eccentric, but....

Coraline's neighbours seem eccentric, so....



So far we have met our protagonist, Coraline and three other characters—Miss Spink, Miss Forcible and the old man upstairs. Next, we'll read more about the setting of Coraline's new home.

The day after they moved in, Coraline went exploring.

She explored the garden. It was a big garden: at the very back was an old tennis court, but no one in the house played tennis and the fence around the court had holes in it and the net had mostly rotted away; there was an old rose garden, filled with stunted, flyblown rosebushes; there was a rockery that was all rocks; there was a fairy ring, made of squidgy brown toadstools which smelled dreadful if you accidentally trod on them.

stunted = short/underdeveloped/not fully grown    flyblown = contaminated by flies and their eggs

fairy ring = a ring of toadstools

rockery = a little garden constructed with rocks and plants/flowers

On the second day, Coraline goes exploring. The extract on the previous page describes the garden.

1. What overall impression do you get of the garden? Find a quotation to support your response.

2. Which adjective is repeated throughout the extract?

3. What has happened to the tennis court?

4. What else does Coraline find in the garden?

Challenge: Find three words or phrases that show that the garden has been neglected? (not looked after)



There was also a well. On the first day Coraline's family moved in, Miss Spink and Miss Forcible made a point of telling Coraline how dangerous the well was, and they warned her to be sure she kept away from it. So Coraline set off to explore for it, so that she knew where it was, to keep away from it properly.

She found it on the third day, in an overgrown meadow beside the tennis court, behind a clump of trees—a low brick circle almost hidden in the high grass. The well had been covered up by wooden boards, to stop anyone falling in. There was a small knothole in one of the boards, and Coraline spent an afternoon dropping pebbles and acorns through the hole and waiting, and counting, until she heard the *plop* as they hit the water far below.



1. What do Miss Spink and Miss Forcible tell Coraline about the well?

2. Does Coraline follow their advice? What does this imply about the kind of character she might be?

3. Find a phrase that describes the old well.

4. What does Coraline spend the day doing – what does it tell you about how deep the well is?

Coraline also explored for animals. She found a hedgehog, and a snakeskin (but no snake), and a rock that looked just like a frog, and a toad that looked just like a rock.

There was also a haughty black cat, who sat on walls and tree stumps and watched her but slipped away if ever she went over to try to play with it.

That was how she spent her first two weeks in the house—exploring the garden and the grounds.



1. What else does Coraline explore for and what does she find?
2. What impression do you get of the cat? Use evidence to support your answer.
3. What are your first impressions of Coraline as a character and why?

### Haughty: arrogant/stuck up/superior

In the table below, you will find examples of things that make the reader suspect they are reading a particular type of story. Complete the table and add more examples of your own from the first chapter.

Example	What it makes me think of/expect
A very old house	This is typical for a ghost or horror story. It makes me expect strange things or someone being trapped
An overgrown garden	
Names: Miss Spink and Miss Forcible	
A crazy old man with a mouse circus	
A haughty black cat	This makes me think of witches, spells and magic

## Lesson Enquiry

**How does the writer portray the character of Coraline at the beginning of the novel?**

### Knowledge Review

1. What is Coraline's new house like?
2. What is the garden like?
3. Who are Coraline's new neighbours? Use the pictures to help you.
5. The neighbours seem quite **eccentric**. What does this word mean? Explain it in your own words.
6. What are your first impressions of Coraline? List three adjectives.



- 
- 
- 

As we read the next part of the novel, think about the character of Coraline. Underline anything that tells you something about her character's personality. You might look out for the things she says, her relationships with other characters, the things she thinks and feels or her actions. All of these things are used by the writer to create a character for the reader.

Her mother made her come back inside for dinner and for lunch. And Coraline had to make sure she dressed up warm before she went out, for it was a very cold summer that year; but go out she did, exploring, every day until the day it rained, when Coraline had to stay inside.

"What should I do?" asked Coraline.

"Read a book," said her mother. "Watch a video. Play with your toys. Go and pester Miss Spink or Miss Forcible, or the crazy old man upstairs."

"No," said Coraline. "I don't want to do those things. I want to explore."

"I don't really mind what you do," said Coraline's mother, "as long as you don't make a mess."

Coraline went over to the window and watched the rain come down. It wasn't the kind of rain you could go out in—it was the other kind, the kind that threw itself down from the sky and splashed where it landed. It was rain that meant business, and currently its business was turning the garden into a muddy, wet soup.

Coraline had watched all the videos. She was bored with her toys, and she'd read all her books.

She turned on the television. She went from channel to channel to channel, but there was nothing on but men in suits talking about the stock market, and talk shows. Eventually, she found something to watch: it was the last half of a natural history program about something called protective coloration. She watched animals, birds, and insects which disguised themselves as leaves or twigs or other animals to escape from things that could hurt them. She enjoyed it, but it ended too soon and was followed by a program about a cake factory.

It was time to talk to her father.

Coraline's father was home. Both of her parents worked, doing things on computers, which meant that they were home a lot of the time. Each of them had their own study.

"Hello Coraline," he said when she came in, without turning round.

"Mmph," said Coraline. "It's raining."

"Yup," said her father. "It's bucketing down."

"No," said Coraline. "It's just raining. Can I go outside?"

"What does your mother say?"

"She says you're not going out in weather like that, Coraline Jones."

"Then, no."

"But I want to carry on exploring."

"Then explore the flat," suggested her father. "Look—here's a piece of paper and a pen. Count all the doors and windows. List everything blue. Mount an expedition to discover the hot water tank. And leave me alone to work."

"Can I go into the drawing room?" The drawing room was where the Joneses kept the expensive (and uncomfortable) furniture Coraline's grandmother had left them when she died. Coraline wasn't allowed in there. Nobody went in there. It was only for best.

"If you don't make a mess. And you don't touch anything."

Coraline considered this carefully, then she took the paper and pen and went off to explore the inside of the flat.

She discovered the hot water tank (it was in a cupboard in the kitchen).

She counted everything blue (153).

She counted the windows (21).

She counted the doors (14).

Of the doors that she found, thirteen opened and closed. The other—the big, carved, brown wooden door at the far corner of the drawing room—was locked.

She said to her mother, “Where does that door go?”

“Nowhere, dear.”

“It has to go somewhere.”

Her mother shook her head. “Look,” she told Coraline.

She reached up and took a string of keys from the top of the kitchen doorframe. She sorted through them carefully, and selected the oldest, biggest, blackest, rustiest key. They went into the drawing room. She unlocked the door with the key.

The door swung open.

1. How is Coraline feeling during this part of the novel? How do you know?
2. What does Coraline’s mother tell her to do?
3. Why is Coraline not allowed to go outside?
4. How does Coraline feel about this?
5. What does Coraline’s father tell her to do?
6. What unusual thing does Coraline find when she is exploring the house?
7. Coraline wants her mother to open the locked door. What does this imply about Coraline as a character?
8. What overall impression do you get of Coraline as a character from this part of the novel?

Her mother was right. The door didn't go anywhere. It opened onto a brick wall.

"When this place was just one house," said Coraline's mother, "that door went somewhere. When they turned the house into flats, they simply bricked it up. The other side is the empty flat on the other side of the house, the one that's still for sale."

She shut the door and put the string of keys back on top of the kitchen doorframe.

"You didn't lock it," said Coraline.

Her mother shrugged. "Why should I lock it?" she asked. "It doesn't go anywhere."

Coraline didn't say anything.

It was nearly dark outside now, and the rain was still coming down, pattering against the windows and blurring the lights of the cars in the street outside.

Coraline's father stopped working and made them all dinner.

Coraline was disgusted. "Daddy," she said, "you've made a *recipe* again."

"It's leek and potato stew with a tarragon garnish and melted Gruyère cheese," he admitted.

Coraline sighed. Then she went to the freezer and got out some microwave chips and a microwave minipizza.

"You know I don't like recipes," she told her father, while her dinner went around and around and the little red numbers on the microwave oven counted down to zero.

"If you tried it, maybe you'd like it," said Coraline's father, but she shook her head.

- |   |
|---|
| <p><b>1. What do we learn about the locked door? What might this make the reader wonder?</b></p> <p><b>2. How does Coraline react to her father's dinner? What does this suggest about her as a character?</b></p> <p><b>3. What does Coraline do instead of eat her father's dinner? What does this imply about her?</b></p> |
|---|

That night, Coraline lay awake in her bed. The rain had stopped, and she was almost asleep when something went *t-t-t-t-t-t*. She sat up in bed.

Something went *kreeee . . .*

*. . . aaaak*

Coraline got out of bed and looked down the hall, but saw nothing strange. She walked down the hall. From her parents' bedroom came a low snoring—that was her father—and an occasional sleeping mutter—that was her mother.

Coraline wondered if she'd dreamed it, whatever it was.

It was little more than a shadow, and it scuttled down the darkened hall fast, like a little patch of night.

She hoped it wasn't a spider. Spiders made Coraline intensely uncomfortable.

The black shape went into the drawing room, and Coraline followed it a little nervously.

1. What made Coraline sit up in bed? How might this make the reader feel?
2. What does Coraline do after hearing the noise? What might this imply about her character?
3. Coraline sees something that is "little more than a shadow" and hopes it's not a spider. What do we find out about how Coraline feels about spiders? What might this imply about her?
4. Coraline follows the shape "a little nervously". What could this suggest about her?

#### Lesson Enquiry

How does the writer portray the character of Coraline at the beginning of the novel

Complete the following statements now that you have learnt more about Coraline's character.

1. Coraline seems to be an adventurous character because...
2. Coraline seems to be an adventurous character, but...
3. Coraline seems to be an adventurous character, so...
4. Coraline appears to be quite independent and confident because...
5. Coraline appears to be quite independent and confident, but...
6. Coraline appears to be quite independent and confident, so...

**Challenge:** Think back to the extracts from 'The Wizard of Oz' and 'The Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe' - does Coraline remind you of Dorothy or Lucy in any way? If, so how? How might she be different?

## Lesson Enquiry

How does the writer portray the character of Coraline at the beginning of the novel?

### Knowledge Review : True or False? Explain why the answer is True or False.

1. Coraline is pleased that its raining because she likes being indoors.
2. Coraline seems to become bored quite easily.
3. Coraline hates exploring.
4. Coraline loves her dad's food.
5. Coraline seems to be quite independent and confident.
6. Coraline seems to be quite a shy character.
7. Coraline's mum and dad don't seem to have much time to entertain her.
8. Coraline isn't interested in what might be behind the locked door.
9. Coraline is too afraid to follow the strange noise and shadow and goes to her parents' room.
10. Coraline loves spiders.



An effective way to describe Coraline would be to say that she is quite assertive. To be assertive means to have or show a confident and even forceful personality. It might involve being decisive and direct. Someone who is assertive usually states their needs and opinions clearly, so that people take notice.

Why might Coraline be described as **assertive** - think about everything she has done and said so far.

## How does the writer portray the character of Coraline at the beginning of the novel?

Over the next few lessons, you will be planning a response to the question above. After that, you'll write up your response so your teacher can give you feedback.



Characteristic	Quote
Adventurous	"The day after they moved in. Coraline went exploring"
Curious	
Independent	
Confident	
Assertive	
Restless	

Find quotes from the text so far. You might like to use some of the quotes below. Try to add 1-2 of your own characteristics to the table. Remember to only use short quotes!.



"It's Coraline. Not Caroline. Coraline," said Coraline.

Coraline didn't think there really was a mouse circus. She thought the old man was probably making it up.

The day after they moved in, Coraline went exploring.

There was also a well. On the first day Coraline's family moved in, Miss Spink and Miss Forcible made a point of telling Coraline how dangerous the well was, and they warned her to be sure she kept away from it. So Coraline set off to explore for it, so that she knew where it was, to keep away from it properly.

Coraline had watched all the videos. She was bored with her toys, and she'd read all her books.

The black shape went into the drawing room, and Coraline followed it a little nervously.

We are now going to have a go at unpicking our quotes further. We will use them to make inferences and develop interpretations. We will also try to zoom in on individual words and phrases and explain what they show us about Coraline's character.

**Step 1: Choose the characteristic and quote**

Characteristic	Quote
Adventurous	"The day after they moved in. <u>Coraline</u> went exploring"

**Step 2: Which individual word from the quote tells us that Coraline is adventurous?**

"exploring"

**Step 3: What does the entire quote tell us about how and why Coraline is adventurous?**

It tells us that she enjoys seeking out new places and that she is interested in finding out more about her new house.

**Step 4: Use the scaffold to put it altogether. Remember your language of interpretation and try to use tentative language. We use tentative language because we can't always be SURE of what the writer is telling us—we are all making our own interpretations.**

When we write up our response to the question, we are aiming for a paragraph like this:

The writer presents Coraline as adventurous through the phrase, "the day after they moved in, Coraline went exploring". The use of the verb "exploring" suggests that perhaps Coraline enjoys seeking out new places and things as she is interested in finding out more about her new house.

**Scaffold Q: How does the writer portray Coraline in the beginning of the novel?**

**Opening Statement**

The writer presents Coraline as \_\_\_\_\_

**Subject Terminology**

Phrase/quote

Word/adjective/verb/noun/adverb

Image/metaphor/simile/personification

**Language of Interpretation (shows)**

- Portrays/presents/conveys
- Suggests/implies
- Highlights/emphasises

**Tentative Language**

Might/could/perhaps

Now let's have a go at this example together. Your teacher will model this on the board.

Step 1: Choose the characteristic and quote

Restless	"she was bored with her toys, and she'd read all her books"
----------	---

Step 2: Which individual word from the quote tells us that Coraline is restless?

Step 3: What does the entire quote tell us about how and why Coraline is restless? (clue: you could use the words and phrases: uninterested, wants some excitement in your response)

Step 4: Use the scaffold to put it altogether. Remember your language of interpretation and try to use tentative language. We use tentative language because we can't always be SURE of what the writer is telling us—we are all making our own interpretations.

**Scaffold Q: How does the writer portray Coraline in the beginning of the novel?**

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Language of Interpretation (shows)

- Portrays/presents/conveys
- Suggests/implies
- Highlights/emphasises

Tentative Language

Might/could/perhaps

Now have a go on your own for the characteristic of ‘curious’

Step 1: Choose the characteristic and quote

Curious	
---------	--

Step 2: Which individual word from the quote tells us that Coraline is ‘curious’?

Step 3: What does the entire quote tell us about how and why Coraline is ‘curious’? (clue: you could use the words and phrases: interested, wants to find out more, intrigued, inquisitive in your response)

Step 4: Use the scaffold to put it altogether. Remember your language of interpretation and try to use tentative language. We use tentative language because we can’t always be SURE of what the writer is telling us—we are all making our own interpretations.

**Scaffold Q: How does the writer portray Coraline in the beginning of the novel?**

Opening Statement

The writer presents Coraline as \_\_\_\_\_

Subject Terminology

Phrase/quote

Word/adjective/verb/noun/adverb

Image/metaphor/simile/personification

Language of Interpretation (shows)

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Tentative Language

Might/could/perhaps

Now let's have a go at this example together. Your teacher will model this on the board.

Step 1: Choose the characteristic and quote

Restless	"she was bored with her toys, and she'd read all her books"
----------	---

Step 2: Which individual word from the quote tells us that Coraline is restless?

Step 3: What does the entire quote tell us about how and why Coraline is restless? (clue: you could use the words and phrases: uninterested, wants some excitement in your response)

Step 4: Use the scaffold to put it altogether. Remember your language of interpretation and try to use tentative language. We use tentative language because we can't always be SURE of what the writer is telling us—we are all making our own interpretations.

**Scaffold Q: How does the writer portray Coraline in the beginning of the novel?**

Opening Statement

The writer presents Coraline as \_\_\_\_\_

Subject Terminology

Phrase/quote

Word/adjective/verb/noun/adverb

Image/metaphor/simile/personification

Language of Interpretation (shows)

- Portrays/presents/conveys
- Suggests/implies
- Highlights/emphasises

Tentative Language

Might/could/perhaps

Now have a go on your own for a characteristic of your choice

Step 1: Choose the characteristic and quote

--	--

Step 2: Which individual word from the quote tells us that Coraline is this characteristic.

Step 3: What does the entire quote tell us about how and why Coraline is this characteristic? (clue: think about her actions and how they demonstrate her personality. Try to be specific)

Step 4: Use the scaffold to put it altogether. Remember your language of interpretation and try to use tentative language. We use tentative language because we can't always be SURE of what the writer is telling us—we are all making our own interpretations.

**Scaffold Q: How does the writer portray Coraline in the beginning of the novel?**

Opening Statement

The writer presents Coraline as \_\_\_\_\_

Subject Terminology

Phrase/quote

Word/adjective/verb/noun/adverb

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Language of Interpretation (shows)

- Portrays/presents/conveys
- Suggests/implies
- Highlights/emphasises

Tentative Language

Might/could/perhaps

## Lesson Enquiry

**How does the writer portray the character of Coraline at the beginning of the novel?**

Today, you will be writing up your response to the question above. You can use all of your planning so far and should produce 2-3 paragraphs. Your teacher will give you feedback on this.

### Knowledge Review:

First, let's remind ourselves of the scaffold—this is also our success criteria (the things you need to include for a successful response to the question!)

1. Fill in the blanks to create your scaffold. You might want to look back in the book-

#### Opening

The \_\_\_\_\_ presents Coraline as  
\_adventurous\_

#### Subject Terminology

Phrase/quote

Word/\_\_\_\_\_/verb/noun/adverb

\_\_\_\_\_/metaphor/simile/personification

#### Language of Interpretation (shows)

- Portrays/presents/conveys
- \_\_\_\_\_/implies
- Highlights/\_\_\_\_\_

#### Language

Might/\_\_\_\_\_/perhaps

2. Coraline is an **assertive** protagonist. What does the word 'assertive' mean?

3. In your own words, explain how Coraline is an **assertive** character?

The writer presents Coraline as restless through the phrase, "“she was bored of her toys, and she'd read all her books". This shows that Coraline is easily bored and always wants to find new things to do.



WWW:

EBI:

Opening statement

Short quote

Zoom in

Interpretation

Subject terminology

Language of Interpretation

Tentative language

**Scaffold Q: How does the writer portray Coraline in the beginning of the novel?**

Opening Statement

The writer presents Coraline as \_\_\_\_\_

Subject Terminology

Phrase/quote

Word/adjective/verb/noun/adverb

Image/metaphor/simile/personification

Language of Interpretation (shows)

- Portrays/presents/conveys
- Suggests/implies
- Highlights/emphasises

Tentative Language

Might/could/perhaps

**Improve the response above based on the EBI you have discussed as a class:**

Use the planning sheets to plan your response. You can use your previous planning sheets when you write up your final response or you can plan new and improved answers here! Aim for 2-4 paragraphs.

**Step 1: Choose the characteristic and quote**

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**Step 2: Which individual word from the quote tells us that Coraline is this characteristic.**

**Step 3: What does the entire quote tell us about how and why Coraline is this characteristic? (clue: think about her actions and how they demonstrate her personality. Try to be specific)**

**Step 4: Use the scaffold to put it altogether. Remember your language of interpretation and try to use tentative language. We use tentative language because we can't always be SURE of what the writer is telling us—we are all making our own interpretations.**

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Tentative Language

Might/could/perhaps

46

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Tentative Language

Might/could/perhaps

50

## How does the writer portray the character of Coraline at the beginning of the novel?

Note to teacher: You may want to use this page for further planning/modelling with your class etc.

Key Words:



Opening statement

Short quote

Zoom in

Interpretation

Subject terminology

Language of Interpretation

Tentative language

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**Tentative Language**

Might/could/perhaps

**How does the writer portray the character of Coraline at the beginning of the novel?**

Note to teacher: Complete on lined paper to take for feedback. Stick in learner's response post-feedback.

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**Whole Class Feedback** (Note to teacher: Please stick WCF sheet here)

## Lesson Enquiry

**How does the writer create tension at the end of chapter one?**

### **Knowledge Review:**

1. What does it mean to be **assertive**?
2. How is the being **assertive** different to being rude?
3. List three ways in which Coraline demonstrates that she is **assertive**.
4. Write down three other adjectives to describe Coraline.
5. When we were last reading the novel, why had Coraline got up put of bed?
6. Where do you think that the shadowy shape might be leading Coraline?

The black shape went into the drawing room, and Coraline followed it a little nervously.

The room was dark. The only light came from the hall, and Coraline, who was standing in the doorway, cast a huge and distorted shadow onto the drawing room carpet—she looked like a thin giant woman.

Coraline was just wondering whether or not she ought to turn on the lights when she saw the black shape edge slowly out from beneath the sofa. It paused, and then dashed silently across the carpet toward the farthest corner of the room.

There was no furniture in that corner of the room.

Coraline turned on the light.

There was nothing in the corner. Nothing but the old door that opened onto the brick wall.

She was sure that her mother had shut the door, but now it was ever so slightly open. Just a crack. Coraline went over to it and looked in. There was nothing there—just a wall, built of red bricks.

Coraline closed the old wooden door, turned out the light, and went to bed.

She dreamed of black shapes that slid from place to place, avoiding the light, until they were all gathered together under the moon. Little black shapes with little red eyes and sharp yellow teeth.

They started to sing,

*We are small but we are many*

*We are many we are small*

*We were here before you rose*

*We will be here when you fall.*

Their voices were high and whispering and slightly whiney. They made Coraline feel uncomfortable.

Then Coraline dreamed a few commercials, and after that she dreamed of nothing at all.

1. Where has the shape led Coraline to? Why might this be interesting?
2. What unusual about the old door in the corner?
3. What does Coraline dream about that night? How might this make the reader feel?

1. What do we mean by "tension"?

*Tension is a feeling of* \_\_\_\_\_

2. Why do you think a writer might include moments of tension at the beginning of a novel?

*I think that a writer might include moments of tension at the beginning of a novel in order to* \_\_\_\_\_

Challenge: What kinds of techniques might a writer use to build tension?



Coraline turned on the light.



*Makes us feel tense because we don't know what the light will reveal- something could have been hiding in the dark.*



**Task:** Highlight any moments of tension at the end of Chapter One

**Challenge:** Try to label each example, explaining why it would make the reader feel tense.

## Lesson Enquiry

### How does the writer develop character and plot in chapter 2?

#### Knowledge Review:

1. What was unusual about the old door at the end of chapter one?
2. What did Coraline dream about at the end of chapter one?
3. What might have made the reader feel tense at the end of chapter one?
4. What do you predict might happen in chapter two? Why?

**T**HE NEXT DAY IT HAD stopped raining, but a thick white fog had lowered over the house.

“I’m going for a walk,” said Coraline.

“Don’t go too far,” said her mother. “And dress up warmly.”

Coraline put on her blue coat with a hood, her red scarf, and her yellow Wellington boots.

She went out.

Miss Spink was walking her dogs. “Hello, Caroline,” said Miss Spink. “Rotten weather.”

“Yes,” said Coraline.

“I played Portia once,” said Miss Spink. “Miss Forcible talks about her Ophelia, but it was my Portia they came to see. When we trod the boards.”

Miss Spink was bundled up in pullovers and cardigans, so she seemed more small and circular than ever. She looked like a large, fluffy egg. She wore thick glasses that made her eyes seem huge.

“They used to send flowers to my dressing room. They *did*,” she said.



“Who did?” asked Coraline.

Miss Spink looked around cautiously, looking over first one shoulder and then over the other, peering into the mists as though someone might be listening.

“*Men*,” she whispered. Then she tugged the dogs to heel and waddled off back toward the house.

Coraline continued her walk.

She was three quarters of the way around the house when she saw Miss Forcible, standing at the door to the flat she shared with Miss Spink.

“Have you seen Miss Spink, Caroline?”

Coraline told her that she had, and that Miss Spink was out walking the dogs.

“I do hope she doesn’t get lost—it’ll bring on her shingles if she does, you’ll see,” said Miss Forcible. “You’d have to be an explorer to find your way around in this fog.”

“I’m an explorer,” said Coraline.

“Of course you are, luvvy,” said Miss Forcible. “Don’t get lost, now.”

Coraline continued walking through the gardens in the gray mist. She always kept in sight of the house. After about ten minutes of walking she found herself back where she had started.

The hair over her eyes was limp and wet, and her face felt damp.

“Ahoy! Caroline!” called the crazy old man upstairs.

“Oh, hullo,” said Coraline.

She could hardly see the old man through the mist.

He walked down the steps on the outside of the house that led up past Coraline’s front door to the door of his flat. He walked down very slowly. Coraline waited at the bottom of the stairs.

“The mice do not like the mist,” he told her. “It makes their whiskers droop.”

“I don’t like the mist much, either,” admitted Coraline.

The old man leaned down, so close that the bottoms of his mustache tickled Coraline’s ear. “The mice have a message for you,” he whispered.

Coraline didn’t know what to say.

“The message is this. *Don’t go through the door.*” He paused. “Does that mean anything to you?”

“No,” said Coraline.

The old man shrugged. “They are funny, the mice. They get things wrong. They got your name wrong, you know. They kept saying Coraline. Not Caroline. Not Caroline at all.”

He picked up a milk bottle from the bottom of the stairs and started back up to his attic flat.

Coraline went indoors. Her mother was working in her study. Her mother’s study smelled of flowers.

“What shall I do?” asked Coraline.

“When do you go back to school?” asked her mother.

“Next week,” said Coraline.

“Hmph,” said her mother. “I suppose I shall have to get you new school clothes. Remind me, dear, or else I’ll forget,” and she went back to typing things on the computer screen.

“What shall I *do*?” repeated Coraline.

“Draw something,” Her mother passed her a sheet of paper and a ballpoint pen.

Coraline tried drawing the mist. After ten minutes of drawing she still had a white sheet of paper with

M                      T  
                            S  
                            I

written on it in one corner in slightly wiggly letters. She grunted and passed it to her mother.

“Mm. Very modern, dear,” said Coraline’s mother.

Coraline crept into the drawing room and tried to open the old door in the corner. It was locked once more. She supposed her mother must have locked it again. She shrugged.

Coraline went to see her father.

He had his back to the door as he typed. “Go away,” he said cheerfully as she walked in.

“I’m bored,” she said.

“Learn how to tap-dance,” he suggested, without turning around.

Coraline shook her head. “Why don’t you play with me?” she asked.

“Busy,” he said. “Working,” he added. He still hadn’t turned around to look at her. “Why don’t you go and bother Miss Spink and Miss Forcible?”

Coraline put on her coat and pulled up her hood and went out of the house. She went downstairs. She rang the door of Miss Spink and Miss Forcible's flat. Coraline could hear a frenzied woofing as the Scottie dogs ran out into the hall. After a while Miss Spink opened the door.

"Oh, it's you, Caroline," she said. "Angus, Hamish, Bruce, down now, luvvies. It's only Caroline. Come in, dear. Would you like a cup of tea?"

The flat smelled of furniture polish and dogs.

"Yes, please," said Coraline. Miss Spink led her into a dusty little room, which she called the parlor. On the walls were black-and-white photographs of pretty women, and theater programs in frames. Miss Forcible was sitting in one of the armchairs, knitting hard.

