

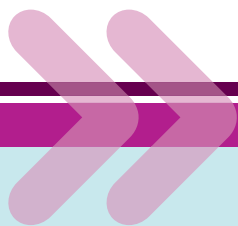
INTEGRATED

It's a Novel Idea

Reading response journal

Middle Childhood 4–7

Learning Resource





ORDERING INFORMATION:

Contact WestOne Services on Tel: (08) 9229 5200 Fax: (08) 9227 8393 Email: sales.westone@dtwd.wa.gov.au
Orders can also be placed through the website: www.westone.wa.gov.au

INTEGRATED1715
IT'S A NOVEL IDEA—
READING RESPONSE JOURNAL
ISBN 978-1-74205-671-5



9 781742 056715

Integrated

**It's a Novel Idea
Reading response journal**

Middle Childhood

Learning Resource

First published 2010

ISBN 978-1-74205-671-5
SCIS 1484982

© WestOne Services 2010

Not for NEALS 

Produced by WestOne Services.

All rights reserved. No part of this publication may be reproduced, stored in a retrieval system or transmitted in any form or by any means, electronic, mechanical, photocopying, recording or otherwise, without the prior written permission of WestOne Services.

Whilst every effort has been made to ensure the accuracy of the information contained in this publication, no guarantee can be given that all errors and omissions have been excluded. No responsibility for loss occasioned to any person acting or refraining from action as a result of the material in this publication can be accepted by WestOne Services.

Published by and available from

WestOne Services



1 Prospect Place West Perth WA 6005
Tel: (08) 9229 5200 Fax: (08) 9227 8393
Email: sales.westone@dtwd.wa.gov.au
Website: www.westone.wa.gov.au

This module contains information from the Curriculum Framework, Society and Environment, English, Science, and Technology and Enterprise, Curriculum Guides and the K10 Syllabus, and has been reproduced with the permission of the Curriculum Council of Western Australia. It also contains information from the Outcomes and Standards Framework, which has been reproduced with the permission of the WA Department of Education.

IT'S A NOVEL IDEA



★ Overview of It's a Novel Idea

It's a Novel Idea consists of three modules and a Teacher overview.

Module	Outcomes focus
1 Blueback	English 8. Reading
2 Compare and contrast	English 8. Reading
3 Reading response journal	English 8. Reading



IT'S A NOVEL IDEA





Reading response journal



Welcome to your reading response journal. This is a journal where you will record your responses to the text studied in this unit. You will do this by answering specific questions and also by choosing response options that appeal to you.

People respond to texts in different ways. There is no right or wrong way. For example, one person may read a novel and feel moved by an event; however, another may find it boring, and yet another may find it triggers memories of something that has happened in their lives. Your response to a text is entirely personal. Focused response questions will enable you to think about the novel in ways you may not have considered before.

Each chapter will have specific questions that will need to be answered in your journal. Before reading the nominated chapters, take time to look over the specific questions for those chapters as this will allow you to think about your answers while you are reading.

After reading the nominated chapters in the novel you will complete the relevant entries in your reading response journal. You will then choose a number of response options, as directed from the list at the beginning of the journal, and answer them. Make sure you record the date, the chapter number or title as well as your response for each entry.



IT'S A NOVEL IDEA

For example:

October 28th Chapter 10

If I were one of the characters I ...

You will also find space in the journal to record any questions, ideas or words you don't understand. Record these words and look them up in your dictionary. You may also like to speak to an adult about them, and add them to your spelling list.



When responding to questions about a story or a novel it is helpful to structure your answers in a certain way. A good idea is to:

- state your point or idea (eg I feel that ..., I think ..., this section...)
- give an example (words that show this ..., evidence is ...)
- explain (this shows that ..., I think this means ...).

IT'S A NOVEL IDEA



Here is an example.

I really like the way the author began the story with a funny sentence:
'It all began the day my fish swallowed my homework.'
This sentence made me laugh, as I could picture the scene in my head. It also made me want to read on and find out what else would happen.

