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| **Changing how we think about warm perception | MDC Berlin** | **KEEPING WARM** | **Just 20 minutes to keep your brain active and your skill level up.** | **READING** |
| **‘Speechless’** – Katie Darbishire  “We’re having a baby.”  That’s what she said. A though it was the most natural, normal thing in the world. But nothing would be normal in this family.  “Isn’t that exciting?”  Now all made sense-the green face, rushing off to the loo in the middle of things, looking tired all the time.  “Do you know what I’m saying Harriet? We’re going to have a new baby.” Mum crossed her arms in front of her, using her right hand to mimic the shape of a baby’s head. The Makaton sign for baby.  I sighed- of course I knew what she was saying- and signed back…”baby”.  I should explain. I’ve got Cerebral Palsy and part of that means talking is bad for me. Well talking isn’t so bad. I know what I want to say-it’s getting people to understand me is the hard part. I can’t be bothered with it most of the time. Signing is just easier-if you’re saying something simple and the person you’re talking to knows how to do it.  “I thought you’d be pleased,” said Mum, her yes all soppy, searching mine as though she is begging me to understand and be happy for her.  Unable to hold her gaze I glared down at my feet which had their usual early morning purple hue. Always cold, my legs, no matter *how* many blankets Mum put on the bed. Why would I be pleased? A bay was a horrible thought. Who would look after me when there was an ultra-cute-vomit monster, an impostor, vying for attention? And give it a year and it would be chatting away and crawling around the house as if it owned the place, making me look even more of a thicko than I already do. | | **1. Read the opening of the novel ‘Speechless’ – Katie Darbishire carefully.** | |
| **2. List what we find out about Harriet.** | |
| **3. Summarise what you think the text is about in either one sentence or three bullet points.** | |
| **4. What do you think Makaton is?** | |
| **5. What is Harriet’s reaction to her mother’s announcement? Why do you think she feels this way?** | |
| **6. To what extent do you sympathise with Harriet? Explain your views.** | |

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| **Changing how we think about warm perception | MDC Berlin** | **KEEPING WARM** | **Just 20 minutes to keep your brain active and your skill level up.** | **READING** |
| **‘They Both Die At The End’** – Adam Silvera  “Hello. I’m calling from Death-Cast. I regret to inform you that sometime in the next 24hrs you’ll be meeting an untimely death. On behalf of everyone here at Death-cast, we are so sorry to lose you. Live this day to the fullest, okay?”  \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_  Sept 5, 2017  Mateo Torrez  12.22am  Death-Cast is calling with the warning of a lifetime – I’m going to die today. Forget that, “warning” is too strong a word since warnings suggest something can be avoided, like a car honking at someone who’s crossing the street when it isn’t their light, giving them the chance to step back; this is more of a heads-up. The alert, a distinctive and endless gong, like a church bell one block away, is blasting from my phone on the other side of the room. I’m freaking out already, a hundred thoughts immediately drowning out everything around me. I bet this chaos is what a first time skydiver feels like as she’s plummeting out of a plane. Not that I will ever know for sure.  It’s crazy. One minute ago I was reading…and now I’m going to die.  My chest tightens. I’m dying today. | | **1. Read the opening of the novel ‘They Both Die At The End’** – **Adam Silvera** **carefully** | |
| **2. In your own words summarise what you think this story is about.** | |
| **3. How does Mateo respond to the warning he receives?** | |
| **4. Which country do you think the story is set in? What makes you think that?** | |
| **5. The writer uses what kind of language device/feature to describe the sound of the alert. What is it? Why might he have chosen to do this? What could it suggest?** | |
| **6. What is the purpose of this opening? Does it set the scene, establish character or set up the premise of the plot?** | |

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| **‘The Steel Falcon’** – N K Queen  The roar of the crowd deafened him. They were on their feet, the noise like a stampede.  “Walker! Walker! Walker!”  The thong chanted his name and the wall of sound pushed through him, making his insides reverberate. Hand over ears and head tucked down, Kalum Walker squeezed his eyes closed so hard they were being pushed back in their sockets. The tremor in his right hand was slight at first, but he knew that was how it always began. It was like the rumble of thunder before a lightning strike. The familiar icy hand forced its path up the small of his back. Its climb was slow and relentless, tiptoeing up his chest and branching into two. His breath left his body quicker now, beyond his control. The shallow grasps made him feel as if he was drowning.  “Walker! Walker! Walker!”  Again the sound of name assaulted his ears, reaching a crescendo but seemingly not wanting to subside. The phantom hand was now around his throat and in his chest. It was as if he could feel each finger flex in succession, clamping down with malevolent intent.  “Come on. Come on,” he wheezed, starting to rock back as the edges of his vision tined with red, “Not now.” | | **1. Read the opening of the novel ‘The Steel Falcon’ – N K Queen carefully.** | |
| **2. “the noise like a stampede” is an example of what kind of language feature?** | |
| **Can you find another example of this language feature in the text?** | |
| **“wall of sound” is an example of what kind of language features?** | |
| **Can you find another example of this language feature in the text?**  **What other language features have been used?** | |
| **What do you think is happening to Kalum Walker? What makes you think that?** | |