They poured Coraline a cup of tea in a little pink bone china cup, with a saucer. They gave her a dry Garibaldi biscuit to go with it.

Miss Forcible looked at Miss Spink, picked up her knitting, and took a deep breath. "Anyway, April. As I was saying: you still have to admit, there's life in the old dog yet."

"Miriam, dear, neither of us is as young as we were."

"Madame Arcati," replied Miss Forcible. "The nurse in *Romeo*. Lady Bracknell. Character parts. They can't retire you from the stage."

"Now, Miriam, we *agreed*," said Miss Spink. Coraline wondered if they'd forgotten she was there. They weren't making much sense; she decided they were having an argument as old and comfortable as an armchair, the kind of argument that no one ever really wins or loses but which can go on forever, if both parties are willing.

She sipped her tea.

"I'll read the leaves, if you want," said Miss Spink to Coraline.

"Sorry?" said Coraline.

"The tea leaves, dear. I'll read your future."

Coraline passed Miss Spink her cup. Miss Spink peered shortsightedly at the black tea leaves in the bottom. She pursed her lips.

"You know, Caroline," she said, after a while, "you are in terrible danger."

Miss Forcible snorted, and put down her knitting. "Don't be silly, April. Stop scaring the girl. Your eyes are going. Pass me that cup, child."

Coraline carried the cup over to Miss Forcible. Miss Forcible looked into it carefully, shook her head, and looked into it again.

"Oh dear," she said. "You were right, April. She *is* in danger."

"See, Miriam," said Miss Spink triumphantly. "My eyes are as good as they ever were. . . ."

“What am I in danger from?” asked Coraline.

Misses Spink and Forcible stared at her blankly. “It didn’t say,” said Miss Spink. “Tea leaves aren’t reliable for that kind of thing. Not really. They’re good for general, but not for specifics.”

“What should I do then?” asked Coraline, who was slightly alarmed by this.

“Don’t wear green in your dressing room,” suggested Miss Spink.

“Or mention the Scottish play,” added Miss Forcible.

Coraline wondered why so few of the adults she had met made any sense. She sometimes wondered who they thought they were talking to.

“And be very, very careful,” said Miss Spink. She got up from the armchair and went over to the fireplace. On the mantelpiece was a small jar, and Miss Spink took off the top of the jar and began to pull things out of it. There was a tiny china duck, a thimble, a strange little brass coin, two paper clips and a stone with a hole in it.

She passed Coraline the stone with a hole in it.

“What’s it for?” asked Coraline. The hole went all the way through the middle of the stone. She held it up to the window and looked through it.

“It might help,” said Miss Spink. “They’re good for bad things, sometimes.”

Coraline put on her coat, said good-bye to Misses Spink and Forcible and to the dogs, and went outside.

## Lesson Enquiry

How does the writer develop character and plot in chapter 2?

### **True or False (correct the false statements)**

1. The crazy old man always gets Coraline's name right.
2. The mice had a message for Coraline.
3. Miss Spink and Miss Forcible offer to read Coraline's future.
4. Miss Spink and Miss Forcible tell Coraline she is in no danger.
5. The crazy old man gives Coraline a stone with a hole in it.

### **Comprehension**

1. What message do the mice have for Coraline?
2. Why does Coraline's mum tell her to go and see Miss Spink and Miss Forcible?
3. Why do Miss Spink and Miss Forcible give Coraline a stone with a hole in it?
4. Write down two quotations which suggest that Coraline could be in danger?
5. Why do you think that Coraline says "no" when the crazy old man asks whether the message from the mice means anything to her?
6. What do you predict might happen in chapter three?

### **Because/but/so...**

Coraline seems to be in danger because...

Coraline seems to be in danger, but...

Coraline seems to be in danger, so...

## Lesson Enquiry

How does the writer portray the character of the Other mother?

### Knowledge Review

1. What message did the mice have for Coraline?
2. What do Misses Spink and Forcible tell Coraline?
3. What do they give to Coraline?

**T**HE NEXT DAY THE sun shone, and Coraline's mother took her into the nearest large town to buy clothes for school. They dropped her father off at the railway station. He was going into London for the day to see some people.

Coraline waved him good-bye.

They went to the department store to buy the school clothes.

Coraline saw some Day-Glo green gloves she liked a lot. Her mother refused to buy them for her, preferring instead to buy white socks, navy blue school underpants, four gray blouses, and a dark gray skirt.

"But Mum, *everybody* at school's got gray blouses and everything. *Nobody's* got green gloves. I could be the only one."

Her mother ignored her; she was talking to the shop assistant. They were talking about which kind of sweater to get for Coraline, and were agreeing that the best thing to do would be to get one that was embarrassingly large and baggy, in the hopes that one day she might grow into it.

Coraline wandered off and looked at a display of Wellington boots shaped like frogs and ducks and rabbits.

Then she wandered back.

1. What does Coraline's behaviour in the shop tell us about her as a character? How does this link to what we already know about her?

2. Find a quote that shows that Coraline wants to be unique.

3. Find a quote that shows that Coraline is easily bored.

“Coraline? Oh, there you are. Where on earth were you?”

“I was kidnapped by aliens,” said Coraline. “They came down from outer space with ray guns, but I fooled them by wearing a wig and laughing in a foreign accent, and I escaped.”

“Yes, dear. Now, I think you could do with some more hair clips, don’t you?”

“No.”

“Well, let’s say half a dozen, to be on the safe side,” said her mother.

Coraline didn’t say anything.

In the car on the way back home, Coraline said, “What’s in the empty flat?”

“I don’t know. Nothing, I expect. It probably looks like our flat before we moved in. Empty rooms.”

“Do you think you could get into it from our flat?”

“Not unless you can walk through bricks, dear.”

“Oh.”

They got home around lunchtime. The sun was shining, although the day was cold. Coraline’s mother looked in the fridge and found a sad little tomato and a piece of cheese with green stuff growing on it. There was only a crust in the bread bin.

“I’d better dash down to the shops and get some fish fingers or something,” said her mother. “Do you want to come?”

“No,” said Coraline.

“Suit yourself,” said her mother, and left. Then she came back and got her purse and car keys and went out again.

Coraline was bored.

She flipped through a book her mother was reading about native people in a distant country; how every day they would take pieces of white silk and draw on them in wax, then dip the silks in dye, then draw on them more in wax and dye them some more, then boil the wax out in hot water, and then finally, throw the now-beautiful cloths on a fire and burn them to ashes.

It seemed particularly pointless to Coraline, but she hoped that the people enjoyed it.

She was still bored, and her mother wasn’t yet home.

Coraline got a chair and pushed it over to the kitchen door. She climbed onto the chair and reached up. She got down, then got a broom from the broom cupboard. She climbed back on the chair again and reached up with the broom.

*Chink.*

She climbed down from the chair and picked up the keys. She smiled triumphantly. Then she leaned the broom against the wall and went into the drawing room.

The family did not use the drawing room. They had inherited the furniture from Coraline's grandmother, along with a wooden coffee table, a side table, a heavy glass ashtray, and the oil painting of a bowl of fruit. Coraline could never work out why anyone would want to paint a bowl of fruit. Other than that, the room was empty: there were no knickknacks on the mantelpiece, no statues or clocks; nothing that made it feel comfortable or lived-in.

The old black key felt colder than any of the others. She pushed it into the keyhole. It turned smoothly, with a satisfying *clunk*.

Coraline stopped and listened. She knew she was doing something wrong, and she was trying to listen for her mother coming back, but she heard nothing. Then Coraline put her hand on the doorknob and turned it; and, finally, she opened the door.

It opened on to a dark hallway. The bricks had gone as if they'd never been there. There was a cold, musty smell coming through the open doorway: it smelled like something very old and very slow.

Coraline went through the door.

She wondered what the empty flat would be like—if that was where the corridor led.

1. What is strange about the key for the old door?
2. Coraline knows she is doing something wrong but she carries on. What might this tell us about her?
3. Why do you think Coraline goes through the door?
4. If you were Coraline, would you go through the door? Why, why not?
5. Write down any words or phrases that might make the reader feel tense.

The carpet beneath her feet was the same carpet they had in her flat. The wallpaper was the same wallpaper they had. The picture hanging in the hall was the same that they had hanging in their hallway at home.

She knew where she was: she was in her own home. She hadn't left.

She shook her head, confused.

She stared at the picture hanging on the wall: no, it wasn't exactly the same. The picture they had in their own hallway showed a boy in old-fashioned clothes staring at some bubbles. But now the expression on his face was different—he was looking at the bubbles as if he was planning to do something very nasty indeed to them. And there was something peculiar about his eyes.

Coraline stared at his eyes, trying to figure out what exactly was different.

She almost had it when somebody said, "Coraline?"

It sounded like her mother. Coraline went into the kitchen, where the voice had come from. A woman stood in the kitchen with her back to Coraline. She looked a little like Coraline's mother. Only . . .

Only her skin was white as paper.

Only she was taller and thinner.

Only her fingers were too long, and they never stopped moving, and her dark red fingernails were curved and sharp.

1. What is strange about the room Coraline has found herself in?

2. The other mother resembles Coraline's real mother and sounds like her too but there is something a bit strange about her that makes Coraline feel uneasy.

3. Underline the things that are strange about the other mother.





Re-read the description of the other mother below and annotate for connotations (meaning) of words and phrases, as well as subject terminology.

**She looked a little like Coraline's mother. Only . . .**

**Only her skin was white as paper.**

**Only she was **taller** and **thinner**.**

**Only her **fingers were too long**, and **they never stopped moving**, and her **dark red** fingernails were **curved** and **sharp**.**

**“Coraline?” the woman said. “Is that you?”**

**And then she turned around. Her eyes were **big black buttons**.**

1. Look at the quote: “her skin was white as paper.” What language device is used here and why?
2. What does this comparison **imply** about the Other Mother’s appearance? Explain in your own words.
3. How **might** this description make the reader feel about the Other Mother?
4. Look at the quote: “Only she was taller and thinner.” The words “taller” and “thinner” are **comparative adjectives**. Why do you think that the writer would make the Other Mother taller and thinner than Coraline’s real mother?
5. Look at the quote: “her fingers were too long”. What hat does this **image suggest** about the Other Mother’s appearance?
6. Look at the quote: “they never stopped moving”. What does this quote **imply** about the Other Mother and how she **might** be feeling?
7. Look at the quote: “her dark red fingernails were curved and sharp.” Look at the **adjectives** in this image. What impression do they **convey** about the Other Mother? Why?
8. Look at the quote: “her eyes were big black buttons.” How does this **image** create a creepy and sinister impression of the Other Mother?
9. Is there anything else that you notice about the language used to introduce the other mother?
10. mWhat are your first impressions of her?

## Lesson Enquiry

How does the writer portray the character of the Other mother?

### Knowledge Review

1. Where did the old door lead to?
2. What is strange or unusual about this place?
3. What can you remember about the other mother's appearance? List three things.
4. How might the reader feel about the other mother?

She looked a little like Coraline's mother. Only . . .

Only her skin was white as paper.

Only she was **taller** and **thinner**.

Only her **fingers were too long**, and **they never stopped moving**, and her dark red **fingernails were curved and sharp**.

"Coraline?" the woman said. "Is that you?"

And then she turned around. Her eyes were big black buttons.

### Key words to describe the other mother

- Strange/peculiar/unusual/odd
- Creepy/unsettling/disturbing/  
sinister/ominous/threatening

1. Identify the simile:
2. What types of adjectives are "taller and thinner"? Why might they have been used?
3. What seems sinister and threatening about the other mother's hands?
4. What is the most disturbing thing about the other mother?

Like we did with the character of Coraline, we are going to have a go at writing up our response to the question: “How does the writer portray the character of the other mother?” This will be marked by your teacher and you will receive a grade and feedback. First we’ll plan together.

**Step 1: Choose the characteristic and quote**

Peculiar - “her fingers were too long”

**Step 2: Which individual word from the quote tells us that the other mother is peculiar?**

“long”

**Step 3: What does the entire quote tell us about how and why the other mother is peculiar**

It suggests that there is something strange and witch-like about her hands. They are not the same as Coraline’s real mother’s hands

**Step 4: Use the scaffold to put it altogether. Remember your language of interpretation and try to use tentative language. We use tentative language because we can’t always be SURE of what the writer is telling us—we are all making our own interpretations.**

When we write up our response to the question, we are aiming for a paragraph like this:

The writer presents the other mother as peculiar through the image, “her fingers were too long”. The use of the adjective “long” suggests that there is something strange and perhaps threatening about the hands of the other mother and might remind Coraline and the reader of a witch with long, bony hands.

**Scaffold Q: How does the writer portray the other mother at the beginning of the novel**

Opening Statement

The writer presents the other mother as \_\_\_\_\_

Subject Terminology

Phrase/quote

Word/adjective/verb/noun/adverb

Image/metaphor/simile/personification

Language of Interpretation (shows)

- Portrays/presents/conveys
- Suggests/implies
- Highlights/emphasises

Tentative Language

Might/could/perhaps

Now use the next 3-4 pages to plan your response. You will then be able to write up your paragraphs on lined paper. This will be your first assessment and you will receive feedback and a grade.

**Step 1: Choose the characteristic and quote**

**Step 2: Which individual word from the quote tells us that the other mother is \_\_\_\_\_?**

**Step 3: What does the entire quote tell us about how and why the other mother is \_\_\_\_\_**

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Might/could/perhaps

## How does the writer portray the other mother at the beginning of the novel?

Note to teacher: You may want to use this page for further planning/modelling with your class etc.

Key Words:



Opening statement

Short quote

Zoom in

Interpretation

Subject terminology

Language of Interpretation

Tentative language

Scaffold Q: How does the writer portray the other mother at the beginning of the novel

### Opening Statement

The writer presents the other mother as \_\_\_\_\_

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### Tentative Language

Might/could/perhaps

**How does the writer portray the other mother at the beginning of the novel?**

Note to teacher: Complete on lined paper to take for feedback. Stick in learner's response post-feedback.

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**Individual PLC** (Note to teacher: Please stick PLC here)

**WCF** (Note to teacher: Please WCF here)

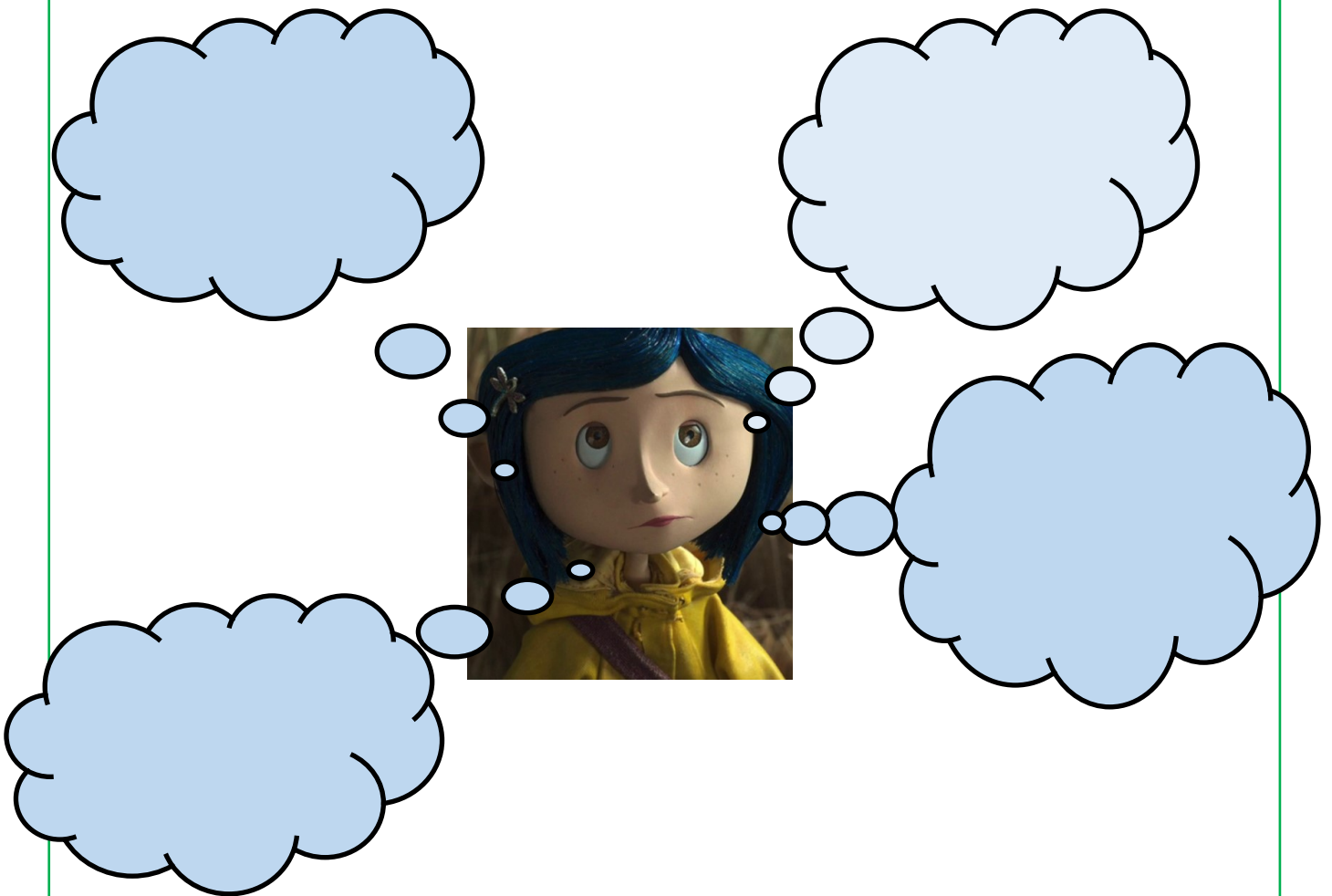
## Lesson Enquiry

**How are the characters, setting and plot developed in chapter three?**

### Knowledge Recap

Prior to your assessment, Coraline had just arrived on the other side of the old door. She has met her other mother, who seems quite creepy and strange. In chapter three, she discovers more about her and the other world she has found herself in.

Imagine you are Coraline. What questions would you have at this point in the story?



1. Coraline might be feeling scared because...
2. Coraline might be feeling scared, but...
3. Coraline might be feeling scared, so...

“Coraline?” the woman said. “Is that you?”

And then she turned around. Her eyes were big black buttons.

“Lunchtime, Coraline,” said the woman.

“Who are you?” asked Coraline.

“I’m your other mother,” said the woman. “Go and tell your other father that lunch is ready.” She opened the door of the oven. Suddenly Coraline realized how hungry she was. It smelled wonderful. “Well, go on.”

Coraline went down the hall, to where her father’s study was. She opened the door. There was a man in there, sitting at the keyboard, with his back to her. “Hello,” said Coraline. “I—I mean, she said to say that lunch is ready.”

The man turned around.

His eyes were buttons, big and black and shiny.

“Hello Coraline,” he said. “I’m starving.”

He got up and went with her into the kitchen. They sat at the kitchen table, and Coraline’s other mother brought them lunch. A huge, golden-brown roasted chicken, fried potatoes, tiny green peas. Coraline shoveled the food into her mouth. It tasted wonderful.

“We’ve been waiting for you for a long time,” said Coraline’s other father.

“For me?”

“Yes,” said the other mother. “It wasn’t the same here without you. But we knew you’d arrive one day, and then we could be a proper family. Would you like some more chicken?”

It was the best chicken that Coraline had ever eaten. Her mother sometimes made chicken, but it was always out of packets or frozen, and was very dry, and it never tasted of anything. When Coraline’s father cooked chicken he bought real chicken, but he did strange things to it, like stewing it in wine, or stuffing it with prunes, or baking it in pastry, and Coraline would always refuse to touch it on principle.

She took some more chicken.

“I didn’t know I had another mother,” said Coraline, cautiously.

“Of course you do. Everyone does,” said the other mother, her black button eyes gleaming. “After lunch I thought you might like to play in your room with the rats.”

“The rats?”

“From upstairs.”

Coraline had never seen a rat, except on television. She was quite looking forward to it. This was turning out to be a very interesting day after all.

After lunch her other parents did the washing up, and Coraline went down the hall to her other bedroom.

It was different from her bedroom at home. For a start it was painted in an off-putting shade of green and a peculiar shade of pink.

Coraline decided that she wouldn't want to have to sleep in there, but that the color scheme was an awful lot more interesting than her own bedroom.

There were all sorts of remarkable things in there she'd never seen before: windup angels that fluttered around the bedroom like startled sparrows; books with pictures that writhed and crawled and shimmered; little dinosaur skulls that chattered their teeth as she passed. A whole toy box filled with wonderful toys.

*This is more like it*, thought Coraline. She looked out of the window. Outside, the view was the same one she saw from her own bedroom: trees, fields, and beyond them, on the horizon, distant purple hills.

Something black scurried across the floor and vanished under the bed. Coraline got down on her knees and looked under the bed. Fifty little red eyes stared back at her.

"Hello," said Coraline. "Are you the rats?"

They came out from under the bed, blinking their eyes in the light. They had short, soot-black fur, little red eyes, pink paws like tiny hands, and pink, hairless tails like long, smooth worms.

"Can you talk?" she asked.

The largest, blackest of the rats shook its head. It had an unpleasant sort of smile, Coraline thought.

"Well," asked Coraline, "what *do* you do?"

The rats formed a circle.

Then they began to climb on top of each other, carefully but swiftly, until they had formed a pyramid with the largest rat at the top.

The rats began to sing, in high, whispery voices,

*We have teeth and we have tails*

*We have tails we have eyes*

*We were here before you fell*

*You will be here when we rise.*

It wasn't a pretty song. Coraline was sure she'd heard it before, or something like it, although she was unable to remember exactly where.

Then the pyramid fell apart, and the rats scampered, fast and black, toward the door.

The other crazy old man upstairs was standing in the doorway, holding a tall black hat in his hands. The rats scampered up him, burrowing into his pockets, into his shirt, up his trouser legs, down his neck.

The largest rat climbed onto the old man's shoulders, swung up on the long gray mustache, past the big black button eyes, and onto the top of the man's head.

In seconds the only evidence that the rats were there at all were the restless lumps under the man's clothes, forever sliding from place to place across him; and there was still the largest rat, who stared down, with glittering red eyes, at Coraline from the man's head.

The old man put his hat on, and the last rat was gone.

"Hello Coraline," said the other old man upstairs. "I heard you were here. It is time for the rats to have their dinner. But you can come up with me, if you like, and watch them feed."

There was something hungry in the old man's button eyes that made Coraline feel uncomfortable. "No, thank you," she said. "I'm going outside to explore."

The old man nodded, very slowly. Coraline could hear the rats whispering to each other, although she could not tell what they were saying.

She was not certain that she wanted to know what they were saying.

Her other parents stood in the kitchen doorway as she walked down the corridor, smiling identical smiles, and waving slowly. "Have a nice time outside," said her other mother.

"We'll just wait here for you to come back," said her other father.

When Coraline got to the front door, she turned back and looked at them. They were still watching her, and waving, and smiling.

Coraline walked outside, and down the steps.



**1. Have your first impressions of the other mother changed as we have read on? If so, how?**

**2. What are your first impressions of the other world? Explain in your own words.**

**3. How do we know we are reading a fantasy novel? Write down three quotes from the last three pages that tell us this a fantasy novel.**

**4. Re-read the last three pages. Highlight and annotate anything that suggests there is something sinister about the other world and its inhabitants.**

**Because/but/so...**

**The other world seems like an amazing place because...**

**The other world seems like an amazing place, but...**

**The other world seems like an amazing place, but...**

**Making Predictions:**

**Think about who Coraline has already met in the other world. Who do you think that she might meet in the next chapter?**

## Lesson Enquiry

**How does the novel conform to the features of the fantasy genre in chapter four?**

### Knowledge Review: True or False Grid

In the other world, only the other mother has button eyes. <div style="text-align: center;">_ <b>F</b> _</div>	Coraline enjoys the dinner in the other world. <div style="text-align: center;">_ _ _</div>	Coraline's bedroom looks the same as her bedroom at home. <div style="text-align: center;">_ _ _</div>
Coraline doesn't like the song that the rats sing to her. <div style="text-align: center;">_ _ _</div>	Coraline knows that she shouldn't really have opened the door. <div style="text-align: center;">_ _ _</div>	Coraline already knew she had another mother. <div style="text-align: center;">_ _ _</div>
The rat's have dark brown eyes. <div style="text-align: center;">_ _ _</div>	Coraline does not feel entirely comfortable in the other world. <div style="text-align: center;">_ _ _</div>	The other mother looks exactly the same as her real mother. <div style="text-align: center;">_ _ _</div>

### What can you remember about the features of the fantasy genre?

Characters	Settings	Themes	Plot

1. Think about chapters 1-3. What clues have there already been to suggest that we are reading a fantasy novel?

- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

2. Are there any similarities between the story so far and other fantasy novels you have read?

Because/but/so...

Coraline seems like a fantasy novel because...

Coraline seems like a fantasy novel, but...

Coraline seems like a fantasy novel, so...

## IV.

**T**he house looked exactly the same from the outside. Or almost exactly the same: around Miss Spink and Miss Forcible's door were blue and red lightbulbs that flashed on and off spelling out words, the lights chasing each other around the door. On and off, around and around. astounding! was followed by a theatrical and then triumph!!!

It was a sunny, cold day, exactly like the one she'd left.

There was a polite noise from behind her.

She turned around. Standing on the wall next to her was a large black cat, identical to the large black cat she'd seen in the grounds at home.

"Good afternoon," said the cat.

Its voice sounded like the voice at the back of Coraline's head, the voice she thought words in, but a man's voice, not a girl's.

“Hello,” said Coraline. “I saw a cat like you in the garden at home. You must be the other cat.”

The cat shook its head. “No,” it said. “I’m not the other anything. I’m me.” It tipped its head to one side; green eyes glinted. “You people are spread all over the place. Cats, on the other hand, keep ourselves together. If you see what I mean.”

“I suppose. But if you’re the same cat I saw at home, how can you talk?”

Cats don’t have shoulders, not like people do. But the cat shrugged, in one smooth movement that started at the tip of its tail and ended in a raised movement of its whiskers. “I can talk.”

“Cats don’t talk at home.”

“No?” said the cat.

“No,” said Coraline.

The cat leaped smoothly from the wall to the grass near Coraline’s feet. It stared up at her.

“Well, you’re the expert on these things,” said the cat dryly. “After all, what would I know? I’m only a cat.”

---

It began to walk away, head and tail held high and proud.

“Come back,” said Coraline. “Please. I’m sorry. I really am.”

The cat stopped walking, sat down, and began to wash itself thoughtfully, apparently unaware of Coraline’s existence.

“We . . . we could be friends, you know,” said Coraline.

“We *could* be rare specimens of an exotic breed of African dancing elephants,” said the cat. “But we’re not. At least,” it added cattily, after darting a brief look at Coraline, “*I’m* not.”