Some questions will require you to write a paragraph. A paragraph is usually four to five sentences long. It begins with a topic sentence followed by supporting sentences and is finished with a concluding sentence.

For example:

Topic sentence

Supporting sentences

The sea turtle is a large turtle that lives in the ocean. Scientists have been working to gather information about these turtles. Each night the scientists count the turtles as they come ashore. As the turtles lay their eggs, the eggs are counted and recorded. Later, the scientists will record the number of eggs that hatch. The information these scientists are collecting is very important, as these turtles are an endangered species.

Concluding sentence



IT'S A NOVEL IDEA

It can help you to write a paragraph if you think of the paragraph as a sandwich.

Topic sentence

(introduce the paragraph)

Filling

(share your facts/information in supporting sentences)

Concluding sentence

(close your paragraph)

Remember, when writing responses in your journal there are no wrong answers. Try and make connections between your own experiences, real life and the story. Try to think and react with your feelings. The questions may help you consider topics you wouldn't have thought of writing about before. To help you get started with your responses you may like to use the sample sentence starters.

Take a moment to look over the list of response options and sentence starters. Then refer to the module *Blueback* to find out which chapters to read.



IT'S A NOVEL IDEA



Response options

I wonder what this means.

I really don't understand this part.

I really like/dislike this idea because ...

This character reminds me of somebody I know because ...

This character reminds me of me because ...

If I were one of the characters I ...

I think this setting is important because ...

I like/dislike this writing because ...

This part is very realistic/unrealistic because ...

I think the relationship between _____ and _____ is interesting because ...

I like/dislike (name of character) because ...

This situation reminds me of a similar situation in my own life. It happened when ...

The character I most admire is _____ because ...

I really liked/disliked _____ because ...

I wish _____ had happened because ...

I wish the author had included _____

I felt _____ as I read because ...

This part of the story surprised me.

I learnt ...

The most interesting thing I read was ...

This story makes me think about ...

The part where _____ made images of _____ happen in my head.

I could improve this book by ...

The funniest/saddest/exciting/unusual incident was _____ because ...

If I were the author I would have ...

I would read other books by this author because ...





IT'S A NOVEL IDEA

Which sentence or sentences brought the book alive for you? Why?

Does this story involve any real-life issues that made you think? Discuss them.

Sample sentence starters

I began to think ...

I love the way ...

I can't believe ...

I wonder why ...

I noticed ...

I think ...

I observed ...

I wonder ...

If I were ...

I'm not sure ...

I felt sad when ...

I like the way the author ...

I wish that ...



This made me think of ...

I was surprised ...

It seems like ...

I'm not sure ...

This story teaches ...

I began to think of ...





★ Chapters 1, 2 and 3

Find words used to describe:

- Abel's mother
- the groper.

Write a paragraph describing how the author hints of things to come, and why you think he does this. Make sure you include an example.



Hint: Remember to use the sandwich template when writing a paragraph.

Topic sentence
(introduce the paragraph)

Filling
(share your facts/information in supporting sentences)

Concluding sentence
(close your paragraph)



IT'S A NOVEL IDEA

When reading you often form images in your head about what you are reading.

Choose one of the following situations from the story and illustrate how you imagine it would look:

- Abel meeting Blueback for the first time
- Abel and his mother collecting abalone
- what Longboat Bay looks like.





IT'S A NOVEL IDEA

Words I didn't understand	Questions	Ideas and thoughts





★ Chapters 4 and 5

Do you think Abel did the right thing by telling people about Blueback? Give your reasons for thinking this.

Mad Macka values his time alone (solitude). Why do you think this is so?

Abel feels homesick when he is sent away to school. Have you ever felt homesick? What did you do to make yourself feel better?



IT'S A NOVEL IDEA

Complete a T-chart comparing Abel with yourself.

