

Foreword

This booklet has been created as a supplement for any scheme of work on the novel *Stone Cold*. These worksheets ensure that every chapter of the novel has its own unique task for pupils to complete, therefore making this booklet an invaluable tool for anyone teaching the novel.

The booklet features a vast array of tasks which vary from comprehension questions to media activities, and creative writing projects to challenging quizzes.

To maintain a level of differentiation there is often a more challenging task at the end of each chapter's activities, which provides an extension activity for the more able pupils of the class.

A brief commentary on some of the more difficult tasks has been included for teachers who are not so familiar with the novel.

Booklet Guidance

Teachers can find guidance here on some of the more challenging questions and activities in the booklet. The title and chapter number of each task has been included to assist the teacher:

A Family Portrait

Page 3

Carole's reason for leaving home is only broadly hinted at by Swindells, and the difficult subject of child sex abuse will obviously need to be handled carefully.

Worst Christmas

Page 11

Link's decision to go to London is a culmination of the cruel treatment he has received from his stepfather Vince, and his frustration of his mother's weakness in supporting her son. London would provide him with a fresh start, where nobody would know his name, and he would improve his prospects in finding a job.

Daily Routine 4

page 13

Sappho was the name of an Ancient Greek female poet, and therefore a very refined name to give a pet. Once again Shelter is keen to project the image of himself as a kind and cultured person.

Daily Routine Orders 5

Page 17

Swindells prepares the reader for a violent crime by placing the preceding events in a setting of cold and grim weather. Pupils should understand that the writer is hinting to the reader of the doom that is to come.

Whilst ensuring that the novel remains a text suitable for pupils, Swindells subtly omits a graphic description of the murder, allowing the reader to imagine themselves how the killing would have appeared. Nevertheless, it is Shelter's casual narration of such a callous and cold-blooded murder that makes the deed so much more sinister.

Daily Routine Orders 7

Page 27

Pupils need to be made aware of the concept of serial killing at this stage of the novel.

Daily Routine Orders 9

Page 46

Shelter calls his murdered victims "recruits"; in his insane mind he believes he is enlisting volunteers from the streets to "make soldiers of them".

The third victim is not so easily duped by the killer; he is more suspicious and therefore presents a greater challenge for Shelter.

Swindells' use of dramatic irony is amusing here: the homeless person voices negative comments about the army, whilst not realising that Shelter is a staunch supporter of the military. The reader can almost feel the murderer's blood boil.

Captain Hook

Page 50

A discussion here about the harsh and unbearable conditions experienced by slaves compacted onto ships in their hundreds is useful in getting the pupils to envisage conditions on the ship, and to understand the writer's allusion to this historical horror.

Link in Love

Page 71

Falling in love causes Link to: *forget about his missing friend Ginger, gain a strong desire to get a job, find it much easier to bear the winter weather, and to recover from his traumatic experiences.*

Daily Routine Orders 13

Page 76

Shelter calls his recruits the "Camden Horizontals" due to their close location to Camden Town in London and the fact that his murdered victims are lying horizontally under his floor boards.

9 Mornington Place

Page 87

Pupils who have finished reading the novel could surmise that because Gail was really a journalist, she could have bribed Captain Hook for the address of Shelter's flat.

Who am I?

1. Ginger
2. Link's landlord – "rat-face"
3. Link's stepfather Vince
4. Ginger's female friend Toya.

Happy Ending?

Page 98

Homeless People – it is important here for students to discuss Swindells' portrayal of life as a homeless person. How do the pupils now perceive homeless people? Have they changed in any of their attitudes? A discussion of what *Stone Cold* has achieved in encouraging public sympathy and awareness of the homeless would be an effective means of reviewing the novel.