Coraline sighed.

“Please. What’s your name?” Coraline asked the cat. “Look, I’m Coraline. Okay?”

The cat yawned slowly, carefully, revealing a mouth and tongue of astounding pinkness. “Cats don’t have names,” it said.

“No?” said Coraline.

“No,” said the cat. “Now, *you* people have names. That’s because you don’t know who you are. We know who we are, so we don’t need names.”

There was something irritatingly self-centered about the cat, Coraline decided. As if it were, in its opinion, the only thing in any world or place that could possibly be of any importance.

Half of her wanted to be very rude to it; the other half of her wanted to be polite and deferential. The polite half won.

“Please, what is this place?”

The cat glanced around briefly. “It’s here,” said the cat.

“I can see that. Well, how did you get here?”

“Like you did. I walked,” said the cat. “Like this.”

Coraline watched as the cat walked slowly across the lawn. It walked behind a tree, but didn’t come out the other side. Coraline went over to the tree and looked behind it. The cat was gone.

She walked back toward the house. There was another polite noise from behind her. It was the cat.

“By the by,” it said. “It was sensible of you to bring protection. I’d hang on to it, if I were you.”

“Protection?”

“That’s what I said,” said the cat. “And anyway—”

It paused, and stared intently at something that wasn’t there.

Then it went down into a low crouch and moved slowly forward, two or three steps. It seemed to be stalking an invisible mouse. Abruptly, it turned tail and dashed for the woods.

It vanished among the trees.

Coraline wondered what the cat had meant.

She also wondered whether cats could all talk where she came from and just chose not to, or whether they could only talk when they were here—wherever *here* was.

She walked down the brick steps to the Misses Spink and Forcible’s front door. The blue and red lights flashed on and off.

The door was open, just slightly. She knocked on it, but her first knock made the door swing open, and Coraline went in.

She was in a dark room that smelled of dust and velvet. The door swung shut behind her, and the room was black. Coraline edged forward into a small anteroom. Her face brushed against something soft. It was cloth. She reached up her hand and pushed at the cloth. It parted.

She stood blinking on the other side of the velvet curtains, in a poorly lit theater. Far away, at the edge of the room, was a high wooden stage, empty and bare, a dim spotlight shining onto it from high above.

There were seats between Coraline and the stage. Rows and rows of seats. She heard a shuffling noise, and a light came toward her, swinging from side to side. When it was closer she saw the light was coming from a flashlight being carried in the mouth of a large black Scottie dog, its muzzle gray with age.

“Hello,” said Coraline.

The dog put the flashlight down on the floor, and looked up at her. “Right. Let’s see your ticket,” he said gruffly.

“Ticket?”

“That’s what I said. Ticket. I haven’t got all day, you know. You can’t watch the show without a ticket.”

Coraline sighed. “I don’t have a ticket,” she admitted.

“Another one,” said the dog gloomily. “Come in here, bold as anything. ‘Where’s your ticket?’ ‘Haven’t got one,’ I don’t know . . .” It shook its head, then shrugged. “Come on, then.”

He picked up the flashlight in his mouth and trotted off into the dark. Coraline followed him. When he got near the front of the stage he stopped and shone the flashlight onto an empty seat. Coraline sat down, and the dog wandered off.

As her eyes got used to the darkness she realized that the other inhabitants of the seats were also dogs.

There was a sudden hissing noise from behind the stage. Coraline decided it was the sound of a scratchy old record being put onto a record player. The hissing became the noise of trumpets, and Miss Spink and Miss Forcible came onto the stage.

Miss Spink was riding a one-wheeled bicycle and juggling balls. Miss Forcible skipped behind her, holding a basket of flowers. She scattered the flower petals across the stage as she went. They reached the front of the stage, and Miss Spink leaped nimbly off the unicycle, and the two old women bowed low.

All the dogs thumped their tails and barked enthusiastically. Coraline clapped politely.

Then they unbuttoned their fluffy round coats and opened them. But their coats weren’t all that opened: their faces opened, too, like empty shells, and out of the old empty fluffy round bodies stepped two young women. They were thin, and pale, and quite pretty, and had black button eyes.

The new Miss Spink was wearing green tights, and high brown boots that went most of the way up her legs. The new Miss Forcible wore a white dress and had flowers in her long yellow hair.

Coraline pressed back against her seat.

Miss Spink went off the stage, and the noise of trumpets squealed as the gramophone needle dug its way across the record, and was pulled off.

“This is my favorite bit,” whispered the little dog in the seat next to her.

The other Miss Forcible picked a knife out of a box on the corner of the stage. “Is this a dagger that I see before me?” she asked.

“Yes!” shouted all the little dogs. “It is!”

Miss Forcible curtsied, and all the dogs applauded again. Coraline didn’t bother clapping this time.

Miss Spink came back on. She slapped her thigh, and all the little dogs woofed.

“And now,” Miss Spink said, “Miriam and I proudly present a new and exciting addendum to our theatrical exposition. Do I see a volunteer?”

The little dog next to Coraline nudged her with its front paw. “That’s you,” it hissed.

Coraline stood up, and walked up the wooden steps to the stage.

“Can I have big round of applause for the young volunteer?” asked Miss Spink. The dogs woofed and squealed and thumped their tails on the velvet seats.

“Now Coraline,” said Miss Spink, “what’s your name?”

“Coraline,” said Coraline.

“And we don’t know each other, do we?”

Coraline looked at the thin young woman with black button eyes and shook her head slowly.

“Now,” said the other Miss Spink, “stand over here.” She led Coraline over to a board by the side of the stage, and put a balloon on top of Coraline’s head.

Miss Spink walked over to Miss Forcible. She blindfolded Miss Forcible’s button eyes with a black scarf, and put the knife into her hands. Then she turned her round three or four times and pointed her at Coraline. Coraline held her breath and squeezed her fingers into two tight fists.

Miss Forcible threw the knife at the balloon. It popped loudly, and the knife stuck into the board just above Coraline’s head and twanged there. Coraline breathed out.

The dogs went wild.

Miss Spink gave Coraline a very small box of chocolates and thanked her for being such a good sport. Coraline went back to her seat.

“You were very good,” said the little dog.

“Thank you,” said Coraline.

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“You were very good,” said the little dog.

“Thank you,” said Coraline.

Miss Forcible and Miss Spink began juggling with huge wooden clubs. Coraline opened the box of chocolates. The dog looked at them longingly.

“Would you like one?” she asked the little dog.

“Yes, please,” whispered the dog. “Only not toffee ones. They make me drool.”

“I thought chocolates weren’t very good for dogs,” she said, remembering something Miss Forcible had once told her.

“Maybe where you come from,” whispered the little dog. “Here, it’s all we eat.”

Coraline couldn’t see what the chocolates were, in the dark. She took an experimental bite of one which turned out to be coconut. Coraline didn’t like coconut. She gave it to the dog.

“Thank you,” said the dog.

“You’re welcome,” said Coraline.

Miss Forcible and Miss Spink were doing some acting. Miss Forcible was sitting on a stepladder, and Miss Spink was standing at the bottom.

“What’s in a name?” asked Miss Forcible. “That which we call a rose by any other name would smell as sweet.”

“Have you got any more chocolates?” said the dog.

Coraline gave the dog another chocolate.

“I know not how to tell thee who I am,” said Miss Spink to Miss Forcible.

“This bit finishes soon,” whispered the dog. “Then they start folk dancing.”

“How long does this go on for?” asked Coraline. “The theater?”

“All the time,” said the dog. “For ever and always.”

“Here,” said Coraline. “Keep the chocolates.”

“Thank you,” said the dog. Coraline stood up.

“See you soon,” said the dog.

“Bye,” said Coraline. She walked out of the theater and back into the garden. She had to blink her eyes at the daylight.

Her other parents were waiting for her in the garden, standing side by side. They were smiling.

“Did you have a nice time?” asked her other mother.

“It was interesting,” said Coraline.

The three of them walked back up to Coraline’s other house together. Coraline’s other mother stroked Coraline’s hair with her long white fingers. Coraline shook her head. “Don’t do that,” said Coraline.

Her other mother took her hand away.

“So,” said her other father. “Do you like it here?”

“I suppose,” said Coraline. “It’s much more interesting than at home.”

They went inside.

“I’m glad you like it,” said Coraline’s mother. “Because we’d like to think that this is your home. You can stay here for ever and always. If you want to.”

“Hmm,” said Coraline. She put her hand in her pockets, and thought about it. Her hand touched the stone that the real Misses Spink and Forcible had given her the day before, the stone with the hole in it.

“If you want to stay,” said her other father, “there’s only one little thing we’ll have to do, so you can stay here for ever and always.”

They went into the kitchen. On a china plate on the kitchen table was a spool of black cotton, and a long silver needle, and, beside them, two large black buttons.

“I don’t think so,” said Coraline.

“Oh, but we want you to,” said her other mother. “We want you to stay. And it’s just a little thing.”

“It won’t hurt,” said her other father.

Coraline knew that when grown-ups told you something wouldn’t hurt it almost always did. She shook her head.

Her other mother smiled brightly and the hair on her head drifted like plants under the sea. “We only want what’s best for you,” she said.

She put her hand on Coraline’s shoulder. Coraline backed away.

“I’m going now,” said Coraline. She put her hands in her pockets. Her fingers closed around the stone with the hole in it.

Her other mother's hand scuttled off Coraline's shoulder like a frightened spider.

"If that's what you want," she said.

"Yes," said Coraline.

"We'll see you soon, though," said her other father. "When you come back."

"Um," said Coraline.

"And then we'll all be together as one big happy family," said her other mother. "For ever and always."

Coraline backed away. She turned and hurried into the drawing room and pulled open the door in the corner. There was no brick wall there now—just darkness, a night-black underground darkness that seemed as if things in it might be moving.

Coraline hesitated. She turned back. Her other mother and her other father were walking toward her, holding hands. They were looking at her with their black button eyes. Or at least she *thought* they were looking at her. She couldn't be sure.

Her other mother reached out her free hand and beckoned, gently, with one white finger. Her pale lips mouthed, "Come back soon," although she said nothing aloud.

Coraline took a deep breath and stepped into the darkness, where strange voices whispered and distant winds howled. She became certain that there was something in the dark behind her: something very old and very slow. Her heart beat so hard and so loudly she was scared it would burst out of her chest. She closed her eyes against the dark.

Eventually she bumped into something, and opened her eyes, startled. She had bumped into an armchair, in her drawing room.

The open doorway behind her was blocked by rough red bricks.

She was home.

Complete the table below

Lesson Enquiry

How does the novel conform to the features of the fantasy genre in chapter four?

<u>Feature of Fantasy</u>	<u>Evidence from Chapter Four</u>

Because/but/so...

Chapter four conforms to the features of the fantasy genre because....

Chapter four conforms to the features of the fantasy genre, but....

Chapter four conforms to the features of the fantasy genre, so....

## Lesson Enquiry

How are the characters, setting and plot developed in chapter five?

### Knowledge Review

#### **End of Chapter Four**

“And then we’ll all be together as one big happy family,” said her other mother. “For ever and always.”

Coraline backed away. She turned and hurried into the drawing room and pulled open the door in the corner. There was no brick wall there now—just darkness, a night-black underground darkness that seemed as if things in it might be moving.

Coraline hesitated. She turned back. Her other mother and her other father were walking toward her, holding hands. They were looking at her with their black button eyes. Or at least she *thought* they were looking at her. She couldn’t be sure.

Her other mother reached out her free hand and beckoned, gently, with one white finger. Her pale lips mouthed, “Come back soon,” although she said nothing aloud.

Coraline took a deep breath and stepped into the darkness, where strange voices whispered and distant winds howled. She became certain that there was something in the dark behind her: something very old and very slow. Her heart beat so hard and so loudly she was scared it would burst out of her chest. She closed her eyes against the dark.

Eventually she bumped into something, and opened her eyes, startled. She had bumped into an armchair, in her drawing room.

The open doorway behind her was blocked by rough red bricks.

She was home.

1. Write down two quotations from the end of chapter four that show the other mother and other father are sinister characters.

2. How do you think Coraline feels at the end of chapter four? Use THREE quotations from the text to support your answer.

3. Which words and phrases convey Coraline’s feelings in this quote, “her heart beat so hard and so loudly she was scared it would burst out of her chest.”

## V.

CORALINE LOCKED THE DOOR of the drawing room with the cold black key.

She went back into the kitchen and climbed onto a chair. She tried to put the bunch of keys back on top of the doorframe again. She tried four or five times before she was forced to accept that she just wasn't big enough, and she put them down on the counter next to the door.

Her mother still hadn't returned from her shopping expedition.

Coraline went to the freezer and took out the spare loaf of frozen bread in the bottom compartment. She made herself some toast, with jam and peanut butter. She drank a glass of water.

She waited for her parents to come back.

When it began to get dark, Coraline microwaved herself a frozen pizza.

Then Coraline watched television. She wondered why grown-ups gave themselves all the good programs, with all the shouting and running around in.

After a while she started yawning. Then she undressed, brushed her teeth, and put herself to bed.

In the morning she went into her parents' room, but their bed hadn't been slept in, and they weren't around. She ate canned spaghetti for breakfast.

For lunch she had a block of cooking chocolate and an apple. The apple was yellow and slightly shriveled, but it tasted sweet and good.

For tea she went down to see Misses Spink and Forcible. She had three digestive biscuits, a glass of limeade, and a cup of weak tea. The limeade was very interesting. It didn't taste anything like limes. It tasted bright green and vaguely chemical. Coraline liked it enormously. She wished they had it at home.

"How are your dear mother and father?" asked Miss Spink.

"Missing," said Coraline. "I haven't seen either of them since yesterday. I'm on my own. I think I've probably become a single child family."

"Tell your mother that we found the Glasgow Empire press clippings we were telling her about. She seemed very interested when Miriam mentioned them to her."

"She's vanished under mysterious circumstances," said Coraline, "and I believe my father has as well."

"I'm afraid we'll be out all day tomorrow, Caroline, luvvy," said Miss Forcible. "We'll be staying over with April's niece in Royal Tunbridge Wells."

They showed Coraline a photographic album, with photographs of Miss Spink's niece in it, and then Coraline went home.

She opened her money box and walked down to the supermarket. She bought two large bottles of limeade, a chocolate cake, and a new bag of apples, and went back home and ate them for dinner.

She cleaned her teeth, and went into her father's office. She woke up his computer and wrote a story.

CORALINE'S STORY.

THERE WAS A GIRL HER NAME WAS APPLE. SHE USED TO DANCE A LOT. SHE DANCED AND DANCED UNTIL HER FEET TURNED INTO SOSSAJES THE END.

She printed out the story and turned off the computer. Then she drew a picture of the little girl dancing underneath the words on the paper.

She ran herself a bath with too much bubble bath in it, and the bubbles ran over the side and went all over the floor. She dried herself, and the floor as best she could, and went to bed.

Coraline woke up in the night. She went into her parents' bedroom, but the bed was made and empty. The glowing green numbers on the digital clock glowed 3:12 A.M.

All alone, in the middle of the night, Coraline began to cry. There was no other sound in the empty flat.

She climbed into her parents' bed, and, after a while, she went to sleep.

Coraline was woken by cold paws batting her face. She opened her eyes. Big green eyes stared back at her. It was the cat.

"Hullo," said Coraline. "How did you get in?"

The cat didn't say anything. Coraline got out of bed. She was wearing a long T-shirt and pajama bottoms. "Have you come to tell me something?"

The cat yawned, which made its eyes flash green.

"Do you know where Mummy and Daddy are?"

The cat blinked at her, slowly.

"Is that a yes?"

The cat blinked again. Coraline decided that that was indeed a yes. "Will you take me to them?"

The cat stared at her. Then it walked out into the hall. She followed it. It walked the length of the corridor and stopped down at the very end, where a full-length mirror hung. The mirror had been, a long time before, the inside of a wardrobe door. It had been hanging there on the wall when they moved in, and, although Coraline's mother had spoken occasionally of replacing it with something newer, she never had.

Coraline turned on the light in the hall.

The mirror showed the corridor behind her; that was only to be expected. But reflected in the mirror were her parents. They stood awkwardly in the reflection of the hall. They seemed sad and alone. As Coraline watched, they waved to her, slowly, with limp hands. Coraline's father had his arm around her mother.

In the mirror Coraline's mother and father stared at her. Her father opened his mouth and said something, but she could hear nothing at all. Her mother breathed on the inside of the mirror glass, and quickly, before the fog faded, she wrote

HELP

with the tip of her forefinger. The fog on the inside of the mirror faded, and so did her parents, and now the mirror reflected only the corridor, and Coraline, and the cat.

"Where are they?" Coraline asked the cat. The cat made no reply, but Coraline could imagine its voice, dry as a dead fly on a windowsill in winter, saying *Well, where do you think they are?*

"They aren't going to come back, are they?" said Coraline. "Not under their own steam."

The cat blinked at her. Coraline took it as a yes.

"Right," said Coraline. "Then I suppose there is only one thing left to do."

She walked into her father's study. She sat down at his desk. Then she picked up the telephone, and she opened the phone book and telephoned the local police station.

"Police," said a gruff male voice.

"Hello," she said. "My name is Coraline Jones."

"You're up a bit after your bedtime, aren't you, young lady?" said the policeman.

"Possibly," said Coraline, who was not going to be diverted, "but I am ringing to report a crime."

"And what sort of crime would that be?"

"Kidnapping. Grown-up-napping really. My parents have been stolen away into a world on the other side of the mirror in our hall."

"And do you know who stole them?" asked the police officer. Coraline could hear the smile in his voice, and she tried extra hard to sound like an adult might sound, to make him take her seriously.

"I think my other mother has them both in her clutches. She may want to keep them and sew their eyes with black buttons, or she may simply have them in order to lure me back into reach of her fingers. I'm not sure."

"Ah. The nefarious clutches of her fiendish fingers, is it?" he said. "Mm. You know what I suggest, Miss Jones?"

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“No,” said Coraline. “What?”

“You ask your mother to make you a big old mug of hot chocolate, and then give you a great big old hug. There’s nothing like hot chocolate and a hug for making the nightmares go away. And if she starts to tell you off for waking her up at this time of night, why you tell her that that’s what the policeman said.” He had a deep, reassuring voice.

Coraline was not reassured.

“When I see her,” said Coraline, “I shall tell her that.” And she put down the telephone.

The black cat, who had sat on the floor, grooming his fur, through this entire conversation now stood up and led the way into the hall.

Coraline went back into her bedroom and put on her blue dressing gown and her slippers. She looked under the sink for a flashlight, and found one, but the batteries had long since run down, and it barely glowed with the faintest straw-colored light. She put it down again and found a box of in-case-of-emergency white wax candles, and thrust one into a candlestick. She put an apple into each pocket. She picked up the ring of keys and took the old black key off the ring.

She walked into the drawing room and looked at the door. She had the feeling that the door was looking at her, which she knew was silly, and knew on a deeper level was somehow true.

She went back into her bedroom, and rummaged in the pocket of her jeans. She found the stone with the hole in it, and put it into her dressing-gown pocket.

She lit the candlewick with a match and watched it sputter and light, then she picked up the black key. It was cold in her hand. She put it into the keyhole in the door, but did not turn the key.

“When I was a little girl,” said Coraline to the cat, “when we lived in our old house, a long, long time ago, my dad took me for a walk on the wasteland between our house and the shops.

“It wasn’t the best place to go for a walk, really. There were all these things that people had thrown away back there—old cookers and broken dishes and dolls with no arms and no legs and empty cans and broken bottles. Mum and Dad made me promise not to go exploring back there, because there were too many sharp things, and tetanus and such.

“But I kept telling them I wanted to explore it. So one day my dad put on his big brown boots and his gloves and put my boots on me and my jeans and sweater, and we went for a walk.

“We must have walked for about twenty minutes. We went down this hill, to the bottom of a gully where a stream was, when my dad suddenly said to me, “Coraline—run away. Up the hill. Now!” He said it in a tight sort of way, urgently, so I did. I ran away up the hill. Something hurt me on the back of my arm as I ran, but I kept running.

“As I got to the top of the hill I heard somebody thundering up the hill behind me. It was my dad, charging like a rhino. When he reached me he picked me up in his arms and swept me over the edge of the hill.

“And then we stopped and we puffed and we panted, and we looked back down the gully.

“The air was alive with yellow wasps. We must have stepped on a wasps’ nest in a rotten branch as we walked. And while I was running up the hill, my dad stayed and got stung, to give me time to run away. His glasses had fallen off when he ran.

“I only had the one sting on the back of my arm. He had thirty-nine stings, all over him. We counted later, in the bath.”

The black cat began to wash its face and whiskers in a manner that indicated increasing impatience. Coraline reached down and stroked the back of its head and neck. The cat stood up, walked several paces until it was out of her reach, then it sat down and looked up at her again.

“So,” said Coraline, “later that afternoon my dad went back again to the wasteland, to get his glasses back. He said if he left it another day he wouldn’t be able to remember where they’d fallen.

“And soon he got home, wearing his glasses. He said that he wasn’t scared when he was standing there and the wasps were stinging him and hurting him and he was watching me run away. Because he knew he had to give me enough time to run, or the wasps would have come after both of us.”

Coraline turned the key in the door. It turned with a loud *clunk*.

The door swung open.

There was no brick wall on the other side of the door: only darkness. A cold wind blew through the passageway.

Coraline made no move to walk through the door.

“And he said that wasn’t brave of him, doing that, just standing there and being stung,” said Coraline to the cat. “It wasn’t brave because he wasn’t scared: it was the only thing he could do. But going back again to get his glasses, when he knew the wasps were there, when he was really scared. *That* was brave.”

She took her first step down the dark corridor.

She could smell dust and damp and mustiness.

The cat padded along beside her.

“And why was that?” asked the cat, although it sounded barely interested.

“Because,” she said, “when you’re scared but you still do it anyway, *that’s* brave.”

The candle cast huge, strange, flickering shadows along the wall. She heard something moving in the darkness—beside her or to one side of her, she could not tell. It seemed as if it was keeping pace with her, whatever it was.

“And that’s why you’re going back to *her* world, then?” said the cat. “Because your father once saved you from wasps?”

“Don’t be silly,” said Coraline. “I’m going back for them because they are my parents. And if they noticed I was gone I’m sure they would do the same for me. You know you’re talking again?”

“How fortunate I am,” said the cat, “in having a traveling companion of such wisdom and intelligence.” Its tone remained sarcastic, but its fur was bristling, and its brush of a tail stuck up in the air.

Coraline was going to say something, like *sorry* or *wasn’t it a lot shorter walk last time?* when the candle went out as suddenly as if it had been snuffed by someone’s hand.

There was a scrabbling and a pattering, and Coraline could feel her heart pounding against her ribs. She put out one hand . . . and felt something wispy, like a spider’s web, brush her hands and her face.

At the end of the corridor the electric light went on, blinding after the darkness. A woman stood, silhouetted by the light, a little ahead of Coraline.

“Coraline? Darling?” she called.

“Mum!” said Coraline, and she ran forward, eager and relieved.

“Darling,” said the woman. “Why did you ever run away from me?”

Coraline was too close to stop, and she felt the other mother’s cold arms enfold her. She stood there, rigid and trembling as the other mother held her tightly.

“Where are my parents?” Coraline asked.

“We’re here,” said her other mother, in a voice so close to her real mother’s that Coraline could scarcely tell them apart. “We’re here. We’re ready to love you and play with you and feed you and make your life interesting.”

Coraline pulled back, and the other mother let her go, with reluctance.

The other father, who had been sitting on a chair in the hallway, stood up and smiled. “Come on into the kitchen,” he said. “I’ll make us a midnight snack. And you’ll want something to drink—hot chocolate perhaps?”

Coraline walked down the hallway until she reached the mirror at the end. There was nothing reflected in it but a young girl in her dressing gown and slippers, who looked like she had recently been crying but whose eyes were real eyes, not black buttons, and who was holding tightly to a burned-out candle in a candlestick.

She looked at the girl in the mirror and the girl in the mirror looked back at her.

*I will be brave,* thought Coraline. *No, I am brave.*

She put down the candlestick on the floor, then turned around. The other mother and the other father were looking at her hungrily

"I don't need a snack," she said. "I have an apple. See?" And she took an apple from her dressing-gown pocket, then bit into it with relish and an enthusiasm that she did not really feel.

The other father looked disappointed. The other mother smiled, showing a full set of teeth, and each of the teeth was a tiny bit too long. The lights in the hallway made her black button eyes glitter and gleam.

"You don't frighten me," said Coraline, although they did frighten her, very much. "I want my parents back."

The world seemed to shimmer a little at the edges.

"Whatever would I have done with your old parents? If they have left you, Coraline, it must be because they became bored of you, or tired. Now, I will never become bored of you, and I will never abandon you. You will always be safe here with me." The other mother's wet-looking black hair drifted around her head, like the tentacles of a creature in the deep ocean.

"They weren't bored of me," said Coraline. "You're lying. You stole them."

"Silly, silly Coraline. They are fine wherever they are."

Coraline simply glared at the other mother.

"I'll prove it," said the other mother, and brushed the surface of the mirror with her long white fingers. It clouded over, as if a dragon had breathed on it, and then it cleared.

In the mirror it was daytime already. Coraline was looking at the hallway, all the way down to her front door. The door opened from the outside and Coraline's mother and father walked inside. They carried suitcases.

"That was a fine holiday," said Coraline's father.

"How nice it is, not to have Coraline any more," said her mother with a happy smile. "Now we can do all the things we always wanted to do, like go abroad, but were prevented from doing by having a little daughter."

"And," said her father, "I take great comfort in knowing that her other mother will take better care of her than we ever could."

The mirror fogged and faded and reflected the night once more.

"See?" said her other mother.

"No," said Coraline. "I don't see. And I don't believe it either."

She hoped that what she had just seen was not real, but she was not as certain as she sounded. There was a tiny doubt inside her, like a maggot in an apple core. Then she looked up and saw the expression on her other mother's face: a flash of real anger, which crossed her face like summer lightning, and Coraline was sure in her heart that what she had seen in the mirror was no more than an illusion.

Coraline sat down on the sofa and ate her apple.

“Please,” said her other mother. “Don’t be difficult.” She walked into the drawing room and clapped her hands twice. There was a rustling noise and a black rat appeared. It stared up at her. “Bring me the key,” she said.

The rat chittered, then it ran through the open door that led back to Coraline’s own flat.

The rat returned, dragging the key behind it.

“Why don’t you have your own key on this side?” asked Coraline.

“There is only one key. Only one door,” said the other father.

“Hush,” said the other mother. “You must not bother our darling Coraline’s head with such trivialities.” She put the key in the keyhole and twisted. The lock was stiff, but it clunked closed.

She dropped the key into her apron pocket.

Outside, the sky had begun to lighten to a luminous gray.

“If we aren’t going to have a midnight snack,” said the other mother, “we still need our beauty sleep. I am going back to bed, Coraline. I would strongly suggest that you do the same.”