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|  | **KEEPING WARM** | **Just 20 minutes to keep your brain active and your skill level up.** | **READING** |
| **‘Heroes’** – Robert Cormier  My name is Francis Joseph Cassavant and I have just returned to Frenchtown in Monument and the war is over and I have no face.  Oh, I have eyes because I can see and ear drums because I can hear but no ears to speak of, just bits dangling flesh. But that’s fine, like Dr Abrams says, because it’s sight and hearing that count and I was not handsome to begin with. He is joking of course. He is always trying to make me laugh.  If anything bothers me, it’s my nose. Or, rather, the absence of my nose. My nostrils are like two small caves and they sometimes get blocked and I have to breathe through my mouth. This dries up my throat and makes it hard for me to swallow. I also become hoarse and cough a lot. My teeth are gone but my jaw is intact.  I have no eyebrows, but eyebrows are minor, really. I have cheeks, sort of. I mean, the skin that forms my cheeks was grafted from my thighs and has taken a long time to heal. My thighs sting when my pants rub against them. Dr Abrams says that all my skin will heal in time and my cheeks will someday be as smooth as a baby’s arse. | | **1. Read the opening of the novel ‘Heroes’** – Robert Cormier carefully. | |
| 2. Using the description in the text either sketch and label what Francis Joseph Cassavant looks like, or, list his injuries. | |
| 3. What do you think happened to cause his injuries? What makes you think that? | |
| What language feature does the writer use to describe Francis’ nostrils? What does this suggest about them? | |
| What sort of person is Dr Abrams presented as being? What makes you think that? | |
| “This makes me feel a great deal of sympathy for Francis.”  To what extent do you agree with this statement? Explain your view. | |

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|  | **KEEPING WARM** | **Just 20 minutes to keep your brain active and your skill level up.** | **READING** |
| **‘Friend Request’** – Laura Marshall  The email arrives in my inbox like an unexploded bomb: *Maria Weston wants to be friends on Facebook.*  For a second I miss the Facebook reference, and just see “Maria Weston wants to be friends”.  Instinctively I slam the laptop shut. It feels as though a sponge has been lodged in my throat, soaking up water, swelling, and clogging, leaving me struggling for breath. I attempt to breathe deeply, trying to get myself under control. Perhaps I was mistaken. I must have been mistaken because this cannot possibly be happening.  Slowly, I raise the lid of my laptop. Hands shaking, I go back to the email and this time there is no denying the bald fact of it. Maria Weston wants to be friends with me. | | **1. Read the opening of the novel ‘Friend Request’ – Laura Marshall carefully.** | |
| **2. In your own words summarise what it is about.** | |
| **3. “The email arrives in my inbox like an unexploded bomb” What language feature has been used here? What does it suggest?** | |
| **4. “Perhaps I was mistaken. I must have been mistaken” What language feature here? What does it suggest?** | |
| **5. “Slowly, I raise the lid of my laptop.” What types of word does this sentence start with? What does it imply?** | |
| **6. What can you infer from the text about the narrator’s relationship with Maria Weston?** | |

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| **‘Adam’** – A K Stone  In the forest it waited, as the rain drifted slowly down.  There was a dull flash to break the gloom, and after long seconds thunder rumbled menacingly, like the threat of advancing war. The sound rolled overhead, passing into the distance, throwing more growls as if to ensure the listener understood that it was coming: beware.  The deluge began to fall with more determination, leaves flexed downward as water poured across their verdancy. Lightning stabbed more clearly now, and a second later thunder cascaded and then boomed through the forest, reverberating off of the tree trunks and shivering through the branches.  Not everything, however, was taking cover. Something was out there in the rain. | | **1. Read the opening of the novel ‘Adam’ – A K Stone carefully.** | |
| **2. How does the writer recreate the sound of the thunder here?** | |
| **3. “like the threat of advancing war” What language feature is being used here? What does it suggest?** | |
| **4 .”Lightning stabbed” What language feature is being used here? What does it suggest?** | |
| **5. Look again at the opening and closing line. What is their impact on the reader?** | |
| **6. What is the purpose of this opening? Does it set the scene, establish character or set up the premise of the plot?** | |

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