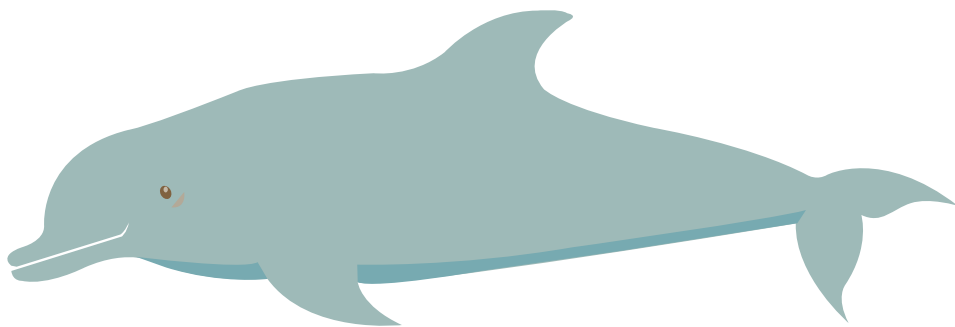
Similarities	Differences





IT'S A NOVEL IDEA

Words I didn't understand	Questions	Ideas and thoughts





★ Chapters 6 and 7

Describe why you think Costello was so deeply disliked, especially by Dora and Abel.

Think about what you would have done if you had been in Abel's position – watching Costello haul up net after net of fish. Write a brief paragraph on what you would have done and why.



IT'S A NOVEL IDEA

Abel and his mother live a life connected to the sea. Abel loves to dive whenever he can. Complete a Y-chart on being in the sea or at the beach.

Looks like	
Feels like	Sounds like



IT'S A NOVEL IDEA

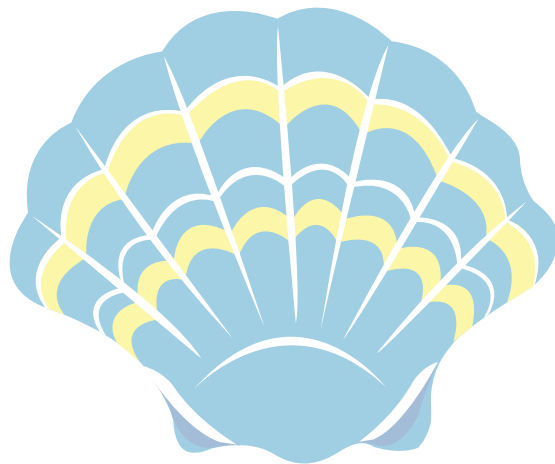


Response



IT'S A NOVEL IDEA

Words I didn't understand	Questions	Ideas and thoughts





★ Chapters 8 and 9

Write a diary entry from Abel's point of view after he saw the shark dying and was unable to do anything about it.



Tip: A diary is where a person records their thoughts and feelings about what happens in their life. It can be like a best friend, so entries may begin with, 'Dear Diary' or 'Hi Diary'.

For this task you need to write as though you are the character, so the entry will be written in the first person, eg 'I ...'

To add details, think about a situation and about what it may feel like, look like and sound like to the character.



IT'S A NOVEL IDEA

A large, empty rectangular box with a thin black border, intended for students to write their novel ideas. The box is tilted slightly to the right.

IT'S A NOVEL IDEA



Explain why Abel describes the sea, the bush and the house as being like food to Dora.

Imagine that developers had built a resort at Longboat Bay. What are some of the things that tourists could do? List at least six.





IT'S A NOVEL IDEA

Imagine Dora has chosen to sell Longboat Bay. You need to design a 'for sale' sign showing features of the property that may be attractive to buyers.