She placed her long white fingers on the shoulders of the other father, and she walked him out of the room.

Coraline walked over to the door at the far corner of the drawing room. She tugged on it, but it was tightly locked. The door of her other parents’ bedroom was now closed.

She was indeed tired, but she did not want to sleep in the bedroom. She did not want to sleep under the same roof as her other mother.

The front door was not locked. Coraline walked out into the dawn and down the stone stairs. She sat down on the bottom step. It was cold.

Something furry pushed itself against her side in one smooth, insinuating motion. Coraline jumped, then breathed a sigh of relief when she saw what it was.

“Oh. It’s you,” she said to the black cat.

“See?” said the cat. “It wasn’t so hard recognizing me, was it? Even without names.”

“Well, what if I wanted to call you?”

The cat wrinkled its nose and managed to look unimpressed. “Calling cats,” it confided, “tends to be a rather overrated activity. Might as well call a whirlwind.”

“What if it was dinnertime?” asked Coraline. “Wouldn’t you want to be called then?”

“Of course,” said the cat. “But a simple cry of ‘dinner!’ would do nicely. See? No need for names.”

“Why does she want me?” Coraline asked the cat. “Why does she want me to stay here with her?”

“She wants something to love, I think,” said the cat. “Something that isn’t her. She might want something to eat as well. It’s hard to tell with creatures like that.”

“Do you have any advice?” asked Coraline.

The cat looked as if it were about to say something else sarcastic. Then it flicked its whiskers and said, “Challenge her. There’s no guarantee she’ll play fair, but her kind of thing loves games and challenges.”

“What kind of thing is that?” asked Coraline.

But the cat made no answer, simply stretched luxuriantly and walked away. Then it stopped, and turned, and said, “I’d go inside if I were you. Get some sleep. You have a long day ahead of you.”

And then the cat was gone. Still, Coraline realized, it had a point. She crept back into the silent house, past the closed bedroom door inside which the other mother and the other father . . . what? she wondered. Slept? Waited? And then it came to her that, should she open the bedroom door she would find it empty, or more precisely, that it was an empty room and it would remain empty until the exact moment that she opened the door.

Somehow, that made it easier. Coraline walked into the green-and-pink parody of her own bedroom. She closed the door and hauled the toy box in front of it—it would not keep anyone out, but the noise somebody would make trying to dislodge it would wake her, she hoped.

The toys in the toy box were still mostly asleep, and they stirred and muttered as she moved their box, and then they went back to sleep. Coraline checked under her bed, looking for rats, but there was nothing there. She took off her dressing gown and slippers and climbed into bed and fell asleep with barely enough time to reflect, as she did so, on what the cat could have meant by *a challenge*.



1. List four things that Coraline does when she arrives back in the real world.
  2. What does the cat show Coraline?
  3. What has happened to Coraline's real parents?
  4. Find evidence from the text that shows the police officer does not take Coraline's concerns seriously.
  5. What items does Coraline take with her as she prepares to rescue her parents?
  6. Coraline tells the cat an anecdote (a short story) about her father. What kind of man does Coraline's father seem to be? Why do you think Coraline is thinking about this event from her childhood?
  7. Why do you think the cat can only talk in the other world?
  8. Do you think Coraline is brave to return to the other world? Explain your response.  
.
  9. When Coraline arrives back in the other world, she mistakes the other mother for her real mother. How does she feel when she realises her mistake? Use two quotes to explain your answer.
  10. Find evidence from the end of chapter four that the other mother is trying to trick and manipulate Coraline.
  11. Find evidence from the end of chapter four that shows the other mother is running out of patience with Coraline.
- Challenge:** What kind of character is the cat? How does he act/ behave? Use quotes from chapter four to support your answer.

How do you think each character feels by the end of Chapter Five? Write their thoughts in the first person.

*I'm not in the habit of complimenting other people, but I've got to hand it to her - Coraline is brave. But if I know the other mother, she won't give in without a fight. I'll just have to hope that Coraline has brains as well as bravery - I can't do all the thinking all of the time!*



A large, empty, rounded rectangular box with a purple outline, intended for writing Coraline's thoughts.



A large, empty, rounded rectangular box with a purple outline, intended for writing Mr. X's thoughts.



A large, empty, rounded rectangular box with a purple outline, intended for writing Coraline's thoughts.

## Lesson Enquiry

**How does the writer develop the character of the other mother in chapter 6?**

## Knowledge Review

- 1. Why has Coraline returned to the other world?**
- 2. According to the other mother, why have Coraline's parents left her?**
- 3. How does the other mother try to manipulate and deceive Coraline?**
- 4. What advice does the cat give to Coraline.**

Coraline should never have gone through the little door in the first place. I think the writer is telling us that we should always do as we are told.

Coraline likes to think she is braver than she actually is. She clearly regrets going through the door, but maybe she will learn from her mistakes.

Coraline's parents should have given her more attention. It's not Coraline's fault she had to find her own entertainment.

Choose one of the statements above. To what extent do you agree with the statement? Try to use evidence in your response.

[illegible]

## VI.

CORALINE WAS WOKEN BY the midmorning sun, full on her face.

For a moment she felt utterly dislocated. She did not know where she was; she was not entirely sure *who* she was. It is astonishing just how much of what we are can be tied to the beds we wake up in in the morning, and it is astonishing how fragile that can be.

Sometimes Coraline would forget who she was while she was daydreaming that she was exploring the Arctic, or the Amazon rain forest, or Darkest Africa, and it was not until someone tapped her on the shoulder or said her name that Coraline would come back from a million miles away with a start, and all in a fraction of a second have to remember who she was, and what her name was, and that she was even there at all.

Now there was sun on her face, and she was Coraline Jones. Yes. And then the green and pinkness of the room she was in, and the rustling of a large painted paper butterfly as it fluttered and beat its way about the ceiling, told her where she had woken up.



She climbed out of the bed. She could not wear her pajamas, dressing gown, and slippers during the day, she decided, even if it meant wearing the other Coraline's clothes. (Was there an other

Coraline? No, she realized, there wasn't. There was just her.) There were no regular clothes in the cupboard, though. They were more like dressing-up clothes or (she thought) the kind of clothes she would love to have hanging in her own wardrobe at home: there was a raggedy witch costume; a patched scarecrow costume; a future-warrior costume with little digital lights in it that glittered and blinked; a slinky evening dress all covered in feathers and mirrors. Finally, in a drawer, she found a pair of black jeans that seemed to be made of velvet night, and a gray sweater the color of thick smoke with faint and tiny stars in the fabric which twinkled.

She pulled on the jeans and the sweater. Then she put on a pair of bright orange boots she found at the bottom of the cupboard.

She took her last apple out of the pocket of her dressing gown and then took, from the same pocket, the stone with the hole in it.

She put the stone into the pocket of her jeans, and it was as if her head had cleared a little. As if she had come out of some sort of a fog.

She went into the kitchen, but it was deserted.

Still, she was sure that there was someone in the flat. She walked down the hall until she reached her father's study, and discovered that it was occupied.

"Where's the other mother?" she asked the other father. He was sitting in the study, at a desk which looked just like her father's, but he was not doing anything at all, not even reading gardening catalogs as her own father did when he was only pretending to be working.

"Out," he told her. "Fixing the doors. There are some vermin problems." He seemed pleased to have somebody to talk to.

"The rats, you mean?"

"No, the rats are our friends. This is the other kind. Big black fellow, with his tail high."

"The cat, you mean?"

"That's the one," said her other father.

He looked less like her true father today. There was something slightly vague about his face—like bread dough that had begun to rise, smoothing out the bumps and cracks and depressions.

"Really, I mustn't talk to you when she's not here," he said. "But don't you worry. She won't be gone often. I shall demonstrate our tender hospitality to you, such that you will not even think about ever going back." He closed his mouth and folded his hands in his lap.

"So what am I to do now?" asked Coraline.

The other father pointed to his lips. *Silence.*

"If you won't even talk to me," said Coraline, "I am going exploring."

“No point,” said the other father. “There isn’t anywhere but here. This is all she made: the house, the grounds, and the people in the house. She made it and she waited.” Then he looked embarrassed and he put one finger to his lips again, as if he had just said too much.

Coraline walked out of his study. She went into the drawing room, over to the old door, and she pulled it, rattled and shook it. No, it was locked fast, and the other mother had the key.

She looked around the room. It was so familiar—that was what made it feel so truly strange. Everything was exactly the same as she remembered: there was all her grandmother’s strange-smelling furniture, there was the painting of the bowl of fruit (a bunch of grapes, two plums, a peach and an apple) hanging on the wall, there was the low wooden table with the lion’s feet, and the empty fireplace which seemed to suck heat from the room.

But there was something else, something she did not remember seeing before. A ball of glass, up on the mantelpiece.

She went over to the fireplace, went up on tiptoes, and lifted it down. It was a snow globe, with two little people in it. Coraline shook it and set the snow flying, white snow that glittered as it tumbled through the water.

Then she put the snow globe back on the mantelpiece, and carried on looking for her true parents and for a way out.

She went out of the flat. Past the flashing-lights door, behind which the other Misses Spink and Forcible performed their show forever, and she set off into the woods.

Where Coraline came from, once you were through the patch of trees, you saw nothing but the meadow and the old tennis court. In this place, the woods went on farther, the trees becoming cruder and less treelike the farther you went.

Pretty soon they seemed very approximate, like the idea of trees: a grayish-brown trunk below, a greenish splotch of something that might have been leaves above.

Coraline wondered if the other mother wasn’t interested in trees, or if she just hadn’t bothered with this bit properly because nobody was expected to come out this far.

She kept walking.

And then the mist began.

It was not damp, like a normal fog or mist. It was not cold and it was not warm. It felt to Coraline like she was walking into nothing.

*I’m an explorer,* thought Coraline to herself. *And I need all the ways out of here that I can get. So I shall keep walking.*

The world she was walking through was a pale nothingness, like a blank sheet of paper or an enormous, empty white room. It had no temperature, no smell, no texture, and no taste.

*It certainly isn’t mist,* thought Coraline, although she did not know what it was. For a moment she wondered if she might not have gone blind. But no, she could see herself, plain as day. But there was no ground beneath her feet, just a misty, milky whiteness.

“And what do you think you’re doing?” said a shape to one side of her.

It took a few moments for her eyes to focus on it properly: she thought it might be some kind of lion, at first, some distance away from her; and then she thought it might be a mouse, close beside her. And then she knew what it was.

“I’m exploring,” Coraline told the cat.

Its fur stood straight out from its body and its eyes were wide, while its tail was down and between its legs. It did not look a happy cat.

“Bad place,” said the cat. “If you want to call it a place, which I don’t. What are you doing here?”

“I’m exploring.”

“Nothing to find here,” said the cat. “This is just the outside, the part of the place *she* hasn’t bothered to create.”

“She?”

“The one who says she’s your other mother,” said the cat.

“What *is* she?” asked Coraline.

The cat did not answer, just padded through the pale mist beside Coraline.

A shape began to appear in front of them, something high and towering and dark.

“You were wrong!” she told the cat. “There is something there!”

And then it took shape in the mist: a dark house, which loomed at them out of the formless whiteness.

“But that’s—” said Coraline.

“The house you just left,” agreed the cat. “Precisely.”

“Maybe I just got turned around in the mist,” said Coraline.

The cat curled the high tip of its tail into a question mark, and tipped its head to one side. “*You* might have done,” it said. “*I* certainly would not. Wrong, indeed.”

“But how can you walk away from something and still come back to it?”

“Easy,” said the cat. “Think of somebody walking around the world. You start out walking away from something and end up coming back to it.”

“Small world,” said Coraline.

“It’s big enough for her,” said the cat. “Spiders’ webs only have to be large enough to catch flies.”

---

Coraline shivered.

“He said that she’s fixing all the gates and the doors,” she told the cat, “to keep you out.”

“She may *try*,” said the cat, unimpressed. “Oh yes. She may try.” They were standing under a clump of trees now, beside the house. These trees looked much more likely. “There’s ways in and ways out of places like this that even *she* doesn’t know about.”

“Did she make this place, then?” asked Coraline.

“Made it, found it—what’s the difference?” asked the cat. “Either way, she’s had it a very long time. Hang on—” And it gave a shiver and a leap and before Coraline could blink the cat was sitting with its paw holding down a big black rat. “It’s not that I like rats at the best of times,” said the cat, conversationally, as if nothing had happened, “but the rats in this place are all spies for her. She uses them as her eyes and hands . . .” And with that the cat let the rat go.

It ran several feet and then the cat, with one bound, was upon it, batting it hard with one sharp-clawed paw, while with the other paw it held the rat down. “I love this bit,” said the cat, happily. “Want to see me do that again?”

“No,” said Coraline. “Why do you do it? You’re torturing it.”

“Mm,” said the cat. It let the rat go.

The rat stumbled, dazed, for a few steps, then it began to run. With a blow of its paw, the cat knocked the rat into the air, and caught it in its mouth.

“Stop it!” said Coraline.

The cat dropped the rat between its two front paws. “There are those,” it said with a sigh, in tones as smooth as oiled silk, “who have suggested that the tendency of a cat to play with its prey is a merciful one—after all, it permits the occasional funny little running snack to escape, from time to time. How often does your dinner get to escape?”

And then it picked the rat up in its mouth and carried it off into the woods, behind a tree.

Coraline walked back into the house.

All was quiet and empty and deserted. Even her footsteps on the carpeted floor seemed loud. Dust motes hung in a beam of sunlight.

At the far end of the hall was the mirror. She could see herself walking toward the mirror, looking, reflected, a little braver than she actually felt. There was nothing else there in the mirror. Just her, in the corridor.

A hand touched her shoulder, and she looked up. The other mother stared down at Coraline with big black button eyes.

“Coraline, my darling,” she said. “I thought we could play some games together this morning, now you’re back from your walk. Hopscotch? Happy Families? Monopoly?”

“You weren’t in the mirror,” said Coraline.

The other mother smiled. "Mirrors," she said, "are never to be trusted. Now, what game shall we play?"

Coraline shook her head. "I don't want to play with you," she said. "I want to go home and be with my real parents. I want you to let them go. To let us all go."

The other mother shook her head, very slowly. "Sharper than a serpent's tooth," she said, "is a daughter's ingratitude. Still, the proudest spirit can be broken, with love." And her long white fingers waggled and caressed the air.

"I have no plans to love you," said Coraline. "No matter what. You can't make me love you."

"Let's talk about it," said the other mother, and she turned and walked into the lounge. Coraline followed her.

The other mother sat down on the big sofa. She picked up a shopping bag from beside the sofa and took out a white, rustling, paper bag from inside it.

She extended the hand with it to Coraline. "Would you like one?" she asked politely.

Expecting it to be a toffee or a butterscotch ball, Coraline looked down. The bag was half filled with large shiny blackbeetles, crawling over each other in their efforts to get out of the bag.

"No," said Coraline. "I don't want one."

"Suit yourself," said her other mother. She carefully picked out a particularly large and black beetle, pulled off its legs (which she dropped, neatly, into a big glass ashtray on the small table beside the sofa), and popped the beetle into her mouth. She crunched it happily.

"Yum," she said, and took another.

"You're sick," said Coraline. "Sick and evil and weird."

"Is that any way to talk to your mother?" her other mother asked, with her mouth full of blackbeetles.

"You aren't my mother," said Coraline.

Her other mother ignored this. "Now, I think you are a little overexcited, Coraline. Perhaps this afternoon we could do a little embroidery together, or some watercolor painting. Then dinner, and then, if you have been good, you may play with the rats a little before bed. And I shall read you a story and tuck you in, and kiss you good night." Her long white fingers fluttered gently, like a tired butterfly, and Coraline shivered.

"No," said Coraline.

The other mother sat on the sofa. Her mouth was set in a line; her lips were pursed. She popped another blackbeetle into her mouth and then another, like someone with a bag of chocolate-covered raisins. Her big black button eyes stared into Coraline's hazel eyes. Her shiny black hair twined and twisted about her neck and shoulders, as if it were blowing in some wind that Coraline could not touch or feel.

They stared at each other for over a minute. Then the other mother said, "Manners!" She folded the white paper bag carefully so no blackbeetles could escape, and she placed it back in the shopping bag. Then she stood up, and up, and up: she seemed taller than Coraline remembered. She reached into her apron pocket and pulled out, first the black door key, which she frowned at and tossed into her shopping bag, then a tiny silver-colored key. She held it up triumphantly. "There we are," she said. "This is for you, Coraline. For your own good. Because I love you. To teach you manners. Manners makyth man, after all."

She pulled Coraline back into the hallway and advanced upon the mirror at the end of the hall. Then she pushed the tiny key into the fabric of the mirror, and she *twisted* it.

It opened like a door, revealing a dark space behind it. "You may come out when you've learned some manners," said the other mother. "And when you're ready to be a loving daughter."

She picked Coraline up and pushed her into the dim space behind the mirror. A fragment of beetle was sticking to her lower lip, and there was no expression at all in her black button eyes.

Then she swung the mirror door closed, and left Coraline in darkness.

### Lesson Enquiry

How does the writer develop the character of the other mother in chapter 6?

#### True or False?

- 1.The Other mother is beginning to reveal her true personality. \_\_\_\_
- 2.The Other mother was eating chocolate raisins. \_\_\_\_
- 3.The Other mother is pleased with Coraline. \_\_\_\_
- 4.The Other mother has locked Coraline behind the mirror. \_\_\_\_

#### How would you describe the Other mother at the end of Chapter Six?

Explain your answer. You can use the key words in the yellow box.

*E.g. The Other mother seems quite irritated with Coraline because Coraline is refusing to cooperate with the Other mother by loving her*

Cruel  
Sinister  
Manipulative

Terrifying  
Eerie  
Powerful

Furious  
Violent  
Disturbing

Controlling  
Domineering  
Unsettling

## Lesson Enquiry

### How does the writer portray the character of the other mother in chapter 6?

#### Knowledge Review

1. What is the other mother eating at the end of chapter 6?
2. What does Coraline say to the other mother that makes her so angry?
3. What does the other mother do to Coraline at the end of chapter 6 and why?
4. How has the other mother changed since we first met her in chapter 3?

We are going to explore the writer's presentation of the other mother in chapter 6 in more detail. We will focus on making inferences and interpretations and begin to analyse the language used by the writer to describe her character in more detail. Then you will write up a response similar to those you wrote on the character of Coraline and the other mother in chapter 6.

Read the quote and answer the questions

1. "She carefully picked out a particularly large and black beetle, pulled off its legs... and popped the beetle into her mouth. She crunched it happily."

- A. What is the Other mother doing at this point in the story?
- B. What might the reader think of her?
- C. Why might the **verb** "pulled" in the **image** "pulled off its legs" make the Other mother seem a particularly disturbing character?
- D. The writer uses the **verb** "popped" to describe the way in which the Other mother puts the beetle in to her mouth. How does this have a different effect to the **verb** "put"?
- E. What type of word is "happily" – is it an **adjective, verb or adverb**?

f. Why do you think the writer emphasises the fact that Other mother ate the beetle 'happily?'

g. How do you think the reader might feel about the Other mother at this point in the story?

They stared at each other for over a minute. Then the other mother said, "Manners!"

A. What is happening at this point in the story?

B. What atmosphere is created by the image of the Other mother and Coraline staring at each other for such a long time?

C. The Other mother speaks first. Why might this be important.

D. The Other mother only says one word. This is a **short sentence**. What might this show about how her character is feeling?

E. Why do you think an **exclamation mark** might be used at the end of the word, "Manners"?

F. What **tone** do you think that the Other mother might say this in?

G. How do you think that the reader might feel about the Other mother at this point?

## Lesson Enquiry

How does the writer portray the character of the other mother in chapter 6?

### Knowledge Review

1. What is the Other mother eating in Chapter 6?
2. Why does the Other mother become angry with Coraline? List TWO reasons.
3. What does Coraline's Other mother do at the end of Chapter six?
4. What three words could you use to describe the Other mother in this chapter?
5. Identify the **adverbs** and **verbs** in this quote, "She carefully picked out a particularly large and black beetle, pulled off its legs... and popped the beetle into her mouth. She crunched it happily."
6. What do the **verbs** 'picked' and 'pushed' show about the Other mother's character in the quote: "She picked Coraline up and pushed her in to the dim space behind the mirror."

1. "She carefully picked out a particularly large and black beetle, pulled off its legs... and popped the beetle into her mouth. She crunched it happily."



Violent  
Cruel  
Abusive

Irritated  
Frustrated  
Angry

After  
reading this  
quote, Which  
group of  
words **best**  
describes the  
Other  
mother and  
why?

Manipulative  
Controlling  
Scheming

Disturbing  
Cruel  
Disgusting

Like we did previously we are going to have a go at writing up our response to the question: "How does the writer portray the character of the other mother in chapter 6?" This time, we will try to develop our response in more depth. This will be marked by your teacher and you will receive a grade and feedback. First we'll plan together.

Step 1: Choose the characteristics and quote

This time, let's see if we can include more than one characteristic here.

**Disturbing, cruel, disgusting** -

"pulled off its legs...and popped the beetle in to her mouth"

Step 2: Which individual word or words from the quote tells us that the other mother is disturbing, cruel and disgusting

"pulled" - cruel

"popped" - disturbing

Step 3: What does the entire quote tell us about how and why the other mother is disturbing, cruel and disgusting

Pulling off the live beetle's legs seems quite cruel and the way she pops the beetle in to her mouth casually, as if she is eating a sweet or chocolate is particularly disturbing and disgusting.

Step 4: Use the scaffold to put it altogether. Remember your language of interpretation and try to use tentative language. We use tentative language because we can't always be SURE of what the writer is telling us—we are all making our own interpretations.

When we write up our response to the question, we are aiming for a paragraph like this:

The writer presents the other mother as a cruel and disturbing character who seems increasingly disgusting through the image, "pulled off its legs...and popped the beetle in to her mouth" The use of the verb "pulled" suggests that she is quite cruel and perhaps enjoys tormenting the beetle. Furthermore, the use of the verb "popped" emphasises how casually the other mother eats the beetle, as if she simply is eating a chocolate which the reader might find particularly disturbing and unsettling.



Opening statement

Short quote

Zoom in

Interpretation

Subject terminology

Language of Interpretation

Tentative language

Q: How does the writer portray the other mother at the beginning of the novel

Opening Statement

The writer presents the other mother as \_\_\_\_\_

Language of Interpretation (shows)

Portrays/presents/conveys  
Suggests/implies  
Highlights/emphasises

Subject Terminology

Phrase/quote

Word/adjective/verb/noun/adverb  
Image/metaphor/simile/personification

Tentative Language

Might/could/perhaps

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\_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_, \_\_\_\_\_  
“ \_\_\_\_\_ ”

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\_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_

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Opening statement

Short quote

Zoom in

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Tentative language

## How does the writer portray the other mother in chapter 6?

Note to teacher: You may want to use this page for further planning/modelling with your class etc.

### Key Words:

- Sinister/evil/cruel
- Powerful/menacing/intimidating
- Angry/violent/controlling
- Disturbing/strange/unsettling
- Terrifying/disturbing
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 



**Opening statement**

**Short quote**

**Zoom in**

**Interpretation**

**Subject terminology**

**Language of Interpretation**

**Tentative language**

**How does the writer portray the other mother in chapter 6?**

Note to teacher: Complete on lined paper to take for feedback. Stick in learner's response post-feedback.

**How does the writer portray the other mother in chapter 6?**

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**Individual PLC** (Note to teacher: Please stick PLC here)

**WCF** (Note to teacher: Please WCF here)

## Lesson Enquiry

**How does the writer develop character, plot and setting in chapter 7?**

### Knowledge Review

1. **Where is Coraline at the beginning of chapter 7?**
2. **How did she get there?**
3. **How do you think she feels?**

## VII.

SOMEWHERE INSIDE HER Coraline could feel a huge sob welling up. And then she stopped it, before it came out. She took a deep breath and let it go. She put out her hands to touch the space in which she was imprisoned. It was the size of a broom closet: tall enough to stand in or to sit in, not wide or deep enough to lie down in.

One wall was glass, and it felt cold to the touch.

She went around the tiny room a second time, running her hands over every surface that she could reach, feeling for doorknobs or switches or concealed catches—some kind of way out—and found nothing.

A spider scuttled over the back of her hand and she choked back a shriek. But apart from the spider she was alone in the closet in the pitch dark.

And then her hand touched something that felt for all the world like somebody's cheek and lips, small and cold; and a voice whispered in her ear, "Hush! And shush! Say nothing, for the beldam might be listening!"

Coraline said nothing.

She felt a cold hand touch her face, fingers running over it like the gentle beat of a moth's wings.

Another voice, hesitant and so faint Coraline wondered if she were imagining it, said, "Art thou—art thou *alive*?"

"Yes," whispered Coraline.

"Poor child," said the first voice.

"Who are you?" whispered Coraline.



"Names, names, names," said another voice, all faraway and lost. "The names are the first things to go, after the breath has gone, and the beating of the heart. We keep our memories longer than our names. I still keep pictures in my mind of my governess on some May morning, carrying my hoop and stick, and the morning sun behind her, and all the tulips bobbing in the breeze. But I have forgotten the name of my governess, and of the tulips too."

"I don't think tulips have names," said Coraline. "They're just tulips."

"Perhaps," said the voice, sadly. "But I have always thought that these tulips must have had names. They were red, and orange and red, and red and orange and yellow, like the embers in the nursery fire of a winter's evening. I remember them."

The voice sounded so sad that Coraline put out a hand to the place where the voice was coming from, and she found a cold hand, and she squeezed it tightly.

Her eyes were beginning to get used to the darkness. Now Coraline saw, or imagined she saw, three shapes, each as faint and pale as the moon in the daytime sky. They were the shapes of children about her own size. The cold hand squeezed her hand back. "Thank you," said the voice.

"Are you a girl?" asked Coraline. "Or a boy?"

There was a pause. "When I was small I wore skirts and my hair was long and curled," it said, doubtfully. "But now that you ask, it does seem to me that one day they took my skirts and gave me britches and cut my hair."

“Tain’t something we give a mind to,” said the first of the voices.

“A boy, perhaps, then,” continued the one whose hand she was holding. “I believe I was once a boy.” And it glowed a little more brightly in the darkness of the room behind the mirror.

“What happened to you all?” asked Coraline. “How did you come here?”

“She left us here,” said one of the voices. “She stole our hearts, and she stole our souls, and she took our lives away, and she left us here, and she forgot about us in the dark.”

“You poor things,” said Coraline. “How long have you been here?”

“So very long a time,” said a voice.

“Aye. Time beyond reckoning,” said another voice.

“I walked through the scullery door,” said the voice of the one that thought it might be a boy, “and I found myself back in the parlor. But *she* was waiting for me. She told me she was my other mamma, but I never saw my true mamma again.”

“Flee!” said the very first of the voices—another girl, Coraline fancied. “Flee, while there’s still air in your lungs and blood in your veins and warmth in your heart. Flee while you still have your mind and your soul.”

