

2 Stories

Vocabulary

A

Talking about stories

I can talk about books and stories.

- 1 Complete the email with the words below. There are two extra words.

believable dialogue evocative happy humour identify intriguing love mystery pace

To: casey@gmail.com

Hi Casey,

Thanks for the book. I like novels with a fast _____ and an _____ plot, and that novel had both. And even though I don't usually like a _____ ending, it wasn't sentimental at all. There was a lot of _____ in it too – I laughed out loud several times!

Anyway, it's my turn and I'm sending you *Parallel*, by Lauren Miller. It's about a girl who wakes up one day in a different life and then has to solve the _____ of how she got there. The character of the girl (Rory) is very _____, and you can easily _____ with her. Her _____ interest is a handsome but slightly annoying boy called North. I really hope you enjoy it – I'm putting it in the post today.

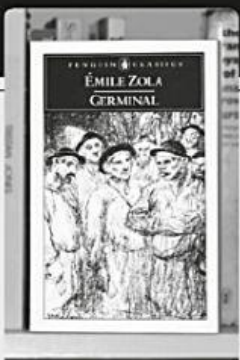
Happy reading!

Katerina

- 2 Choose the correct words to complete the book review.

GERMINAL

Émile Zola's masterpiece *Germinal* is set/written in the poor French mining village of Montsou in the mid-1800s. The novel hinges/opens as a young man, Étienne Lantier, arrives one cold March day. He stays, and soon feels outrage at the poor villagers' desperate lives. As the story unfolds/is written, Étienne leads a miners' strike, which is brutally repressed. Central/Drawn to the plot is the theme of how the poor are exploited by the powerful, but the novel has many interesting points of view/twists and turns, and the characters are beautifully set/drawn. Although the action/narrative is written in the third person, Zola's portrayal/point of view of Étienne is vivid and memorable.



- 3 Match the adjectives below with the words and phrases. There are two extra words.

chilling compelling evocative humorous predictable slow-moving thought-provoking unconvincing

- 'Nasty and frightening.' _____
- 'Unbelievable.' _____
- 'Unsurprising.' _____
- 'Amusing.' _____
- 'Addictive reading.' _____
- 'It really makes you think.' _____

- 4 Complete the idioms and set phrases.

- The illustration on the front is awful, but don't judge a book _____.
- It's a real page-_____ I couldn't put it down.
- The book is at first heavy _____, but it speeds up later.
- Jack's a real _____ – he spends all his money in bookshops.
- It isn't good _____ because it's scary and it'll keep you awake.
- He doesn't say he hates the government, but you understand that if you read _____.

- 5  1.06 Listen to four people talking about books. Which literary form does each speaker talk about?

- _____
- _____
- _____
- _____

- 6  1.06 Listen again. Match the descriptions A–E with the speakers 1–4. There is one extra sentence.

This speaker ...

- says that the book has both humorous and macabre moments. _____
- thinks the work is unconvincing in places but has good descriptions. _____
- says that the story has a lot of suspense and likes the way the plot contains some red herrings. _____
- says that the work is light-hearted but not shallow. _____
- finds the story very touching and compares it to another type of literature. _____