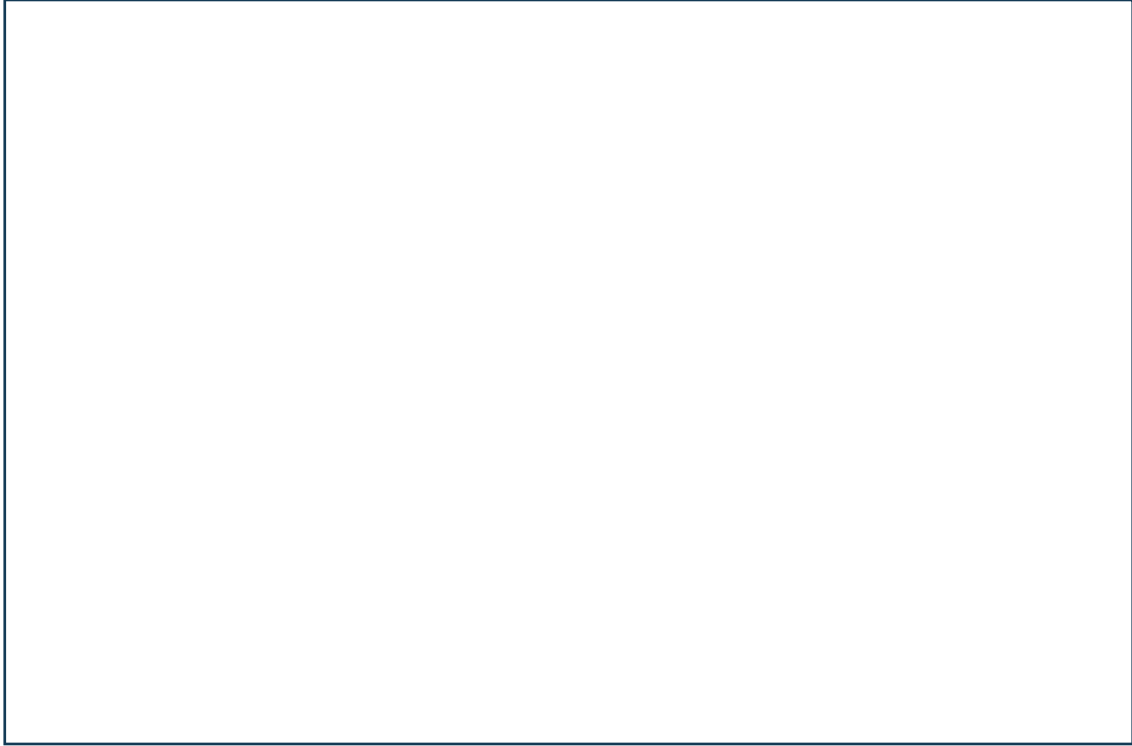
A sign needs to attract a buyer, so when designing it you need to consider the following.

- Is it easy to read?
- Is it attractive?
- What colours will I use?
- What would be the best layout?
- Will I include a picture?

You need to entice the buyer so the sign should have features that would make someone want to live there.



IT'S A NOVEL IDEA





IT'S A NOVEL IDEA

Choose at least two response options (from page 7) and complete them with reference to chapters 8 and 9. (Remember to use descriptive sentences.)

Response



IT'S A NOVEL IDEA



Response

Lined writing area for the student response, containing 22 horizontal lines.



IT'S A NOVEL IDEA

Response

IT'S A NOVEL IDEA



Words I didn't understand	Questions	Ideas and thoughts





IT'S A NOVEL IDEA

★ Chapters 10 and 11

What did Abel wish Blueback could tell him?

Explain why Dora finds it funny that Abel is going to the university to study the sea.

Write a paragraph discussing your thoughts about people having strong relationships with animals, and explain why you think this is possible or not.

Predict what is going to happen next in the novel. Give reasons for your prediction.





IT'S A NOVEL IDEA

Words I didn't understand	Questions	Ideas and thoughts





★ Chapters 12 and 13

What does Abel's job entail?

Write a paragraph on why Abel's mother says in her letter that she is worried. What is she worried about? What could it lead to?

When reading you often form images in your head about what is being described. Create an illustration of the burning oil tanker and the surrounding oil slick. You can choose to do this either on the computer or on paper.



IT'S A NOVEL IDEA

Explain what Dora decides to do for the bay and how she carries out her decision.

What is the outcome?



IT'S A NOVEL IDEA



Response



IT'S A NOVEL IDEA

Words I didn't understand	Questions	Ideas and thoughts