“I’m not running away,” said Coraline. “She has my parents. I came to get them back.”

“Ah, but she’ll keep you here while the days turn to dust and the leaves fall and the years pass one after the next like the tick-tick-ticking of a clock.”

“No,” said Coraline. “She won’t.”

There was silence then in the room behind the mirror.

“Peradventure,” said a voice in the darkness, “if you could win your mamma and your papa back from the beldam, you could also win free our souls.”

“Has she taken them?” asked Coraline, shocked.

“Aye. And hidden them.”

“That is why we could not leave here, when we died. She kept us, and she fed on us, until now we’ve nothing left of ourselves, only snakeskins and spider husks. Find our secret hearts, young mistress.”

“And what will happen to you if I do?” asked Coraline.

The voices said nothing.

“And what is she going to do to me?” she said.

The pale figures pulsed faintly; she could imagine that they were nothing more than afterimages, like the glow left by a bright light in your eyes, after the lights go out.

“It doth not hurt,” whispered one faint voice.

“She will take your life and all you are and all you care’st for, and she will leave you with nothing but mist and fog. She’ll take your joy. And one day you’ll awake and your heart and your soul will have gone. A husk you’ll be, a wisp you’ll be, and a thing no more than a dream on waking, or a memory of something forgotten.”

“Hollow,” whispered the third voice. “Hollow, hollow, hollow, hollow, hollow.”

“You must flee,” sighed a voice faintly.

“I don’t think so,” said Coraline. “I tried running away, and it didn’t work. She just took my parents. Can you tell me how to get out of this room?”

“If we knew then we would tell you.”

“Poor things,” said Coraline to herself.

She sat down. She took off her sweater and rolled it up and put it behind her head as a pillow. “She won’t keep me in the dark forever,” said Coraline. “She brought me here to play games. *Games and challenges*, the cat said. I’m not much of a challenge here in the dark.” She tried to get comfortable, twisting and bending herself to fit the cramped space behind the mirror.

Her stomach rumbled. She ate her last apple, taking the tiniest bites, making it last as long as she could. When she had finished she was still hungry.

Then an idea struck her, and she whispered, “When she comes to let me out, why don’t you three come with me?”

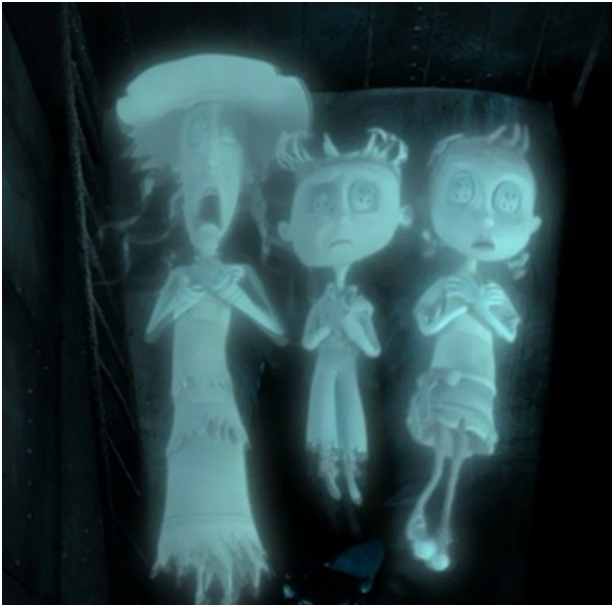
“We wish that we could,” they sighed to her, in their barely-there voices. “But she has our hearts in her keeping. Now we belong to the dark and to the empty places. The light would shrivel us, and burn.”

“Oh,” said Coraline.

She closed her eyes, which made the darkness darker, and she rested her head on the rolled-up sweater, and she went to sleep. And as she fell asleep she thought she felt a ghost kiss her cheek, tenderly, and a small voice whisper into her ear, a voice so faint it was barely there at all, a gentle wispy nothing of a voice so hushed that Coraline could almost believe she was imagining it. “Look through the stone,” it said to her.

And then she slept.

1. At the start of the chapter, Coraline has been locked behind the mirror. Find a quote that tells us how Coraline reacts? What does this tell us about how she is feeling?
2. During the chapter, Coraline meets the ghosts of the children the other mother trapped. How does she react to the ghosts and what does this show us about her? Use a quote to support your answer.
3. The ghosts tell Coraline to run away before the other mother can hurt her. What does Coraline reply? What does this tell us about her character?
4. How would you describe Coraline in this chapter? Think of three adjectives.



7. Why is it important that the ghost children were born so long ago? What does this add to the story of the other mother?

5. What do we learn about the ghost children?

6. Find two examples of the ghost children speaking. How do you know that they are characters from the past? Copy down your two quotes and explain them.

Eg. "art thou - art though alive?"

*This shows that the character is from the past as "art though" sounds very old fashioned. It reminds me of how they spoke in Shakespearean plays.*

Quote 1:

Quote 2:

## **Lesson Enquiry**

### **How does the writer build tension in chapters 8 and 9?**

#### **Knowledge Review**

1. Who did Coraline meet in Chapter 7?
2. What did these characters tell her?
3. Is Coraline going to run away? Explain why/why not?
4. What did Coraline hear a voice say as she fell asleep?
5. What do we mean by 'tension'?
6. What do you think has been the most tense moment in the novel so far?

## **VIII.**

**T**HE OTHER MOTHER looked healthier than before: there was a little blush to her cheeks, and her hair was wriggling like lazy snakes on a warm day. Her black button eyes seemed as if they had been freshly polished.

She had pushed through the mirror as if she were walking through nothing more solid than water and had stared down at Coraline. Then she had opened the door with the little silver key. She picked Coraline up, just as Coraline's real mother had when Coraline was much younger, cradling the half-sleeping child as if she were a baby.

The other mother carried Coraline into the kitchen and put her down very gently upon the countertop.

Coraline struggled to wake herself up, conscious only for the moment of having been cuddled and loved, and wanting more of it, then realizing where she was and who she was with.

"There, my sweet Coraline," said her other mother. "I came and fetched you out of the cupboard. You needed to be taught a lesson, but we temper our justice with mercy here; we love the sinner and we hate the sin. Now, if you will be a good child who loves her mother, be compliant and fair-spoken, you and I shall understand each other perfectly and we shall love each other perfectly as well."

Coraline scratched the sleep grit from her eyes.

“There were other children in there,” she said. “Old ones, from a long time ago.”

“Were there?” said the other mother. She was bustling between the pans and the fridge, bringing out eggs and cheeses, butter and a slab of sliced pink bacon.

“Yes,” said Coraline. “There were. I think you’re planning to turn me into one of them. A dead shell.”

Her other mother smiled gently. With one hand she cracked the eggs into a bowl; with the other she whisked them and whirled them. Then she dropped a pat of butter into a frying pan, where it hissed and fizzled and spun as she sliced thin slices of cheese. She poured the melted butter and the cheese into the egg-mixture, and whisked it some more.

“Now, I think you’re being silly, dear,” said the other mother. “I love you. I will always love you. Nobody sensible believes in ghosts anyway—that’s because they’re all such liars. Smell the lovely breakfast I’m making for you.” She poured the yellow mixture into the pan. “Cheese omelette. Your favorite.”

Coraline’s mouth watered. “You like games,” she said. “That’s what I’ve been told.”

The other mother’s black eyes flashed. “Everybody likes games,” was all she said.

“Yes,” said Coraline. She climbed down from the counter and sat at the table.

The bacon was sizzling and spitting under the grill. It smelled wonderful.

“Wouldn’t you be happier if you won me, fair and square?” asked Coraline.

“Possibly,” said the other mother. She had a show of unconcernedness, but her fingers twitched and drummed and she licked her lips with her scarlet tongue. “What exactly are you offering?”

“Me,” said Coraline, and she gripped her knees under the table, to stop them from shaking. “If I lose I’ll stay here with you forever and I’ll let you love me. I’ll be a most dutiful daughter. I’ll eat your food and play Happy Families. And I’ll let you sew your buttons into my eyes.”

Her other mother stared at her, black buttons unblinking. “That sounds very fine,” she said. “And if you do not lose?”

“Then you let me go. You let everyone go—my real father and mother, the dead children, everyone you’ve trapped here.”

The other mother took the bacon from under the grill and put it on a plate. Then she slipped the cheese omelette from the pan onto the plate, flipping it as she did so, letting it fold itself into a perfect omelette shape.

She placed the breakfast plate in front of Coraline, along with a glass of freshly squeezed orange juice and a mug of frothy hot chocolate.

“Yes,” she said. “I think I like this game. But what kind of game shall it be? A riddle game? A test of knowledge or of skill?”

“An exploring game,” suggested Coraline. “A finding-things game.”

“And what is it you think you should be finding in this hide-and-go-seek game, Coraline Jones?”

Coraline hesitated. Then, “My parents,” said Coraline. “And the souls of the children behind the mirror.”

The other mother smiled at this, triumphantly, and Coraline wondered if she had made the right choice. Still, it was too late to change her mind now.

“A deal,” said the other mother. “Now eat up your breakfast, my sweet. Don’t worry—it won’t hurt you.”

Coraline stared at the breakfast, hating herself for giving in so easily, but she was starving.

“How do I know you’ll keep your word?” asked Coraline.

“I swear it,” said the other mother. “I swear it on my own mother’s grave.”

“Does she have a grave?” asked Coraline.

“Oh yes,” said the other mother. “I put her in there myself. And when I found her trying to crawl out, I put her back.”

“Swear on something else. So I can trust you to keep your word.”

“My right hand,” said the other mother, holding it up. She waggled the long fingers slowly, displaying the clawlike nails. “I swear on that.”

Coraline shrugged. “Okay,” she said. “It’s a deal.” She ate the breakfast, trying not to wolf it down. She was hungrier than she had thought.

As she ate, her other mother stared at her. It was hard to read expressions into those black button eyes, but Coraline thought that her other mother looked hungry, too.

She drank the orange juice, but even though she knew she would like it she could not bring herself to taste the hot chocolate.

“Where should I start looking?” asked Coraline.

“Where you wish,” said her other mother, as if she did not care at all.

Coraline looked at her, and Coraline thought hard. There was no point, she decided, in exploring the garden and the grounds: they didn’t exist; they weren’t real. There was no abandoned tennis court in the other mother’s world, no bottomless well. All that was real was the house itself.

She looked around the kitchen. She opened the oven, peered into the freezer, poked into the salad compartment of the fridge. The other mother followed her about, looking at Coraline with a smirk always hovering at the edge of her lips.

“How big are souls anyway?” asked Coraline.

The other mother sat down at the kitchen table and leaned back against the wall, saying nothing. She picked at her teeth with a long crimson-varnished fingernail, then she tapped the finger, gently, *tap-tap-tap* against the polished black surface of her black button eyes.

“Fine,” said Coraline. “Don’t tell me. I don’t care. It doesn’t matter if you help me or not. Everyone knows that a soul is the same size as a beach ball.”

She was hoping the other mother would say something like “Nonsense, they’re the size of ripe onions—or suitcases—or grandfather clocks,” but the other mother simply smiled, and the *tap-tap-tapping* of her fingernail against her eye was as steady and relentless as the drip of water droplets from the faucet into the sink. And then, Coraline realized, it *was* simply the noise of the water, and she was alone in the room.

Coraline shivered. She preferred the other mother to have a location: if she were nowhere, then she could be anywhere. And, after all, it is always easier to be afraid of something you cannot see. She put her hands into her pockets and her fingers closed around the reassuring shape of the stone with the hole in it. She pulled it out of her pocket, held it in front of her as if she were holding a gun, and walked out into the hall.

There was no sound but the *tap-tap* of the water dripping into the metal sink.

She glanced at the mirror at the end of the hall. For a moment it clouded over, and it seemed to her that faces swam in the glass, indistinct and shapeless, and then the faces were gone, and there was nothing in the mirror but a girl who was small for her age holding something that glowed gently, like a green coal.

Coraline looked down at her hand, surprised: it was just a stone with a hole in it, a nondescript brown pebble. Then she looked back into the mirror where the stone glimmered like an emerald. A trail of green fire blew from the pebble in the mirror and drifted toward Coraline’s bedroom.

“Hmm,” said Coraline.

She walked into the bedroom. The toys fluttered excitedly as she walked in, as if they were pleased to see her, and a little tank rolled out of the toy box to greet her, its tread rolling over several other toys. It fell from the toy box onto the floor, tipping as it fell, and it lay on the carpet like a beetle on its back, grumbling and grinding its treads before Coraline picked it up and turned it over. The tank fled under the bed in embarrassment.

Coraline looked around the room.

She looked in the cupboards, and the drawers. Then she picked up one end of the toy box and tipped all the toys in it out onto the carpet, where they grumbled and stretched and wiggled awkwardly free of each other. A gray marble rolled across the floor and clicked against the wall. None of the toys looked particularly soul-like, she thought. She picked up and examined a silver charm bracelet from which hung tiny animal charms that chased each other around the perimeter of the bracelet, the fox never catching the rabbit, the bear never gaining on the fox.

Coraline opened her hand and looked at the stone with the hole in it, hoping for a clue but not finding one. Most of the toys that had been in the toy box had now crawled away to hide under the bed, and the few toys that were left (a green plastic soldier, the glass marble, a vivid pink yo-yo, and such) were the kind of things you find in the bottoms of toy boxes in the real world: forgotten objects, abandoned and unloved.

She was about to leave and look elsewhere. And then she remembered a voice in the darkness, a gentle whispering voice, and what it had told her to do. She raised the stone with a hole in it and held it in front of her right eye. She closed her left eye and looked at the room through the hole in the stone.

Through the stone, the world was gray and colorless, like a pencil drawing. Everything in it was gray—no, not quite everything: something glinted on the floor, something the color of an ember in a nursery fireplace, the color of a scarlet-and-orange tulip nodding in the May sun. Coraline reached out her left hand, scared that if she took her eye off it it would vanish, and she fumbled for the burning thing.

Her fingers closed about something smooth and cool. She snatched it up, and then lowered the stone with a hole in it from her eye and looked down. The gray glass marble from the bottom of the toy box sat, dully, in the pink palm of her hand. She raised the stone to her eye once more and looked through it at the marble. Once again the marble burned and flickered with a red fire.

A voice whispered in her mind, “Indeed, lady, it comes to me that I certainly *was* a boy, now I do think on it. Oh, but you must hurry. There are two of us still to find, and the beldam is already angry with you for uncovering me.”

*If I’m going to do this*, thought Coraline, *I’m not going to do it in her clothes*. She changed back into her pajamas and her dressing gown and her slippers, leaving the gray sweater and the black jeans neatly folded up on the bed, the orange boots on the floor by the toy box.

She put the marble into her dressing-gown pocket and walked out into the hall.

Something stung her face and hands like sand blowing on a beach on a windy day. She covered her eyes and pushed forward.

The sand stings got worse, and it got harder and harder to walk, as if she were pushing into the wind on a particularly blustery day. It was a vicious wind, and a cold one.

She took a step backwards, the way she had come.

“Oh, keep going,” whispered a ghost voice in her ear, “for the beldam is angry.”

She stepped forward in the hallway, into another gust of wind, which stung her cheeks and face with invisible sand, sharp as needles, sharp as glass.

“Play fair,” shouted Coraline into the wind.

There was no reply, but the wind whipped about her one more time, petulantly, and then it dropped away, and was gone. As she passed the kitchen Coraline could hear, in the sudden silence, the *drip-drip* of the water from the leaking tap or perhaps the other mother’s long fingernails tapping impatiently against the table. Coraline resisted the urge to look.

In a couple of strides she reached the front door, and she walked outside.

Coraline went down the steps and around the house until she reached the other Miss Spink and Miss Forcible's flat. The lamps around the door were flickering on and off almost randomly now, spelling out no words that Coraline could understand. The door was closed. She was afraid it was locked, and she pushed on it with all her strength. First it stuck, then suddenly it gave, and, with a jerk, Coraline stumbled into the dark room beyond.

Coraline closed one hand around the stone with the hole in it and walked forward into blackness. She expected to find a curtained anteroom, but there was nothing there. The room was dark. The theater was empty. She moved ahead cautiously. Something rustled above her. She looked up into a deeper darkness, and as she did so her feet knocked against something. She reached down, picked up a flashlight, and clicked it on, sweeping the beam around the room.

The theater was derelict and abandoned. Chairs were broken on the floor, and old, dusty spiderwebs draped the walls and hung from the rotten wood and the decomposing velvet hangings.

Something rustled once again. Coraline directed her light beam upward, toward the ceiling. There were things up there, hairless, jellyish. She thought they might once have had faces, might even once have been dogs; but no dogs had wings like bats or could hang, like spiders, like bats, upside down.

The light startled the creatures, and one of them took to the air, its wings whirring heavily through the dust. Coraline ducked as it swooped close to her. It came to rest on a far wall, and it began to clamber, upside down, back to the nest of the dog-bats upon the ceiling.

Coraline raised the stone to her eye and she scanned the room through it, looking for something that glowed or glinted, a telltale sign that somewhere in this room was another hidden soul. She ran the beam of the flashlight about the room as she searched, the thick dust in the air making the light beam seem almost solid.

There was something up on the back wall behind the ruined stage. It was grayish white, twice the size of Coraline herself, and it was stuck to the back wall like a slug. Coraline took a deep breath. "I'm not afraid," she told herself. "I'm not." She did not believe herself, but she scrambled up onto the old stage, fingers sinking into the rotting wood as she pulled herself up.

As she got closer to the thing on the wall, she saw that it was some kind of a sac, like a spider's egg case. It twitched in the light beam. Inside the sac was something that looked like a person, but a person with two heads, with twice as many arms and legs as it should have.

The creature in the sac seemed horribly unformed and unfinished, as if two plasticine people had been warmed and rolled together, squashed and pressed into one thing.

Coraline hesitated. She did not want to approach the thing. The dog-bats dropped, one by one, from the ceiling and began to circle the room, coming close to her but never touching her.

*Perhaps there are no souls hidden in here,* she thought. *Perhaps I can just leave and go somewhere else.* She took a last look through the hole in the stone: the abandoned theater was still a bleak gray, but now there was a brown glow, as rich and bright as polished cherrywood, coming from inside the sac. Whatever was glowing was being held in one of the hands of the thing on the wall.

Coraline walked slowly across the damp stage, trying to make as little noise as she could, afraid that, if she disturbed the thing in the sac, it would open its eyes, and see her, and then . . .

But there was nothing that she could think of as scary as having it look at her. Her heart pounded in her chest. She took another step forward.

She had never been so scared, but still she walked forward until she reached the sac. Then she pushed her hand into the sticky, clinging whiteness of the stuff on the wall. It crackled softly, like a tiny fire, as she pushed, and it clung to her skin and clothes like a spiderweb clings, like white cotton candy. She pushed her hand into it, and she reached upward until she touched a cold hand, which was, she could feel, closed around another glass marble. The creature's skin felt slippery, as if it had been covered in jelly. Coraline tugged at the marble.

At first nothing happened: it was held tight in the creature's grasp. Then, one by one, the fingers loosened their grip, and the marble slipped into her hand. She pulled her arm back through the sticky webbing, relieved that the thing's eyes had not opened. She shone the light on its faces: they resembled, she decided, the younger versions of Miss Spink and Miss Forcible, but twisted and squeezed together, like two lumps of wax that had melted and melded together into one ghastly thing.

Without warning, one of the creature's hands made a grab for Coraline's arm. Its fingernails scraped her skin, but it was too slippery to grip, and Coraline pulled away successfully. And then the eyes opened, four black buttons glinting and staring down at her, and two voices that sounded like no voice that Coraline had ever heard began to speak to her. One of them wailed and whispered, the other buzzed like a fat and angry bluebottle at a windowpane, but the voices said, as one person, "*Thief! Give it back! Stop! Thief!*"

The air became alive with dog-bats. Coraline began to back away. She realized then that, terrifying though the thing on the wall that had once been the other Misses Spink and Forcible was, it was attached to the wall by its web, encased in its cocoon. It could not follow her.

The dog-bats flapped and fluttered about her, but they did nothing to hurt Coraline. She climbed down from the stage, shone the flashlight about the old theater looking for the way out.

"Flee, Miss," wailed a girl's voice in her head. "Flee, now. You have two of us. Flee this place while your blood still flows."

Coraline dropped the marble into her pocket beside the other. She spotted the door, ran to it, and pulled on it until it opened.



## Chapter 8 Summary

Put the events in order that they happen in:

- ☐ She goes outside where she finds another soul – a bright marble
- ☐ Coraline gets scared and starts running
- ☐ The other mother accepts the challenge
- ☐ Coraline goes exploring to find her parents and the other children's souls.
- ☐ The other mother makes Coraline her favourite breakfast
- ☐ The other mother comes and gets Coraline out from behind the mirror
- ☐ Coraline finds the soul of one of the other children – a red marble
- ☐ Coraline challenges her other mother to a "finding-things" game
- ☐ She changes back into her own pyjamas

### Lesson Enquiry

How does the writer build tension in chapters 8 and 9?

1. What makes this chapter so tense?
2. Which moment in the chapter did you feel most tense? Why?
3. Scan back through the chapter and highlight moments of tension.

## Lesson Enquiry

How does the writer build tension in chapters 8 and 9?

### Knowledge Review

At the beginning of chapter 8, the other mother has brought Coraline back through the \_\_\_\_\_ and is cooking Coraline her \_\_\_\_\_ breakfast. Coraline challenges the other mother to an \_\_\_\_\_ game. If Coraline wins, the other mother has to free the \_\_\_\_\_ children and Coraline's \_\_\_\_\_. Coraline begins to search for her parents and the \_\_\_\_\_ of the children from behind the mirror. She goes to her bedroom and remembers the stone with the \_\_\_\_\_ in it. Looking through the stone, the other world is \_\_\_\_\_ and \_\_\_\_\_, except for one thing. She finds a \_\_\_\_\_ marble—the soul of one of the dead children.

Coraline changes back in to her \_\_\_\_\_ because she does not want to wear the other mother's clothes. Coraline leaves her room and a cold and vicious \_\_\_\_\_ blows. The other mother is clearly \_\_\_\_\_.

Coraline goes to Misses Spink and Forcible's flat and enters the \_\_\_\_\_. The theatre is completely derelict and \_\_\_\_\_. Coraline sees a \_\_\_\_\_ on the wall. The second marble is with the creature, surrounded by a kind of spider web. Coraline is \_\_\_\_\_ but she manages to reach the second marble and runs out of the theatre.

**Theatre, grey, abandoned, red, terrified, favourite, mirror, angry, dead, hole, parents, colourless, pyjamas, wind, creature, exploring, souls**

1. Why is the other mother so angry?
2. How many more souls does Coraline need to find?
3. Do you think that the other mother will 'play fair'?

## IX.

OUTSIDE, THE WORLD HAD become a formless, swirling mist with no shapes or shadows behind it, while the house itself seemed to have twisted and stretched. It seemed to Coraline that it was crouching, and staring down at her, as if it were not really a house but only the idea of a house—and the person who had had the idea, she was certain, was not a good person. There was sticky web stuff clinging to her arm, and she wiped it off as best she could. The gray windows of the house slanted at strange angles.

The other mother was waiting for her, standing on the grass with her arms folded. Her black button eyes were expressionless, but her lips were pressed tightly together in a cold fury.

When she saw Coraline she reached out one long white hand, and she crooked a finger. Coraline walked toward her. The other mother said nothing.

“I got two,” said Coraline. “One soul still to go.”

The expression on the other mother’s face did not change. She might not have heard what Coraline said.

“Well, I just thought you’d want to know,” said Coraline.

“Thank you, Coraline,” said the other mother coldly, and her voice did not just come from her mouth. It came from the mist, and the fog, and the house, and the sky. She said, “You know that I love you.”

And, despite herself, Coraline nodded. It was true: the other mother loved her. But she loved Coraline as a miser loves money, or a dragon loves its gold. In the other mother’s button eyes, Coraline knew that she was a possession, nothing more. A tolerated pet, whose behavior was no longer amusing.

“I don’t want your love,” said Coraline. “I don’t want anything from you.”

“Not even a helping hand?” asked the other mother. “You have been doing so well, after all. I thought you might want a little hint, to help you with the rest of your treasure hunt.”

“I’m doing fine on my own,” said Coraline.

“Yes,” said the other mother. “But if you wanted to get into the flat in the front—the empty one—to look around, you would find the door locked, and then where would you be?”

“Oh,” Coraline pondered this, for a moment. Then she said, “Is there a key?”

The other mother stood there in the paper-gray fog of the flattening world. Her black hair drifted about her head, as if it had a mind and a purpose all of its own. She coughed suddenly in the back of her throat, and then she opened her mouth.

The other mother reached up her hand and removed a small, brass front-door key from her tongue.

“Here,” she said. “You’ll need this to get in.”

She tossed the key, casually, toward Coraline, who caught it, one-handed, before she could think about whether she wanted it or not. The key was still slightly damp.

A chill wind blew about them, and Coraline shivered and looked away. When she looked back she was alone.

Uncertainly, she walked around to the front of the house and stood in front of the door to the empty flat. Like all the doors, it was painted bright green.

“She does not mean you well,” whispered a ghost voice in her ear. “We do not believe that she would help you. It must be a trick.”

Coraline said, “Yes, you’re right, I expect.” Then she put the key in the lock and turned it.

Silently, the door swung open, and silently Coraline walked inside.

The flat had walls the color of old milk. The wooden boards of the floor were uncarpeted and dusty with the marks and patterns of old carpets and rugs on them.

There was no furniture in there, only places where furniture had once been. Nothing decorated the walls; there were discolored rectangles on the walls to show where paintings or photographs had once hung. It was so silent that Coraline imagined that she could hear the motes of dust drifting through the air.

She found herself to be quite worried that something would jump out at her, so she began to whistle. She thought it might make it harder for things to jump out at her if she was whistling.

First she walked through the empty kitchen. Then she walked through an empty bathroom, containing only a cast-iron bath, and, in the bath, a dead spider the size of a small cat. The last room she looked at had, she supposed, once been a bedroom; she could imagine that the rectangular dust shadow on the floorboards had once been a bed. Then she saw something, and smiled, grimly. Set into the floorboards was a large metal ring. Coraline knelt and took the cold ring in her hands, and she tugged upward as hard as she could.

Terribly slowly, stiffly, heavily, a hinged square of floor lifted: it was a trapdoor. It lifted, and through the opening Coraline could see only darkness. She reached down, and her hand found a cold switch. She flicked it without much hope that it would work, but somewhere below her a bulb lit, and a thin yellow light came up from the hole in the floor. She could see steps, heading down, but nothing else.

Coraline put her hand into her pocket and took out the stone with the hole in it. She looked through it at the cellar but saw nothing. She put the stone back into her pocket.

Up through the hole came the smell of damp clay, and something else, an acrid tang like sour vinegar.

Coraline let herself down into the hole, looking nervously at the trapdoor. It was so heavy that if it fell she was sure she would be trapped down in the darkness forever. She put up a hand and touched it, but it stayed in position. And then she turned toward the darkness below, and she walked down the steps. Set into the wall at the bottom of the steps was another light switch,

metal and rusting. She pushed it until it clicked down, and a naked bulb hanging from a wire from the low ceiling came on. It did not give up enough light even for Coraline to make out the things that had been painted onto the flaking cellar walls. The paintings seemed crude. There were eyes, she could see that, and things that might have been grapes. And other things, below them. Coraline could not be sure that they were paintings of people.

There was a pile of rubbish in one corner of the room: cardboard boxes filled with mildewed papers and decaying curtains in a heap beside them.

Coraline's slippers crunched across the cement floor. The bad smell was worse, now. She was ready to turn and leave, when she saw the foot sticking out from beneath the pile of curtains.

She took a deep breath (the smells of sour wine and moldy bread filled her head) and she pulled away the damp cloth, to reveal something more or less the size and shape of a person.

In that dim light, it took her several seconds to recognize it for what it was: the thing was pale and swollen like a grub, with thin, sticklike arms and feet. It had almost no features on its face, which had puffed and swollen like risen bread dough.

The thing had two large black buttons where its eyes should have been.

Coraline made a noise, a sound of revulsion and horror, and, as if it had heard her and awakened, the thing began to sit up. Coraline stood there, frozen. The thing turned its head until both its black button eyes were pointed straight at her. A mouth opened in the mouthless face, strands of pale stuff sticking to the lips, and a voice that no longer even faintly resembled her father's whispered, "Coraline."

"Well," said Coraline to the thing that had once been her other father, "at least you didn't jump out at me."

The creature's twiglike hands moved to its face and pushed the pale clay about, making something like a nose. It said nothing.

"I'm looking for my parents," said Coraline. "Or a stolen soul from one of the other children. Are they down here?"

"There is nothing down here," said the pale thing indistinctly. "Nothing but dust and damp and forgetting." The thing was white, and huge, and swollen. *Monstrous*, thought Coraline, *but also miserable*. She raised the stone with the hole in it to her eye and looked through it. Nothing. The pale thing was telling her the truth.

"Poor thing," she said. "I bet she made you come down here as a punishment for telling me too much."

The thing hesitated, then it nodded. Coraline wondered how she could ever have imagined that this grublike thing resembled her father.

"I'm so sorry," she said.

"She's not best pleased," said the thing that was once the other father. "Not best pleased at all. You've put her quite out of sorts. And when she gets out of sorts, she takes it out on everybody else. It's her way."

Coraline patted its hairless head. Its skin was tacky, like warm bread dough. "Poor thing," she said. "You're just a thing she made and then threw away."

The thing nodded vigorously; as it nodded, the left button eye fell off and clattered onto the concrete floor. The thing looked around vacantly with its one eye, as if it had lost her. Finally it saw her, and, as if making a great effort, it opened its mouth once more and said in a wet, urgent voice, "Run, child. Leave this place. She wants me to hurt you, to keep you here forever, so that you can never finish the game and she will win. She is pushing me so hard to hurt you. I cannot fight her."

"You *can*," said Coraline. "Be brave."

She looked around: the thing that had once been the other father was between her and the steps up and out of the cellar. She started edging along the wall, heading toward the steps. The thing twisted bonelessly until its one eye was again facing her. It seemed to be getting bigger, now, and more awake. "Alas," it said, "I cannot."

And it lunged across the cellar toward her then, its toothless mouth opened wide.

Coraline had a single heartbeat in which to react. She could only think of two things to do. Either she could scream and try to run away, and be chased around a badly lit cellar by the huge grub thing, be chased until it caught her. Or she could do something else.

As the thing reached her, Coraline put out her hand and closed it around the thing's remaining button eye, and she tugged as hard as she knew how.

For a moment nothing happened. Then the button came away and flew from her hand, clicking against the walls before it fell to the cellar floor.

Coraline took a deep breath. If there had been any furniture in that flat, even a chair, she would have pulled it onto the trapdoor, but there was nothing.

She walked out of that flat as fast as she could, without actually ever running, and she locked the front door behind her. She left the door key under the mat. Then she walked down onto the drive.

She had half expected that the other mother would be standing there waiting for Coraline to come out, but the world was silent and empty.

Coraline wanted to go home.

She hugged herself, and told herself that she was brave, and she almost believed herself, and then she walked around to the side of the house, in the gray mist that wasn't a mist, and she made for the stairs, to go up.

### **Chapter 9 Summary**

**Put the events in order that they happen in:**

- ☐ She escapes into the garden
- ☐ Coraline discovers a trapdoor in the flat
- ☐ The other mother offers Coraline a key to the other flat to help her
- ☐ The other father tries to catch Coraline
- ☐ She hears the other children warn her the other mother is trying to trap Coraline
- ☐ She finds her other father in the cellar of the other flat
- ☐ Coraline meets the other mother in the garden
- ☐ Coraline manages to escape from her father
- ☐ Coraline rips the other father's remaining black button eye
- ☐ She discovers her other father has been left in the basement for helping her
- ☐ The other father tries to catch Coraline again
- ☐ Coraline finds that the flat is empty

1. How is Coraline's other mother feeling at the beginning of the chapter? Find two pieces of evidence from the text to support your answer.
2. How many souls has Coraline found at this point?
3. How does Coraline's other mother help her? Give as much detail as possible.
4. What does Coraline do to stop herself from being frightened?
5. Why has the other mother put the other father into the basement?
6. What seems to have happened to the other father?
7. "Then, as if it were being told what to do, the creature stopped moving, and its blind head tipped to one side." What do you think is being implied by this sentence?
8. Where does Coraline leave the key?

**Lesson Enquiry**

How does the writer build tension in chapters 8 and 9?

1. What makes this chapter so tense?
2. Which moment in the chapter did you feel most tense? Why?
3. Scan back through the chapter and highlight moments of tension.

## Lesson Enquiry

How has the character of Coraline changed from the beginning of the novel?

### Knowledge Review

1. What kind of character was Coraline at the beginning of the story?
2. What qualities has Coraline had to demonstrate throughout the novel?
3. Do you think Coraline has changed in any way. If so, how?
4. How many souls does Coraline still need to find?
5. How did the other mother trick Coraline in chapter 9?



Remember that for your writing task, you will be creating your own villainous character. As we read the next two chapters, try to also pay attention to how the writer presents the other mother. Look for descriptions of her actions and appearance, as well as the things she says (dialogue)

X.

CORALINE WALKED UP THE stairs outside the building to the topmost flat, where, in her world, the crazy old man upstairs lived. She had gone up there once with her real mother, when her mother was collecting for charity. They had stood in the open doorway, waiting for the crazy old man with the big mustache to find the envelope that Coraline's mother had left, and the flat had smelled of strange foods and pipe tobacco and odd, sharp, cheesy-smelling things Coraline could not name. She had not wanted to go any farther inside than that.

"I'm an explorer," said Coraline out loud, but her words sounded muffled and dead on the misty air. She had made it out of the cellar, hadn't she?

And she had. But if there was one thing that Coraline was certain of, it was that this flat would be worse.

She reached the top of the house. The topmost flat had once been the attic of the house, but that was long ago.

She knocked on the green-painted door. It swung open, and she walked in.

*We have eyes and we have nerveses*

*We have tails we have teeth*

*You'll all get what you deserveses*

*When we rise from underneath.*

whispered a dozen or more tiny voices, in that dark flat with the roof so low where it met the walls that Coraline could almost reach up and touch it.

Red eyes stared at her. Little pink feet scurried away as she came close. Darker shadows slipped through the shadows at the edges of things.

It smelled much worse in here than in the real crazy old man upstairs's flat. That smelled of food (unpleasant food, to Coraline's mind, but she knew that was a matter of taste: she did not like spices, herbs, or exotic things). This place smelled as if all the exotic foods in the world had been left out to go rotten.

"Little girl," said a rustling voice in a far room.

"Yes," said Coraline. *I'm not frightened*, she told herself, and as she thought it she knew that it was true. There was nothing here that frightened her. These things—even the thing in the cellar—were illusions, things made by the other mother in a ghastly parody of the real people and real things on the other end of the corridor. She could not truly make anything, decided Coraline. She could only twist and copy and distort things that already existed.

And then Coraline found herself wondering why the other mother would have placed a snowglobe on the drawing-room mantelpiece; for the mantelpiece, in Coraline's world, was quite bare.

As soon as she had asked herself the question, she realized that there was actually an answer.

Then the voice came again, and her train of thought was interrupted.

"Come here, little girl. I know what you want, little girl." It was a rustling voice, scratchy and dry. It made Coraline think of some kind of enormous dead insect. Which was silly, she knew. How could a dead thing, especially a dead insect, have a voice?

She walked through several rooms with low, slanting ceilings until she came to the final room. It was a bedroom, and the other crazy old man upstairs sat at the far end of the room, in the near darkness, bundled up in his coat and hat. As Coraline entered he began to talk. "Nothing's changed, little girl," he said, his voice sounding like the noise dry leaves make as they rustle across a pavement. "And what if you do everything you swore you would? What then? Nothing's changed. You'll go home. You'll be bored. You'll be ignored. No one will listen to you, not really listen to you. You're too clever and too quiet for them to understand. They don't even get your name right.

“Stay here with us,” said the voice from the figure at the end of the room. “We will listen to you and play with you and laugh with you. Your other mother will build whole worlds for you to explore, and tear them down every night when you are done. Every day will be better and brighter than the one that went before. Remember the toy box? How much better would a world be built just like that, and all for you?”

“And will there be gray, wet days where I just don’t know what to do and there’s nothing to read or to watch and nowhere to go and the day drags on forever?” asked Coraline.

From the shadows, the man said, “Never.”

“And will there be awful meals, with food made from recipes, with garlic and tarragon and broad beans in?” asked Coraline.

“Every meal will be a thing of joy,” whispered the voice from under the old man’s hat. “Nothing will pass your lips that does not entirely delight you.”

“And could I have Day-Glo green gloves to wear, and yellow Wellington boots in the shape of frogs?” asked Coraline.

“Frogs, ducks, rhinos, octopuses—whatever you desire. The world will be built new for you every morning. If you stay here, you can have whatever you want.”

Coraline sighed. “You really don’t understand, do you?” she said. “I don’t *want* whatever I want. Nobody does. Not really. What kind of fun would it be if I just got everything I ever wanted? Just like that, and it didn’t *mean* anything. What then?”

“I don’t understand,” said the whispery voice.

“Of course you don’t understand,” she said, raising the stone with the hole in it to her eye. “You’re just a bad copy she made of the crazy old man upstairs.”

“Not even that anymore,” said the dead, whispery voice. There was a glow coming from the raincoat of the man, at about chest height. Through the hole in the stone the glow twinkled and shone blue-white as any star. She wished she had a stick or something to poke him with: she had no wish to get any closer to the shadowy man at the end of the room.

Coraline took a step closer to the man, and he fell apart. Black rats leapt from the sleeves and from under the coat and hat, a score or more of them, red eyes shining in the dark. They chattered and they fled. The coat fluttered and fell heavily to the floor. The hat rolled into one corner of the room.

Coraline took a step closer to the man, and he fell apart. Black rats leapt from the sleeves and from under the coat and hat, a score or more of them, red eyes shining in the dark. They chattered and they fled. The coat fluttered and fell heavily to the floor. The hat rolled into one corner of the room.

Coraline reached out one hand and pulled the coat open. It was empty, although it was greasy to the touch. There was no sign of the final glass marble in it. She scanned the room, squinting through the hole in the stone, and caught sight of something that twinkled and burned like a star at floor level by the doorway. It was being carried in the forepaws of the largest black rat. As she looked, it slipped away.

The other rats watched her from the corners of the rooms as she ran after it.

Now, rats can run faster than people, especially over short distances. But a large black rat holding a marble in its two front paws is no match for a determined girl (even if she is small for her age) moving at a run. Smaller black rats ran back and forth across her path, trying to distract her, but she ignored them all, keeping her eyes fixed on the one with the marble, who was heading straight out of the flat, toward the front door.

They reached the steps on the outside of the building.

Coraline had time to observe that the house itself was continuing to change, becoming less distinct and flattening out, even as she raced down the stairs. It reminded her of a photograph of a house, now, not the thing itself. Then she was simply racing pell-mell down the steps in pursuit of the rat, with no room in her mind for anything else, certain she was gaining on it. She was running fast—too fast, she discovered, as she came to the bottom of one flight of stairs, and her foot skidded and twisted and she went crashing onto the concrete landing.

Her left knee was scraped and skinned, and the palm of one hand she had thrown out to stop herself was a mess of scraped skin and grit. It hurt a little, and it would, she knew, soon hurt much more. She picked the grit out of her palm and climbed to her feet and, as fast as she could, knowing that she had lost and it was already too late, she went down to the final landing at the ground level.

She looked around for the rat, but it was gone, and the marble with it.

Her hand stung where the skin had been scraped, and there was blood trickling down her ripped pajama leg from her knee. It was as bad as the summer that her mother had taken the training wheels off Coraline's bicycle; but then, back then, in with all the cuts and scrapes (her knees had had scabs on top of scabs) she had had a feeling of achievement. She was learning something, doing something she had not known how to do. Now she felt nothing but cold loss. She had failed the ghost children. She had failed her parents. She had failed herself, failed everything.

She closed her eyes and wished that the earth would swallow her up.

There was a cough.

She opened her eyes and saw the rat. It was lying on the brick path at the bottom of the stairs with a surprised look on its face—which was now several inches away from the rest of it. Its whiskers were stiff, its eyes were wide open, its teeth visible and yellow and sharp. A collar of wet blood glistened at its neck.

Beside the decapitated rat, a smug expression on its face, was the black cat. It rested one paw on the gray glass marble.

“I think I once mentioned,” said the cat, “that I don’t like rats at the best of times. It looked like you needed this one, however. I hope you don’t mind my getting involved.”

“I think,” said Coraline, trying to catch her breath, “I think you may—have said—something of the sort.”

The cat lifted its paw from the marble, which rolled toward Coraline. She picked it up. In her mind a final voice whispered to her, urgently.

“She has lied to you. She will never give you up, now she has you. She will no more give any of us up than change her nature.” The hairs on the back of Coraline’s neck prickled, and Coraline

knew that the girl’s voice told the truth. She put the marble in her dressing-gown pocket with the others.

She had all three marbles, now.

All she needed to do was to find her parents.

And, Coraline realized with surprise, that bit was easy. She knew exactly where her parents were. If she had stopped to think, she might have known where they were all along. The other mother could not create. She could only transform, and twist, and change.

The mantelpiece in the drawing room back home was quite empty. But knowing that, she knew something else as well.

“The other mother. She plans to break her promise. She won’t let us go,” said Coraline.

“I wouldn’t put it past her,” admitted the cat. “Like I said, there’s no guarantee she’ll play fair.” And then he raised his head. “Hullo . . . did you see that?”

“What?”

“Look behind you,” said the cat.

The house had flattened out even more. It no longer looked like a photograph—more like a drawing, a crude, charcoal scribble of a house drawn on gray paper.

“Whatever’s happening,” said Coraline, “thank you for helping with the rat. I suppose I’m almost there, aren’t I? So you go off into the mist or wherever you go, and I’ll, well, I hope I get to see you at home. If she lets me go home.”

The cat’s fur was on end, and its tail was bristling like a chimney sweep’s brush.

“What’s wrong?” asked Coraline.

“They’ve gone,” said the cat. “They aren’t there anymore. The ways in and out of this place. They just went flat.”

“Is that bad?”

The cat lowered its tail, swishing it from side to side angrily. It made a low growling noise in the back of its throat. It walked in a circle, until it was facing away from Coraline, and then it began to walk backwards, stiffly, one step at a time, until it was pushing up against Coraline’s leg. She put down a hand to stroke it, and could feel how hard its heart was beating. It was trembling like a dead leaf in a storm.

“You’ll be fine,” said Coraline. “Everything’s going to be fine. I’ll take you home.”

The cat said nothing.

“Come on, cat,” said Coraline. She took a step back toward the steps, but the cat stayed where it was, looking miserable and, oddly, much smaller.

“If the only way out is past her,” said Coraline, “then that’s the way we’re going to go.” She went back to the cat, bent down, and picked it up. The cat did not resist. It simply trembled. She supported its bottom with one hand, rested its front legs on her shoulders. The cat was heavy but not too heavy to carry. It licked at the palm of her hand, where the blood from the scrape was welling up.

Coraline walked up the stairs one step at a time, heading back to her own flat. She was aware of the marbles clicking in her pocket, aware of the stone with a hole in it, aware of the cat pressing itself against her.

She got to her front door—now just a small child’s scrawl of a door—and she pushed her hand against it, half expecting that her hand would rip through it, revealing nothing behind it but blackness and a scattering of stars.

But the door swung open, and Coraline went through.

**What do you think that Coraline means by the statement below? What does this statement imply about Coraline’s character towards the end of the novel?**

Coraline sighed. “You really don’t understand, do you?” she said. “I don’t *want* whatever I want. Nobody does. Not really. What kind of fun would it be if I just got everything I ever wanted? Just like that, and it didn’t *mean* anything. What then?”



### Lesson Enquiry

How has the character of Coraline changed from the beginning of the novel?

Coraline has always liked exploring and enjoys adventures.

However, in the last few chapters of the novel we see her demonstrate other qualities too. Fill in the table below to explore

Quality	Example from the text (try to use a quote as well if you can)
Bravery	
Kindness	
Sympathy	
Resilience	
Intelligence	
Empathy	

### Lesson Enquiry

How has the character of Coraline changed from the beginning of the novel?

1. what would you do if you were in the same position as Coraline? Would you have behaved similarly or differently? Why?

2. What changes has Coraline's character undergone?

3. Why have these changes happened?

4. How do these changes affect the reader's opinion of Coraline?

5. Does Coraline conform to or break conventions of a typical fantasy protagonist? Explain your response.

5. What do we learn about bravery and courage from reading about Coraline's character?

6. How might two readers respond differently to the character of Coraline and her actions? On what aspects might they agree/disagree?

## Lesson Enquiry

**How can we consider the writer's purpose?**

### Knowledge Review

1. What has the reader learnt about bravery, courage and resilience so far?
2. What other themes (big ideas) have been emphasised by the writer in the novel so far?
3. Can you remember the epigraph at the beginning of the novel? What clues might it give us to what will happen next in the novel?

## **XI.**

**O**NCE INSIDE, IN HER FLAT, or rather, in the flat that was not hers, Coraline was pleased to see that it had not transformed into the empty drawing that the rest of the house seemed to have become. It had depth, and shadows, and someone who stood in the shadows waiting for Coraline to return.

"So you're back," said the other mother. She did not sound pleased. "And you brought vermin with you."

"No," said Coraline. "I brought a friend," She could feel the cat stiffening under her hands, as if it were anxious to be away. Coraline wanted to hold on to it like a teddy bear, for reassurance, but she knew that cats hate to be squeezed, and she suspected that frightened cats were liable to bite and scratch if provoked in any way, even if they were on your side.

"You know I love you," said the other mother flatly.

"You have a very funny way of showing it," said Coraline. She walked down the hallway, then turned into the drawing room, steady step by steady step, pretending that she could not feel the other mother's blank black eyes on her back. Her grandmother's formal furniture was still there, and the painting on the wall of the strange fruit (but now the fruit in the painting had been eaten, and all that remained in the bowl was the browning core of an apple, several plum and peach stones, and the stem of what had formerly been a bunch of grapes). The lion-pawed table raked the carpet with its clawed wooden feet, as if it were impatient for something. At the end of the

room, in the corner, stood the wooden door, which had once, in another place, opened onto a plain brick wall. Coraline tried not to stare at it. The window showed nothing but mist.

This was it, Coraline knew. The moment of truth. The unraveling time.

The other mother had followed her in. Now she stood in the center of the room, between Coraline and the mantelpiece, and looked down at Coraline with black button eyes. It was funny, Coraline thought. The other mother did not look anything at all like her own mother. She wondered how she had ever been deceived into imagining a resemblance. The other mother was huge—her head almost brushed the ceiling—and very pale, the color of a spider’s belly. Her hair writhed and twined about her head, and her teeth were sharp as knives. . . .

“Well?” said the other mother sharply. “Where are they?”

Coraline leaned against an armchair, adjusted the cat with her left hand, put her right hand into her pocket, and pulled out the three glass marbles. They were a frosted gray, and they clinked together in the palm of her hand. The other mother reached her white fingers for them, but Coraline slipped them back into her pocket. She knew it was true, then. The other mother had no intention of letting her go or of keeping her word. It had been an entertainment, and nothing more. “Hold on,” she said. “We aren’t finished yet, are we?”

The other mother looked daggers, but she smiled sweetly. “No,” she said. “I suppose not. After all, you still need to find your parents, don’t you?”

“Yes,” said Coraline. *I must not look at the mantelpiece, she thought. I must not even think about it.*

“Well?” said the other mother. “Produce them. Would you like to look in the cellar again? I have some other interesting things hidden down there, you know.”

“No,” said Coraline. “I know where my parents are.” The cat was heavy in her arms. She moved it forward, unhooking its claws from her shoulder as she did so.

“Where?”

“It stands to reason,” said Coraline. “I’ve looked everywhere you’d hide them. They aren’t in the house.”

The other mother stood very still, giving nothing away, lips tightly closed. She might have been a wax statue. Even her hair had stopped moving.

“So,” Coraline continued, both hands wrapped firmly around the black cat. “I know where they have to be. You’ve hidden them in the passageway between the houses, haven’t you? They are behind that door.” She nodded her head toward the door in the corner.

The other mother remained statue still, but a hint of a smile crept back onto her face. “Oh, they are, are they?”

“Why don’t you open it?” said Coraline. “They’ll be there, all right.”

It was her only way home, she knew. But it all depended on the other mother's needing to gloat, needing not only to win but to show that she had won.

The other mother reached her hand slowly into her apron pocket and produced the black iron key. The cat stirred uncomfortably in Coraline's arms, as if it wanted to get down. *Just stay there for a few moments longer*, she thought at it, wondering if it could hear her. *I'll get us both home. I said I would. I promise.* She felt the cat relax ever so slightly in her arms.

The other mother walked over to the door and pushed the key into the lock.

She turned the key.

Coraline heard the mechanism *clunk* heavily. She was already starting, as quietly as she could, step by step, to back away toward the mantelpiece.

The other mother pushed down on the door handle and pulled open the door, revealing a corridor behind it, dark and empty. "There," she said, waving her hands at the corridor. The expression of delight on her face was a very bad thing to see. "You're wrong! You *don't* know where your parents are, do you? They aren't there." She turned and looked at Coraline. "Now," she said, "you're going to stay here for ever and always."

"No," said Coraline. "I'm not." And, hard as she could, she threw the black cat toward the other mother. It yowled and landed on the other mother's head, claws flailing, teeth bared, fierce and angry. Fur on end, it looked half again as big as it was in real life.

Without waiting to see what would happen, Coraline reached up to the mantelpiece and closed her hand around the snow globe, pushing it deep into the pocket of her dressing gown.

The cat made a deep, ululating yowl and sank its teeth into the other mother's cheek. She was flailing at it. Blood ran from the cuts on her white face—not red blood but a deep, tarry black stuff. Coraline ran for the door.



She pulled the key out of the lock.

“Leave her! Come on!” she shouted to the cat. It hissed, and swiped its scalpel-sharp claws at the other mother’s face in one wild rake which left black ooze trickling from several gashes on the other mother’s nose. Then it sprang down toward Coraline. “Quickly!” she said. The cat ran toward her, and they both stepped into the dark corridor.

It was colder in the corridor, like stepping down into a cellar on a warm day. The cat hesitated for a moment; then, seeing the other mother was coming toward them, it ran to Coraline and stopped by her legs.

Coraline began to pull the door closed.

It was heavier than she imagined a door could be, and pulling it closed was like trying to close a door against a high wind. And then she felt something from the other side starting to pull against her.

*Shut!* she thought. Then she said, out loud, “Come on, *please*.” And she felt the door begin to move, to pull closed, to give against the phantom wind.

Suddenly she was aware of other people in the corridor with her. She could not turn her head to look at them, but she knew them without having to look. “Help me, please,” she said. “All of you.”

The other people in the corridor—three children, two adults—were somehow too insubstantial to touch the door. But their hands closed about hers, as she pulled on the big iron door handle, and suddenly she felt strong.

“Never let up, Miss! Hold strong! Hold strong!” whispered a voice in her mind.

“Pull, girl, pull!” whispered another.

And then a voice that sounded like her mother’s—her own mother, her real, wonderful, maddening, infuriating, glorious mother—just said, “Well done, Coraline,” and that was enough.

The door started to slip closed, easily as anything.

“No!” screamed a voice from beyond the door, and it no longer sounded even faintly human.

Something snatched at Coraline, reaching through the closing gap between the door and the doorpost. Coraline jerked her head out of the way, but the door began to open once more.

“We’re going to go home,” said Coraline. “We are. Help me.” She ducked the snatching fingers.

They moved through her, then: ghost hands lent her strength that she no longer possessed. There was a final moment of resistance, as if something were caught in the door, and then, with a crash, the wooden door banged closed.

Something dropped from Coraline's head height to the floor. It landed with a sort of a scuttling thump.

"Come on!" said the cat. "This is not a good place to be in. Quickly."

Coraline turned her back on the door and began to run, as fast as was practical, through the dark corridor, running her hand along the wall to make sure she didn't bump into anything or get turned around in the darkness.

It was an uphill run, and it seemed to her that it went on for a longer distance than anything could possibly go. The wall she was touching felt warm and yielding now, and, she realized, it felt as if it were covered in a fine downy fur. It moved, as if it were taking a breath. She snatched her hand away from it.

Winds howled in the dark.

She was scared she would bump into something, and she put out her hand for the wall once more. This time what she touched felt hot and wet, as if she had put her hand in somebody's mouth, and she pulled it back with a small wail.

Her eyes had adjusted to the dark. She could half see, as faintly glowing patches ahead of her, two adults, three children. She could hear the cat, too, padding in the dark in front of her.

And there was something else, which suddenly scuttled between her feet, nearly sending Coraline flying. She caught herself before she went down, using her own momentum to keep moving. She knew that if she fell in that corridor she might never get up again. Whatever that corridor was was older by far than the other mother. It was deep, and slow, and it knew that she was there. . . .

Then daylight appeared, and she ran toward it, puffing and wheezing. "Almost there," she called encouragingly, but in the light she discovered that the wraiths had gone, and she was alone. She did not have time to wonder what had happened to them. Panting for breath, she staggered through the door, and slammed it behind her with the loudest, most satisfying bang you can imagine.

The black cat was huddled in the farthest corner of the room, the pink tip of its tongue showing, its eyes wide. Coraline went over to it and crouched down beside it.

"I'm sorry," she said. "I'm sorry I threw you at her. But it was the only way to distract her enough to get us all out. She would never have kept her word, would she?"

The cat looked up at her, then rested its head on her hand, licking her fingers with its sandpapery tongue. It began to purr.

"Then we're friends?" said Coraline.

She sat down on one of her grandmother's uncomfortable armchairs, and the cat sprang up into her lap and made itself comfortable. The light that came through the picture window was daylight, real golden late-afternoon daylight, not a white mist light. The sky was a robin's-egg blue, and Coraline could see trees and, beyond the trees, green hills, which faded on the horizon into purples and grays. The sky had never seemed so *sky*, the world had never seemed so *world*.

Coraline stared at the leaves on the trees and at the patterns of light and shadow on the cracked bark of the trunk of the beech tree outside the window. Then she looked down at her lap, at the way that the rich sunlight brushed every hair on the cat's head, turning each white whisker to gold.

Nothing, she thought, had ever been so *interesting*.

And, caught up in the interestingness of the world, Coraline barely noticed that she had wriggled down and curled catlike on her grandmother's uncomfortable armchair, nor did she notice when she fell into a deep and dreamless sleep.



### Lesson Enquiry

*How can we consider the writer's purpose?*

The **writer's purpose** is also known as “**authorial intention**”. It refers to what the writer is trying to communicate to the reader through their novel and its characters and themes. When we think of writer's purpose, we begin to think about the **bigger picture** rather than focusing closely on the language used to describe setting or character. It might be that the writer is giving us an **insight in to specific time in history, or a particular place**. It might be that the writer is **trying to teach us about big ideas such a morality, or human qualities such as bravery**. Novels are special because they **give us an insight in to what it is like to be human and help us to understand the world a little bit better**. They can **also take us to real and imaginary places so that our world becomes bigger than our own**.

Answer the questions below to begin thinking about Neil Gaiman's authorial intention when he wrote Coraline. We will revisit some of these questions at the end of the novel (2 chapters to go!)

1. Who do you think the writer's target audience/reader might be? How do you know?
2. What might the writer's attitude towards courage be?
3. What might the writer's attitude towards resilience be?
4. What might the writer's attitude towards responsibility be?
5. What do you believe the writer wanted the reader to feel about the idea of evil?
6. What do you think the writer wanted to teach the reader through the character of Coraline?
7. What do you think the writer wanted to teach the reader through the character of the other mother?

## **Lesson Enquiry**

### **What makes an effective ending?**

#### **Knowledge Review**

- 1. Where were Coraline's parents?**
- 2. How did Coraline escape the other world and the other mother?**
- 3. Who helped Coraline to get through the portal? What was the experience like for her?**
- 4. Coraline is back in the real world, but there are still two chapters to go until the end of the novel. What do you predict might happen in them?**
- 5. Think back to any fantasy stories that you know. How do they usually end?**

'Nearly all texts use closure – it's how stories work after all! Some end with a very satisfying 'tying up of loose ends': the murderer is caught, the wedding happens, or the main character dies. Others are less final and, in recent years, some texts have purposely tried to avoid 'closure' leaving lots of loose ends, unfinished plots and so on....'

*from Robert Eaglestone's 'Doing English' (Routledge, 2002)*

**Why might a writer leave plot lines unfinished and questions unanswered at the end of a novel?**

- A. Closed endings are more satisfying than open endings.
- B. Open endings are more interesting than closed endings.
- C. When an ending is open, readers' responses to it will be more varied.
- D. An open ending is an easy way out for the writer because they don't have to work out how to tie up all the loose ends.
- E. An open ending is not a proper ending.
- F. The ending for *Coraline* should tie up all the loose ends.

1. Read the statements above about endings to stories. Discuss with your partner and decide whether you agree or disagree with each statement. Then choose one statement you agree with and explain why .
2. If you were writing the ending to *Coraline*, what choices would you make? How might you end the novel effectively?

Keep the statements above in mind as we read the last two chapters of the novel.

## XII.

**H**ER MOTHER SHOOK HER gently awake.

"Coraline?" she said. "Darling, what a funny place to fall asleep. And really, this room is only for best. We looked all over the house for you."

Coraline stretched and blinked. "I'm sorry," she said. "I fell asleep."

"I can see that," said her mother. "And wherever did the cat come from? He was waiting by the front door when I came in. Shot out like a bullet as I opened it."

“Probably had things to do,” said Coraline. Then she hugged her mother so tightly that her arms began to ache. Her mother hugged Coraline back.

“Dinner in fifteen minutes,” said her mother. “Don’t forget to wash your hands. And just *look* at those pajama bottoms. What did you do to your poor knee?”

“I tripped,” said Coraline. She went into the bathroom, and she washed her hands and cleaned her bloody knee. She put ointment on her cuts and scrapes.

She went into her bedroom—her real bedroom, her true bedroom. She pushed her hands into the pockets of her dressing gown, and she pulled out three marbles, a stone with a hole in it, the black key, and an empty snow globe.

She shook the snow globe and watched the glittery snow swirl through the water to fill the empty world. She put it down and watched the snow fall, covering the place where the little couple had once stood.

Coraline took a piece of string from her toy box, and she strung the black key on the string. Then she knotted the string and hung it around her neck.

“There,” she said. She put on some clothes and hid the key under her T-shirt. It was cold against her skin. The stone went into her pocket.

Coraline walked down the hallway to her father’s study. He had his back to her, but she knew, just on seeing him, that his eyes, when he turned around, would be her father’s kind gray eyes, and she crept over and kissed him on the back of his balding head.

“Hullo, Coraline,” he said. Then he looked around and smiled at her. “What was that for?”

“Nothing,” said Coraline. “I just miss you sometimes. That’s all.”

“Oh good,” he said. He put the computer to sleep, stood up, and then, for no reason at all, he picked Coraline up, which he had not done for such a long time, not since he had started pointing out to her she was much too old to be carried, and he carried her into the kitchen.

Dinner that night was pizza, and even though it was homemade by her father (so the crust was alternately thick and doughy and raw, or too thin and burnt), and even though he had put slices of green pepper on it, along with little meatballs and, of all things, pineapple chunks, Coraline ate the entire slice she had been given.

Well, she ate everything except for the pineapple chunks.

And soon enough it was bedtime.

Coraline kept the key around her neck, but she put the gray marbles beneath her pillow; and in bed that night, Coraline dreamed a dream.

She was at a picnic, under an old oak tree, in a green meadow. The sun was high in the sky and while there were distant, fluffy white clouds on the horizon, the sky above her head was a deep, untroubled blue.

There was a white linen cloth laid on the grass, with bowls piled high with food—she could see salads and sandwiches, nuts and fruit, jugs of lemonade and water and thick chocolate milk. Coraline sat on one side of the tablecloth while three other children took a side each. They were dressed in the oddest clothes.

The smallest of them, sitting on Coraline's left, was a boy with red velvet knee britches and a frilly white shirt. His face was dirty, and he was piling his plate high with boiled new potatoes and with what looked like cold, whole, cooked, trout. "This is the finest of pic-nics, lady," he said to her.

"Yes," said Coraline. "I think it is. I wonder who organized it."

"Why, I rather think you did, Miss," said a tall girl, sitting opposite Coraline. She wore a brown, rather shapeless dress, and had a brown bonnet on her head which tied beneath her chin. "And we are more grateful for it and for all than ever words can say." She was eating slices of bread and jam, deftly cutting the bread from a large golden-brown loaf with a huge knife, then spooning on the purple jam with a wooden spoon. She had jam all around her mouth.

"Aye. This is the finest food I have eaten in centuries," said the girl on Coraline's right. She was a very pale child, dressed in what seemed to be spider's webs, with a circle of glittering silver set in her blonde hair. Coraline could have sworn that the girl had two wings—like dusty silver butterfly wings, not bird wings—coming out of her back. The girl's plate was piled high with pretty flowers. She smiled at Coraline, as if it had been a very long time since she had smiled and she had almost, but not quite, forgotten how. Coraline found herself liking this girl immensely.

And then, in the way of dreams, the picnic was done and they were playing in the meadow, running and shouting and tossing a glittering ball from one to another. Coraline knew it was a dream then, because none of them ever got tired or winded or out of breath. She wasn't even sweating. They just laughed and ran in a game that was partly tag, partly piggy-in-the-middle, and partly just a magnificent romp.

Three of them ran along the ground, while the pale girl fluttered a little over their heads, swooping down on butterfly wings to grab the ball and swing up again into the sky before she tossed the ball to one of the other children.

And then, without a word about it being spoken, the game was done, and the four of them went back to the picnic cloth, where the lunch dishes had been cleared away, and there were four bowls waiting for them, three of ice cream, one of honeysuckle flowers piled high.

They ate with relish.

"Thank you for coming to my party," said Coraline. "If it is mine."

"The pleasure is ours, Coraline Jones," said the winged girl, nibbling another honeysuckle blossom. "If there were but something we could do for you, to thank you and to reward you."

“Aye,” said the boy with the red velvet britches and the dirty face. He put out his hand and held Coraline’s hand with his own. It was warm now.

“It’s a very fine thing you did for us, Miss,” said the tall girl. She now had a smear of chocolate ice cream all around her lips.

“I’m just pleased it’s all over,” said Coraline.

Was it her imagination, or did a shadow cross the faces of the other children at the picnic?

The winged girl, the circlet in her hair glittering like a star, rested her fingers for a moment on the back of Coraline’s hand. “It is over and done with for *us*,” she said. “This is our staging post. From here, we three will set out for uncharted lands, and what comes after no one alive can say. . . .” She stopped talking.

“There’s a *but*, isn’t there?” said Coraline. “I can feel it. Like a rain cloud.”

The boy on her left tried to smile bravely, but his lower lip began to tremble and he bit it with his upper teeth and said nothing. The girl in the brown bonnet shifted uncomfortably and said, “Yes, Miss.”

“But I got you three back,” said Coraline. “I got Mum and Dad back. I shut the door. I locked it. What more was I meant to do?”

The boy squeezed Coraline’s hand with his. She found herself remembering when it had been she, trying to reassure him, when he was little more than a cold memory in the darkness.

“Well, can’t you give me a clue?” asked Coraline. “Isn’t there *something* you can tell me?”

“The beldam swore by her good right hand,” said the tall girl, “but she lied.”

“M-my governess,” said the boy, “used to say that nobody is ever given more to shoulder than he or she can bear.” He shrugged as he said this, as if he had not yet made his own mind up whether or not it was true.

“We wish you luck,” said the winged girl. “Good fortune and wisdom and courage—although you have already shown that you have all three of these blessings, and in abundance.”

“She hates you,” blurted out the boy. “She hasn’t lost anything for so long. Be wise. Be brave. Be tricky.”

“But it’s not *fair*,” said Coraline, in her dream, angrily. “It’s just not *fair*. It should be over.”

The boy with the dirty face stood up and hugged Coraline tightly. “Take comfort in this,” he whispered. “Th’art alive. Thou livest.”

And in her dream Coraline saw that the sun had set and the stars were twinkling in the darkening sky.

Coraline stood in the meadow, and she watched as the three children (two of them walking, one flying) went away from her across the grass, silver in the light of the huge moon.

The three of them came to a small wooden bridge over a stream. They stopped there and turned and waved, and Coraline waved back.

And what came after was darkness.

Coraline woke in the early hours of the morning, convinced she had heard something moving, but unsure what it was.

She waited.

Something made a rustling noise outside her bedroom door. She wondered if it was a rat. The door rattled. Coraline clambered out of bed.

“Go away,” said Coraline sharply. “Go away or you’ll be sorry.”

There was a pause, then the whatever it was scuttled away down the hall. There was something odd and irregular about its footsteps, if they *were* footsteps. Coraline found herself wondering if it was perhaps a rat with an extra leg. . . .

“It isn’t over, is it?” she said to herself.

Then she opened the bedroom door. The gray, predawn light showed her the whole of the corridor, completely deserted.

She went toward the front door, sparing a hasty glance back at the wardrobe-door mirror hanging on the wall at the other end of the hallway, seeing nothing but her own pale face staring back at her, looking sleepy and serious. Gentle, reassuring snores came from her parents’ room, but the door was closed. All the doors off the corridor were closed. Whatever the scuttling thing was, it had to be here somewhere.

Coraline opened the front door and looked at the gray sky. She wondered how long it would be until the sun came up, wondered whether her dream had been a true thing while knowing in her heart that it had been. Something she had taken to be part of the shadows under the hall couch detached itself from beneath the couch and made a mad, scrabbling rush on its long white legs, heading for the front door.

Coraline’s mouth dropped open in horror and she stepped out of the way as the thing clicked and scuttled past her and out of the house, running crablike on its too-many tapping, clicking, scurrying feet.

She knew what it was, and she knew what it was after. She had seen it too many times in the last few days, reaching and clutching and snatching and popping blackbeetles obediently into the other mother's mouth. Five-footed, crimson-nailed, the color of bone.

It was the other mother's right hand.

It wanted the black key.



## XIII.

CORALINE'S PARENTS NEVER SEEMED to remember anything about their time in the snow globe. At least, they never said anything about it, and Coraline never mentioned it to them.

Sometimes she wondered whether they had ever noticed that they had lost two days in the real world, and came to the eventual conclusion that they had not. Then again, there are some people who keep track of every day and every hour, and there are people who don't, and Coraline's parents were solidly in the second camp.

Coraline had placed the marbles beneath her pillow before she went to sleep that first night home in her own room once more. She went back to bed after she saw the other mother's hand, although there was not much time left for sleeping, and she rested her head back on that pillow.

Something scrunched gently as she did.

She sat up, and lifted the pillow. The fragments of the glass marbles that she saw looked like the remains of eggshells one finds beneath trees in springtime: like empty, broken robin's eggs, or even more delicate—wren's eggs, perhaps.

Whatever had been inside the glass spheres had gone. Coraline thought of the three children waving good-bye to her in the moonlight, waving before they crossed that silver stream.

She gathered up the eggshell-thin fragments with care and placed them in a small blue box which had once held a bracelet that her grandmother had given her when she was a little girl. The bracelet was long lost, but the box remained.

Miss Spink and Miss Forcible came back from visiting Miss Spink's niece, and Coraline went down to their flat for tea. It was a Monday. On Wednesday Coraline would go back to school: a whole new school year would begin.

Miss Forcible insisted on reading Coraline's tea leaves.

"Well, looks like everything's mostly shipshape and Bristol fashion, luvvy," said Miss Forcible.

"Sorry?" said Coraline.

"Everything is coming up roses," said Miss Forcible. "Well, almost everything. I'm not sure what *that* is." She pointed to a clump of tea leaves sticking to the side of the cup.

Miss Spink tutted and reached for the cup. "Honestly, Miriam. Give it over here. Let me see. . . ."

She blinked through her thick spectacles. "Oh dear. No, I have no idea what that signifies. It looks almost like a hand."

Coraline looked. The clump of leaves did look a little like a hand, reaching for something.

Hamish the Scottie dog was hiding under Miss Forcible's chair, and he wouldn't come out.

"I think he was in some sort of fight," said Miss Spink. "He has a deep gash in his side, poor dear. We'll take him to the vet later this afternoon. I wish I knew what could have done it."

Something, Coraline knew, would have to be done.

That final week of the holidays, the weather was magnificent, as if the summer itself were trying to make up for the miserable weather they had been having by giving them some bright and glorious days before it ended.

The crazy old man upstairs called down to Coraline when he saw her coming out of Miss Spink and Miss Forcible's flat.

"Hey! Hi! You! Caroline!" he shouted over the railing.

"It's Coraline," she said. "How are the mice?"

"Something has frightened them," said the old man, scratching his mustache. "I think maybe there is a weasel in the house. Something is about. I heard it in the night. In my country we would have put down a trap for it, maybe put down a little meat or hamburger, and when the creature comes to feast, then—bam!—it would be caught and never bother us more. The mice are so scared they will not even pick up their little musical instruments."

"I don't think it wants meat," said Coraline. She put her hand up and touched the black key that hung about her neck. Then she went inside.

She bathed herself, and kept the key around her neck the whole time she was in the bath. She never took it off anymore.

Something scratched at her bedroom window after she went to bed. Coraline was almost asleep, but she slipped out of her bed and pulled open the curtains. A white hand with crimson fingernails leapt from the window ledge onto a drainpipe and was immediately out of sight. There were deep gouges in the glass on the other side of the window.

Coraline slept uneasily that night, waking from time to time to plot and plan and ponder, then falling back into sleep, never quite certain where her pondering ended and the dream began, one ear always open for the sound of something scratching at her windowpane or at her bedroom door.

In the morning Coraline said to her mother, "I'm going to have a picnic with my dolls today. Can I borrow a sheet—an old one, one you don't need any longer—as a tablecloth?"

"I don't think we have one of those," said her mother. She opened the kitchen drawer that held the napkins and the tablecloths, and she prodded about in it. "Hold on. Will this do?"

It was a folded-up disposable paper tablecloth covered with red flowers, left over from some picnic they had been on several years before.

"That's perfect," said Coraline.

"I didn't think you played with your dolls anymore," said Mrs. Jones.

"I don't," admitted Coraline. "They're protective color-ation."

"Well, be back in time for lunch," said her mother. "Have a good time."

Coraline filled a cardboard box with dolls and with several plastic doll's teacups. She filled a jug with water.

Then she went outside. She walked down to the road, just as if she were going to the shops. Before she reached the supermarket she cut across a fence into some wasteland and along an old drive, then crawled under a hedge. She had to go under the hedge in two journeys in order not to spill the water from the jug.

It was a long, roundabout looping journey, but at the end of it Coraline was satisfied that she had not been followed.

She came out behind the dilapidated old tennis court. She crossed over it, to the meadow where the long grass swayed. She found the planks on the edge of the meadow. They were astonishingly heavy—almost too heavy for a girl to lift, even using all her strength, but she managed. She didn't have any choice. She pulled the planks out of the way, one by one, grunting and sweating with the effort, revealing a deep, round, brick-lined hole in the ground. It smelled of damp and the dark. The bricks were greenish, and slippery.

She spread out the tablecloth and laid it, carefully, over the top of the well. She put a plastic doll's cup every foot or so, at the edge of the well, and she weighed each cup down with water from the jug.

She put a doll in the grass beside each cup, making it look as much like a doll's tea party as she could. Then she retraced her steps, back under the hedge, along the dusty yellow drive, around the back of the shops, back to her house.

She reached up and took the key from around her neck. She dangled it from the string, as if the key were just something she liked to play with. Then she knocked on the door of Miss Spink and Miss Forcible's flat.

Miss Spink opened the door.

"Hello dear," she said.

"I don't want to come in," said Coraline. "I just wanted to find out how Hamish was doing."

Miss Spink sighed. "The vet says that Hamish is a brave little soldier," she said. "Luckily, the cut doesn't seem to be infected. We cannot imagine what could have done it. The vet says some animal, he thinks, but has no idea what. Mister Bobo says he thinks it might have been a weasel."

"Mister Bobo?"

"The man in the top flat. Mister Bobo. Fine old circus family, I believe. Romanian or Slovenian or Livonian, or one of those countries. Bless me, I can never remember them anymore."

It had never occurred to Coraline that the crazy old man upstairs actually had a name, she realized. If she'd known his name was Mr. Bobo she would have said it every chance she got. How often do you get to say a name like "Mr. Bobo" aloud?

"Oh," said Coraline to Miss Spink. "Mister Bobo. Right. Well," she said, a little louder, "I'm going to go and play with my dolls now, over by the old tennis court, round the back."

"That's nice, dear," said Miss Spink. Then she added confidentially, "Make sure you keep an eye out for the old well. Mister Lovat, who was here before your time, said that he thought it might go down for half a mile or more."

Coraline hoped that the hand had not heard this last, and she changed the subject. "This key?" said Coraline loudly. "Oh, it's just some old key from our house. It's part of my game. That's why I'm carrying it around with me on this piece of string. Well, good-bye now."

"What an extraordinary child," said Miss Spink to herself as she closed the door.

Coraline ambled across the meadow toward the old tennis court, dangling and swinging the black key on its piece of string as she walked.

Several times she thought she saw something the color of bone in the undergrowth. It was keeping pace with her, about thirty feet away.

She tried to whistle, but nothing happened, so she sang out loud instead, a song her father had made up for her when she was a little baby and which had always made her laugh. It went,

*Oh—my twitchy witchy girl*

*I think you are so nice,*

*I give you bowls of porridge*

*And I give you bowls of ice*

*Cream.*

*I give you lots of kisses,*

*And I give you lots of hugs,*

*But I never give you sandwiches*

*With bugs*

*In.*

That was what she sang as she sauntered through the woods, and her voice hardly trembled at all.

The dolls' tea party was where she had left it. She was relieved that it was not a windy day, for everything was still in its place, every water-filled plastic cup weighed down the paper tablecloth as it was meant to. She breathed a sigh of relief.

Now was the hardest part.

"Hello dolls," she said brightly. "It's teatime!"

She walked close to the paper tablecloth. "I brought the lucky key," she told the dolls, "to make sure we have a good picnic."

And then, as carefully as she could, she leaned over and, gently, placed the key on the tablecloth. She was still holding on to the string. She held her breath, hoping that the cups of water at the edges of the well would weigh the cloth down, letting it take the weight of the key without collapsing into the well.

The key sat in the middle of the paper picnic cloth. Coraline let go of the string, and took a step back. Now it was all up to the hand.

She turned to her dolls.

“Who would like a piece of cherry cake?” she asked. “Jemima? Pinky? Primrose?” and she served each doll a slice of invisible cake on an invisible plate, chattering happily as she did so.

From the corner of her eye she saw something bone white scamper from one tree trunk to another, closer and closer. She forced herself not to look at it.

“Jemima!” said Coraline. “What a bad girl you are! You’ve dropped your cake! Now I’ll have to go over and get you a whole new slice!” And she walked around the tea party until she was on the other side of it to the hand. She pretended to clean up spilled cake, and to get Jemima another piece.

And then, in a skittering, chittering rush, it came. The hand, running high on its fingertips, scrabbled through the tall grass and up onto a tree stump. It stood there for a moment, like a crab tasting the air, and then it made one triumphant, nail-clacking leap onto the center of the paper tablecloth.

Time slowed for Coraline. The white fingers closed around the black key. . . .

And then the weight and the momentum of the hand sent the plastic dolls’ cups flying, and the paper tablecloth, the key, and the other mother’s right hand went tumbling down into the darkness of the well.

Coraline counted slowly under her breath. She got up to forty before she heard a muffled splash coming from a long way below.

Someone had once told her that if you look up at the sky from the bottom of a mine shaft, even in the brightest daylight, you see a night sky and stars. Coraline wondered if the hand could see stars from where it was.

She hauled the heavy planks back onto the well, covering it as carefully as she could. She didn’t want anything to fall in. She didn’t want anything ever to get out.

Then she put her dolls and the cups back in the cardboard box she had carried them out in. Something caught her eye while she was doing this, and she straightened up in time to see the black cat stalking toward her, its tail held high and curling at the tip like a question mark. It was the first time she had seen the cat in several days, since they had returned together from the other mother’s place.

The cat walked over to her and jumped up onto the planks that covered the well. Then, slowly, it winked one eye at her.

It sprang down into the long grass in front of her, and rolled over onto its back, wiggling about ecstatically.

Coraline scratched and tickled the soft fur on its belly, and the cat purred contentedly. When it had had enough it rolled over onto its front once more and walked back toward the tennis court, like a tiny patch of midnight in the midday sun.

Coraline went back to the house.

Mr. Bobo was waiting for her in the driveway. He clapped her on the shoulder.

“The mice tell me that all is good,” he said. “They say that you are our savior, Caroline.”

“It’s Coraline, Mister Bobo,” said Coraline. “Not Caroline. *Coraline*.”

“Coraline,” said Mr. Bobo, repeating her name to himself with wonderment and respect. “Very good, Coraline. The mice say that I must tell you that as soon as they are ready to perform in public, you will come up and watch them as the first audience of all. They will play *tumpty umpty* and *toodle oodle*, and they will dance, and do a thousand tricks. That *is* what is they say.”

“I would like that very much,” said Coraline. “When they’re ready.”

She knocked at Miss Spink and Miss Forcible’s door. Miss Spink let her in and Coraline went into their parlor. She put her box of dolls down on the floor. Then she put her hand into her pocket and pulled out the stone with the hole in it.

“Here you go,” she said. “I don’t need it anymore. I’m very grateful. I think it may have saved my life, and saved some other people’s death.”

She gave them both tight hugs, although her arms barely stretched around Miss Spink, and Miss Forcible smelled like the raw garlic she had been cutting. Then Coraline picked up her box of dolls and went out.

“What an extraordinary child,” said Miss Spink. No one had hugged her like that since she had retired from the theater.

That night Coraline lay in bed, all bathed, teeth cleaned, with her eyes open, staring up at the ceiling.

It was warm enough that, now that the hand was gone, she had opened her bedroom window wide. She had insisted to her father that the curtains not be entirely closed.

Her new school clothes were laid out carefully on her chair for her to put on when she woke.

Normally, on the night before the first day of term, Coraline was apprehensive and nervous. But, she realized, there was nothing left about school that could scare her anymore.

She fancied she could hear sweet music on the night air: the kind of music that can only be played on the tiniest silver trombones and trumpets and bassoons, on piccolos and tubas so delicate and small that their keys could only be pressed by the tiny pink fingers of white mice.

Coraline imagined that she was back again in her dream, with the two girls and the boy under the oak tree in the meadow, and she smiled.

As the first stars came out Coraline finally allowed herself to drift into sleep, while the gentle upstairs music of the mouse circus spilled out onto the warm evening air, telling the world that the summer was almost done.

### **Lesson Enquiry**

**What makes an effective ending?**

1. Now that we have finished the novel, would you consider the ending to 'Coraline' to be open or closed?
  
2. What did you think of the ending? Why do you think the writer included the part with the other mother's hand so close to the end of the novel?
  
3. What do you think the significance of the dream with the ghost children might have been? Why might this have been included towards the end of the novel?
  
4. What else does the writer emphasise about Coraline, the real world, her relationships with others at the end of the novel, and why might this be?
  
5. What questions might a reader have once after finishing the novel? E.g. Why don't Coraline's parents remember anything about the other world? Is it only children who can access the other world? List your questions below.

## Lesson Enquiry

### How can we respond critically to a novel?

#### Knowledge Review

1. What do we mean by 'writer's purpose'?
2. What is another term used to refer to writer's purpose?
3. What themes does the writer teach us about in Coraline?
4. 'Fairy tales are more than true: not because they tell us that dragons exist, but because they tell us that dragons can be beaten.'

Look back at the epigraph by G.K Chesterton. Having finished the novel, why do you think the writer chose to include this quotation at the beginning of the novel?



On the next page, you will find a table with statements relating to the purpose of the novel. Remember that readers have different responses to a novel and that's to be expected! You will need to find evidence to support the statement and say to what extent you agree with the statement (5 you strongly agree, 1 means you strongly disagree). We'll discuss our responses after.

Statement	Evidence (in your own words is fine)	To what extent do you agree? (1-4)
The novel is about someone finding out they are brave.		
The novel explores what makes a happy family.		
The novel explores the power of imagination.		
The novel is about somebody finding out who they are.		
The novel is about a girl learning to appreciate what she's got rather than wishing for something else.		
The novel is about the dark and scary world of dreams.		
The novel is trying to say that children don't appreciate their parents.		
The novel is about loneliness.		
The main theme of the novel is about the relationship between adults and children.		

### **Because, but, so**

The novel is about someone finding out they are brave because ...

The novel is about someone finding out they are brave, but...

The novel is about someone finding out they are brave, so...

Choose one of the other statements you agreed with and explain your reasons below...

*I agree with the statement, “\_\_\_\_\_” because...*

Sometimes writers explain their authorial intention. This is what Neil Gaiman has done below. His own words give us an insight in to his purpose. But remember, even taking into account the reasons he wrote *Coraline*, individual readers might still interpret the novel and its messages differently. That’s the amazing thing about literature!

## WHY I WROTE *CORALINE*

**M**ORE THAN TEN YEARS ago I started to write a children’s book. It was for my daughter, Holly, who was five years old. I wanted it to have a girl as a heroine, and I wanted it to be refreshingly creepy.

When I was a boy I lived in a house that had been made when a larger house had been divided up. The irregular shape of the house meant that one door of the house opened onto a stark brick wall. I would open it from time to time, always suspicious that one day the brick wall would be gone, and a corridor would be there instead.

I started to write a story about a girl named Coraline. I thought that the story would be five or ten pages long. The story itself had other plans.

We moved to America. The story, which I had been writing in my own time, between things that people were waiting for, ground to a halt.

Years passed. One day I looked up and noticed that Holly was now in her teens, and her younger sister, Maddy, was the same age Holly had been when I had started it for her. I sent the story so far to Jennifer Hershey, my editor at HarperCollins. She read it. “I love it,” she said. “What happens next?”

I suggested she give me a contract, and we would both find out. She agreed enthusiastically.

I bought a notebook, and started to write in it. It sat on my bedside table, and for the next couple of years I would scrawl fifty words, sometimes a hundred words, every night, before I went to sleep. A three-day train journey across America was an opportunity to work, uninterrupted, on *Coraline*. Getting stuck on *American Gods*, a long novel I was working on, gave me the opportunity I needed to finish Coraline’s story. A year later I wrote a chapter I had meant to write but had never got around to, and *Coraline* was finished.

Where it all came from—the other mother with her button eyes, the rats, the hand, the sad voices of the ghost-children—I have no real idea. It built itself and told itself, a word at a time.

A decade before, I had begun to write the story of Coraline, who was small for her age, and would find herself in darkest danger. By the time I finished writing, Coraline had seen what lay behind mirrors, and had a close call with a bad hand, and had come face-to-face with her other mother; she had rescued her true parents from a fate worse than death and triumphed against overwhelming odds.

It was a story, I learned when people began to read it, that children experienced as an adventure, but which gave adults nightmares. It's the strangest book I've written, it took the longest time to write, and it's the book I'm proudest of.



## QUESTIONS & ANSWERS ABOUT *CORALINE*

*How did you think up the name “Coraline”?*

It was from typing “Caroline” and it was coming out wrong. Larry Niven, the science fiction author, said in an essay that writers should treasure their typing mistakes. Once I typed it, I knew it was somebody’s name, and I wanted to know what happened to her.

I recently discovered it was actually a real name, although it’s not been used much in English-speaking countries for a long time. And, at the turn of the last century, it was a name for a brand of corset.

*Coraline is called a fairy tale. Do you really believe in fairies?*

Well, the only fairy in *Coraline* has been dead for hundreds of years, and some people read the book and never notice her at all. *Coraline*’s a fairy tale in the same way that “Hansel and Gretel” is a fairy tale.

As for believing in fairies . . . many years ago I wrote the copyright notice for a comic called *The Books of Magic*, in which I said words to the effect of “*All the characters, human or otherwise, are imaginary, excepting only certain of the faerie folk, whom it might be unwise to offend by casting doubts on their existence. Or lack thereof.*” A position I still wholeheartedly support and defend.

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*Did your parents insist on cooking “recipes” rather than regular food?*

Actually, it was me who did that, and I stole that aspect of *Coraline* from my son, Mike, when he was young, and still called Mikey. If ever I made anything adventurous he’d shake his head and say, “Dad, you’ve made a recipe, haven’t you?” and he’d head off to the freezer compartment to find a box of microwaveable french fries.

Whenever we’d go out to eat he’d order peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, until one day a waiter persuaded him to explore the rest of the menu, and he’s never looked back.

*How did you deal with long, boring, rainy days during the school holidays?*

Well, on the good ones I’d get someone to drop me off at the local library, and I’d read. On the bad ones I’d stare out of the window and wonder what to do, and eventually wind up rereading the Narnia books.

*What was the door that you were most scared to go through?*

Well, Coraline’s door really was in the “drawing room” of our house. The house, long since knocked down, had been divided into two, and behind the door at the far end of the room was a red-brick wall. I was never certain there would always be a brick wall there, though.

*Are things really magical, or do you make them magical by believing in them?*

I think most things are pretty magical, and that it’s less a matter of belief than it is one of just stopping to notice.

*What is the biggest key you have on your key ring and what does it open?*

When I was a boy I collected keys, for no real reason I could explain, and somewhere in the attic I still have a box filled with them, keys of all sizes and shapes and designs.

There aren't any fun ones on the everyday key ring, though: the biggest opens the cabin, overlooking a lake, where I go and write each day. The cabin doesn't have a phone, which helps.

*What chocolate do you eat first if you're given a whole box?*

In a perfect world, I would first identify the chocolates from the Identify Your Chocolate guide and eat something with a name like "Caramel Surprise." In the real world, I tend normally to accidentally pull out the chocolate truffles. By the way, I cannot see the point of "tangerine cremes."

*Why do the batteries in things always run out just when you really need them?*

It's one of the rules. I don't try to explain them. I just live here.

*Did you let your children read Coraline before anyone else?*

Well, I read it to Maddy, who was six when I finished it; and I forgot to give it to Holly (who is sixteen), so she just read it. "I hope you weren't too old for it," I told her, when she was done. "I don't think you can be too old for *Coraline*," she said, which made me very happy.

*What is your favorite time of day?*

Really, really early in the morning, just as the sun is coming up. I don't see it too often, but I love it when I do.

*Have you ever had your fortune told?*

Once, while waiting for a theater to open in New York, by an old woman. She told me I would die on an island. It hasn't happened yet.

*Will there be a film of Coraline?*

Quite possibly. The film rights have been bought, and Henry Selick, who is most famous for directing *The Nightmare Before Christmas* and *James and the Giant Peach*, has written the script and plans to direct it.

So many of my stories have been bought by Hollywood that I've long since stopped expecting any of them actually to happen, and will simply be pleasantly surprised if any of them actually do.

*Will you write another children's book?*

Yes. The next one I want to write has a working title of *The Graveyard Book*.

**Let's remind ourselves of the skills and knowledge we set out to learn at the beginning of the term. Take some time to reflect on all that you have learnt and think about the skills and aspects of knowledge you found most challenging too.**

### **Reading Skills**

- Retrieve explicit information from a fiction text
- Develop inferences
- Identify specific words and phrases to describe a character
- Explain the effects of a writer's choice of language
- Use quotations and subject terminology to comment on how a writer describes a character.
- Consider writer's purpose

### **By the end of Autumn 1, you will know:**

- Features of the fantasy genre (including setting, characters, themes and plots)
- Key vocabulary related to the genre
- Character types – protagonist Subject terminology to identify language (adjective, verb, noun, adverb, imagery, simile, metaphor)
- The concept of a quotation
- The concept of tension
- The purpose of an epigraph
- The plot of a full-length novel and its key characters, settings and themes.
- The concept of writer's purpose

**Now that we've read the novel, we are going to move on to the writing section of the unit. We are going to use our knowledge of the other mother as a fantasy villain, to create our own fantasy villains and describe them in detail. Let's remind ourselves of the skills and knowledge we'll be working on.**

### **Writing Skills**

- Use a range of effective and appropriate vocabulary and imagery in to describe a character.

### **By the end of Autumn 2, you will know:**

- Typical villainous characters from the fantasy genre
- A range of effective vocabulary related to the genre
- The success criteria for describing a character (adverbs, precise verbs, adjectives, imagery)

## Lesson Enquiry

### How do writers describe villainous characters?

There's no doubt about it that the other mother is a pretty evil villain, but how did the writer emphasise her villainous nature to us as readers?

- Described her appearance using lots of effective vocabulary and imagery which started out as peculiar and disturbing and ended up as pretty terrifying.
- Emphasised her wicked personality through her dialogue and her actions. She started out as quite creepy but “nice”, became very manipulative and then increasingly angry and violent towards the end of the novel.
- Emphasised her role as a fantasy villain through her supernatural powers and qualities.



You are going to be writing a description of a fantasy villain. A description is different to a narrative (story). A description is like a snap shot in time and usually only describes one event. There is usually minimal dialogue and action.

For your description, you are going to imagine that you are the protagonist in a fantasy novel. You have just stepped through a portal to a fantasy world and have come face to face with a fantasy villain. You will need to describe what your fantasy villain **looks like, sounds like, moves like and how they make you feel**. You will be using **varied vocabulary, imagery and other devices** to do so. You will need to show the reader how villainous your character is, rather than tell them.

Before you plan to write about your own villain, we will look at some descriptions of the other mother at her most villainous and then we will look at some descriptions of other fantasy villains. This should give us a good idea of how to create and describe our own villain effectively!



As a class, annotate the language used to describe the other mother which shows her to be a villainous character.

It sounded like her mother. Coraline went into the kitchen, where the voice had come from. A woman stood in the kitchen with her back to Coraline. She looked a little like Coraline's mother. Only . . .

Only her skin was white as paper.

Only she was taller and thinner.

Only her fingers were too long, and they never stopped moving, and her dark red fingernails were curved and sharp.

"Coraline?" the woman said. "Is that you?"

And then she turned around. Her eyes were big black buttons.

This short sentence at the end of the description shocks the reader. The alliteration emphasises that there is something very creepy about her appearance.

Effective language and devices used here:

The other mother sat on the sofa. Her mouth was set in a line; her lips were pursed. She popped another blackbeetle into her mouth and then another, like someone with a bag of chocolate-covered raisins. Her big black button eyes stared into Coraline's hazel eyes. Her shiny black hair twined and twisted about her neck and shoulders, as if it were blowing in some wind that Coraline could not touch or feel.

Effective language and devices used here:

The other mother had followed her in. Now she stood in the center of the room, between Coraline and the mantelpiece, and looked down at Coraline with black button eyes. It was funny, Coraline thought. The other mother did not look anything at all like her own mother. She wondered how she had ever been deceived into imagining a resemblance. The other mother was huge—her head almost brushed the ceiling—and very pale, the color of a spider's belly. Her hair writhed and twined about her head, and her teeth were sharp as knives. . . .

Effective language and devices used here:



Did you notice how Neil Gaiman focuses on certain things about the other mother's character. He repeats them throughout the novel. These **repeated images** are called **motifs**.

E.g. her eyes, her coldness, the wind that blows around her, her hands and fingers.

Think about what you will emphasise about your villain. It might be their eyes, their height, their smile, their voice...

He also uses **symbolism**...think about the "red" of her fingernails—red has symbolic connotations of danger, of blood etc. Also, did you notice how much **imagery** he uses to emphasise her terrifying appearance, for example, "teeth as sharp as knives". Think about how you will use imagery to emphasise your character's villainous nature.



Read the extract from 'Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows.' It describes the villainous character of Lord Voldemort. Read the description and then answer the questions below.

***The speaker was seated directly in front of the fireplace, so that it was difficult, at first, for the new arrivals to make out more than his silhouette. As they drew nearer, however, his face shone through the gloom, hairless, snake-like, with slits for nostrils and gleaming red eyes whose pupils were vertical. He was so pale that he seemed to emit a pearly glow.***

1. How does the phrase, "it was difficult, at first, for the new arrivals to make out more than his silhouette" add to the sinister portrayal of this character?
2. Find two adjectives used to describe Voldemort's face. How do they emphasise that there is something disturbing about this character?
3. The writer uses imagery to describe Voldemort's face as "snake-like". Why might she have used this comparison? What are the connotations of a "snake", and how does this conform to the idea of a fantasy villain?

4. What do we usually associate with the word and colour “red”? What might the writer have been implying by using this word in the image “gleaming red eyes”?

5. Why do you think that the writer’s description is so focused on Voldemort’s face?

6. Does this description of Voldemort’s character remind you in any way of the description of the other mother? If so, how?



The extract below is from *The Lord of the Rings*. In the extract Frodo sees the evil Sauron who appears as an eye.

*“But suddenly the Mirror went altogether dark, as dark as if a hole had opened in the world of sight, and Frodo looked into emptiness. In the black abyss there appeared a single Eye that slowly grew, until it filled nearly all the Mirror. So terrible was it that Frodo stood rooted, unable to cry out or to withdraw his gaze. The Eye was rimmed with fire, but was itself glazed, yellow as a cat’s, watchful and intent, and the black slit of its pupil opened on a pit, a window into nothing.”*

1. Which phrases describes how Frodo reacts to seeing the Eye of Sauron? Underline them. What do they **show** us about how Frodo feels?

2. Why might the writer have used the imagery: “rimmed with fire” to describe the eye? What do we usually associate with fire?

3. Identify the simile used to describe the eye.

4. Why might the writer have compared the eye to a cat's? What might we associate with a cat?

5. The writer uses the adjectives "watchful" and "intent" to describe the eye. Intent means the eye is focused and fixed on Frodo. Why might the writer have used these adjectives to describe the eye? What do they imply about Sauron?

6. What colours are used to describe the Eye of Sauron and why might they have been used?

7. Why might the writer have described the eye opening as "a window into nothing"?

8. Is the description of the Eye of Sauron similar in any ways to the description of the other mother and Voldemort?

9. How is this description different to the description of the other mother and Voldemort?

### **Lesson Enquiry**

**How do writers describe villainous characters?**

**What types of words/techniques have the writers used to describe the other mother, Voldemort and Sauron?**

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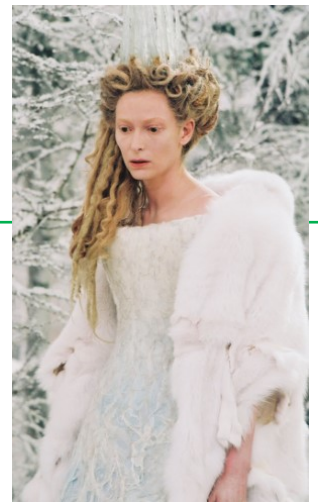
## Lesson Enquiry

### How do writers describe villainous characters?

#### Knowledge Review

1. Which villains did we read descriptions of last lesson?
2. What did these descriptions have in common with one another?
3. “The eye...as yellow as a cat’s”. What technique is this?
4. What does the colour red often symbolise?
5. Why might a writer use imagery of fire to describe a villain?
6. When Frodo saw the Eye of Sauron, he stood “rooted” to the ground. What does this mean and what does it suggest about how Frodo feels?

Read this extract describing the villainous white witch from *The Lion, Witch and the Wardrobe*. Then answer the questions to unpick how the writer has created her villainous character.



***But behind him, on a much higher seat in the middle of the sledge sat a very different person — a great lady, taller than any woman that Edmund had ever seen. She also was covered in white fur up to her throat and held a long straight golden wand in her right hand and wore a golden crown on her head. Her face was white — not merely pale, but white like snow or paper or icing-sugar, except for her very red mouth. It was a beautiful face in other respects, but proud and cold and stern.***

1. How does the writer describe the White Witch's size? Copy down the quote.
2. Why might her height be significant? Does this remind you of the description of any other villainous characters we have studied?
3. What is the White Witch wearing and carrying? Why might the writer have included these details? What impression does it convey of her character?
4. What does the writer emphasise about the character's face? What techniques does he use to emphasise this? Does this remind you of any of the other villains?
5. Which adjective is used to describe the character's mouth? Why might this be significant?
6. "It was a beautiful face in other respects, but proud and cold and stern." How is this description of the White Witch's appearance different to other villains we have looked at? How do we refer to the contrast of images of words in a text? (clue: begins with a J). Why might this technique have been used.
7. How does the writer **show** (rather than tell) us the White Witch is powerful?
8. How is this villain portrayed similarly to others we have looked at?
9. How is she portrayed differently to others we have looked at?

### Lesson Enquiry

How do writers describe villainous characters?

As we begin to think about creating our own villains and the criteria we will need to describe them, let's take some time to reflect on some of the effective examples from the description of the other mother, Voldemort, Sauron and The White Witch. Go back through each description and complete the table. You might be able to use or adapt some of these words and phrases in your own final description of your own villain.

<u>Techniques</u>	<u>Examples from the villains we have looked at</u>
Effective adjectives	
Similes	
Colour imagery	
Other imagery	
Tiny details (e.g. precise description of eyes or skin)	

## Lesson Enquiry

### What do we need to do describe a character effectively?

#### Knowledge Review: True or False?

1. A description should include lots of actions and events.
2. A description should include lots of adjectives and imagery.
3. “Frodo was too terrified to move” is an example of showing not telling.
4. A simile is a specific type of imagery.
5. The colour blue often symbolises danger and violence.
6. “white like snow or paper or icing-sugar” - this is an example of a metaphor.

We know that an effective description of a character includes

- Adjectives
- Similes
- Colour imagery
- Other types of imagery
- Tiny details



This criteria helps us to show the reader what our character is like, rather than tell them.

E.g. Let's take the quote: “On seeing me arrive, his eyes blazed like the fiery flames of hell”

**This SHOWS the reader that the character is furious at another's arrival. The comparison to “fiery flames of hell” also conjures up images of death, destruction and evil, showing the reader that this character is a threat and associating them with something sinister and even demonic. Compare this to “On seeing me arrive, I could see in his eyes how angry he was” - this simply tells the reader—there is so symbolic connotations and it's simply not very interesting to read.**

There are two other important criteria for describing a character effectively

- Adverbs
- Precise verbs (e.g. 'glared' instead of 'looked')



As a class, read the description of Gollum from Lord of the Rings. Annotate each of the success criteria.



Deep down here by the dark water lived old Gollum, a small slimy creature. I don't know where he came from, nor who or what he was.

He was Gollum - as dark as darkness, except for two big round pale eyes in his thin face. He had a little boat, and he rowed about quite quietly on the lake; for lake it was, wide and deep and deadly cold. He paddled it with large feet dangling over the side, but never a ripple did he make. Not he. He was looking out of his pale limp-like eyes for blind fish, which he grabbed with his long fingers as quick as thinking. He liked meat too. Goblin he thought good, when he could get it; but he took care they never found him out. He just throttled them from behind, if they ever came down alone anywhere near the edge of the water, while he was prowling about. They very seldom did, for they had a feeling that something unpleasant was lurking down there, down at the very roots of the mountain.



Are there any similarities or differences between this description and the descriptions of other villains?

- Adjectives
- Adverbs
- Precise Verbs
- Imagery
- Tiny details



Now that you have read lots of descriptions of villains, you are going to have a go at making some decisions about the most effective words and phrases used to describe a villain.

Below is an incomplete description of Bellatrix Lestrange.

You need to complete the description by choosing the word you think is most effective. You might also choose to use a word of your own. There aren't any "right" choices, you'll just need to justify why you chose each word or phrase.

I stood facing the \_\_\_\_\_ (tall/towering) figure who had \_\_\_\_\_ (emerged/appeared) from the darkness. Her \_\_\_\_\_ (white/pale/ghost-like) face was surrounded by tendrils of \_\_\_\_\_ (wild/untamed/snake-like) black hair that drifted \_\_\_\_\_ (eerily, unnaturally) around her face. I was struck by the \_\_\_\_\_ (intensity/power) of her eyes as deep and dark as the abyss but somehow \_\_\_\_\_ (watchful/alert). As she \_\_\_\_\_ (slowly/quickly) approached the doorway in which I stood, I found that I was \_\_\_\_\_ (rooted/fixed) to the spot, my legs beginning to \_\_\_\_\_ (tremble/shake).

Now complete the sentences below to explain your word choices. Think about how you wanted to portray the character and make the reader feel.

1. I chose the **adjective** \_\_\_\_\_ because I wanted to **emphasise** that the character was \_\_\_\_\_.
2. I chose the **verb** \_\_\_\_\_ because I wanted to make it seem like she was \_\_\_\_\_.
3. I chose the **adjective** \_\_\_\_\_ to describe the character's face because I wanted to **convey** that the character was \_\_\_\_\_.
4. I chose the **adjective** \_\_\_\_\_ to describe her hair because it made me think of \_\_\_\_\_.

5. I chose the **adverb** \_\_\_\_\_ to describe the way that her hair moved because \_\_\_\_\_
6. I chose the **noun** \_\_\_\_\_ to describe her eyes because I wanted the reader to feel that she was \_\_\_\_\_
7. I also chose the **adjective** \_\_\_\_\_ to describe her eyes because I wanted to make it seem like she was \_\_\_\_\_.
8. I chose the **verb** \_\_\_\_\_ to describe how she approached the other character because I wanted the reader to feel \_\_\_\_\_
9. I chose the **verb** \_\_\_\_\_ to describe how the other character could not move because I thought it seemed \_\_\_\_\_
10. I used the verb \_\_\_\_\_ to describe the movement of the other characters legs because I wanted to make it seem like they were \_\_\_\_\_

1. Look back at your completed Bellatrix LeStrange character. The description meets lots of the criteria by using adverbs, precise verbs and adjectives. Can you find any examples of imagery in the description (look for a simile perhaps).



- Adjectives
- Adverbs
- Precise Verbs
- Imagery
- Tiny details

2. The description focuses in some detail on her skin, hair and eyes. What else could you describe in tiny detail? Look back at the picture for inspiration.

## Lesson Enquiry

**How can we plan and write an effective character description?**

### Knowledge Review

1. What are the success criteria for describing a character effectively?

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2. Think of a precise verb for each of these to show that a character is angry.

Looked:

Asked:

Said:

Walked:

3. Think of a precise verb for each of these to show that a character is scared.

Walked:

Said:

4. What specific device is evident in the following quote “her eyes as deep and dark as the abyss”?



**We're going to start thinking about developing our own fantasy villain. Use the prompts below to help you plan. You could use the images above to help you. Look back at the other descriptions to help you as well.**

1. What will your villain's eyes look like?
2. What will your villain's skin look like?
3. What will your villain's hair look like?
4. What will your villain's teeth look like?
5. How tall will your villain be?
6. Will your villain resemble an animal/object/any other creature in any way? If so, how?

7. Will your villain have any special powers?

8. Will there be anything contradictory/confusing about your character (e.g a beautiful smile but evil eyes)?

9. How will your villain move (quickly, slowly, can they hover above ground? Do they crawl?)

10. How will your villain speak? What will you compare their voice to?

11. What colour imagery will you use to describe your villain?

12. How will your narrator feel when they come face to face with your villain?

13. How will you SHOW that they feel that way.

Use the table below to compile lists of key words you might use.

Adjectives	Precise Verbs	Adverbs	Imagery



- **Adjectives**
- **Adverbs**
- **Precise Verbs**
- **Imagery**
- **Tiny details**

**Complete assessment on lined paper. Note to teacher : please stick in assessment here.**

**Structure of your description: 3 paragraphs**

- Your villain appears out of the darkness.
- Describe your villain in as much detail as possible—use your planning
- Describe how your narrator feels when they see the villain.

**Complete assessment on lined paper. Note to teacher : please stick in assessment here.**

**Individual PLC** (Note to teacher: Please stick PLC here)

**WCF** (Note to teacher: Please WCF here)

## Year 7 Autumn 1 English Knowledge Organiser: Fantasy Unit

### Section 1: Key subject terminology

**Noun** – a word that refers to a person, place, thing

**Verb** – an action/doing word

**Adjective** – a word that describes a noun

**Adverb** – a word that describes a verb

**Simile** – a thing is compared to another using 'like or as'

**Metaphor** – when something is described by saying it is something else

**Personification** – when objects or ideas are given human characteristics

**Imagery** – descriptive detail used to create a vivid image in the readers' mind

**Fantasy fiction** – An imaginative story that is often set in another world and the plot includes magical elements. Often the characters include animals that can talk or have special powers.

### Section 2: Keywords

**Genre** – type of book

**Fiction** – an imaginary (made up) story

**Parallel universe** – a fantasy world that has similarities to the real world

**Supernatural** – beyond human understanding

**Creature** – living thing

**Mystical** – magical

**Mysterious** – unusual

**Quest** – a search for something

**Conflict** – a fight

### Section 3: Human concepts

**Morality** – a set of individual standards that decide what is wrong or right  
**Evil** – morally bad or wrong or wicked  
**Courage** – a sense or act of bravery

**Sorcerer** – wizard

**Spirit** – Ghost

**Enchanted** – placed under a spell

**Portal** – door or gateway into another place

**Villain** – evil person

**Courageous** – brave

**Conjure** – create something out of nothing

### Section 4: Language analysis

#### Language of interpretation

- Indicates
- Illustrates
- Conveys
- Portrays
- Demonstrates
- Reveals
- Highlights
- Emphasises
- Reiterates
- Suggests
- Implies



#### Quotation:

Evidence from the text to support your answer

You must use quotation marks "..." around this

Must include a quotation to support your ideas

For example:

The Other Mother is presented as a strange character. This is shown in the quotation "her eyes were big black buttons". This suggests that she is not human as she does not have regular eyes, implying that she may be an unusual or scary character.

### Section 1: Key subject terminology

**Task 1:** Look/cover/write and check the definitions of the key subject terminology

### Section 2: Keywords

**Task 3:** Learn/cover/write and check the spellings of the keywords above.

**Task 4:** Learn/cover/write and check the definitions of the keywords.

**Task 5:** Use each of the keywords in a sentence correctly.

### Section 3: Human concepts

**Task 6:** Look/cover/write and check the definitions of human concepts

### Section 4: Language analysis

**Task 7:** Learn/cover/write and check the spellings of the language of interpretation

**Task 8:** Find five short quotations to show that the Other Mother has changed throughout the novel. Explain each quote.

## Knowledge Organiser Quiz

### 1. Write the definition of: [4 marks]

A noun \_\_\_\_\_

An adjective \_\_\_\_\_

A verb \_\_\_\_\_

An adverb \_\_\_\_\_

### 2. Read this description of the Other mother from Chapter Six. [3 marks]

*"She carefully picked out a particularly large and black beetle, pulled off its legs... and popped the beetle into her mouth. She crunched it happily."*

Write down all of the **verbs** in this extract:

\_\_\_\_\_

Write down all of the **adjectives** in this extract:

\_\_\_\_\_

Write down all of the **adverbs** in this extract:

### 3. Write down the definitions of the following words: [4 marks]

Supernatural:

Creature:

Conflict:

Villain:

### 4. Write down the definitions of the following human concepts: [2 marks]

Morality:

Evil:

### 5. Write down two alternative words for 'shows': [2 marks]