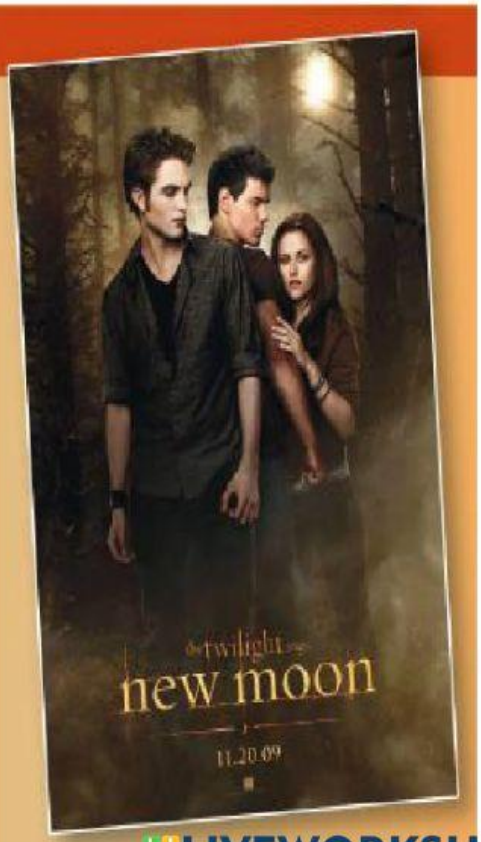
b Read the reviews again. Are the sentences true (T) or false (F)?

1 The reviewer thinks that the puppets in *War Horse* are better than the actors. ☐
2 The reviewer preferred the film of *War Horse* to the play. ☐
3 The reviewer thinks the play is realistic. ☐
4 The audience were very enthusiastic about *War Horse*. ☐
5 *The Shadow of the Wind* has sold a lot of copies. ☐
6 The reviewer thinks the story in *The Shadow of the Wind* moves slowly. ☐
7 The book Daniel chooses is very rare. ☐
8 The reviewer liked everything about the book. ☐
9 *New Moon* is the second in a series of films. ☐
10 The reviewer thinks that the acting in the film is very good. ☐
11 The reviewer doesn't say anything positive about the film. ☐
12 There are some similarities between the film and a Shakespeare play. ☐

Film

The Twilight Saga: New Moon

The Twilight Saga, based on the books by Stephenie Meyer, tells the story of a young girl whose boyfriend is a vampire. Robert Pattinson **plays the role of** the vampire, Edward Cullen, and Kristen Stewart **stars as** the heroine, Bella. In this **sequel** to the first film, *Twilight*, Bella is abandoned by Edward and starts a relationship with Jacob, a werewolf. Robert Pattinson is a well-established **heart throb**, and the film seems to be aimed very much at teenage girls, with plenty of romantic scenes. **Fans** of the books will love it, of course, but in my opinion the **performances** are rather dull, and the film failed to make me care about any of the **leading characters**. Some people have compared elements of the story to Shakespeare's play *Romeo and Juliet*, suggesting that the vampires and werewolves in the film are like the rival families the Montagues and the Capulets in the play. However, I don't think Shakespeare would approve of the **plot** – it's completely absurd. In fact the only thing I would recommend about the film is the **soundtrack**, which includes songs from The Killers and Editors, and makes a great **album**.

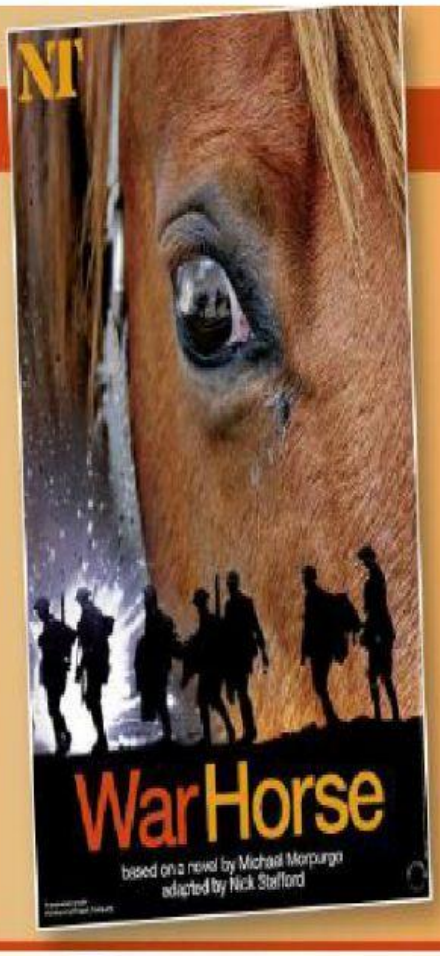


LIVEWORKSHEETS

Theatre

War Horse

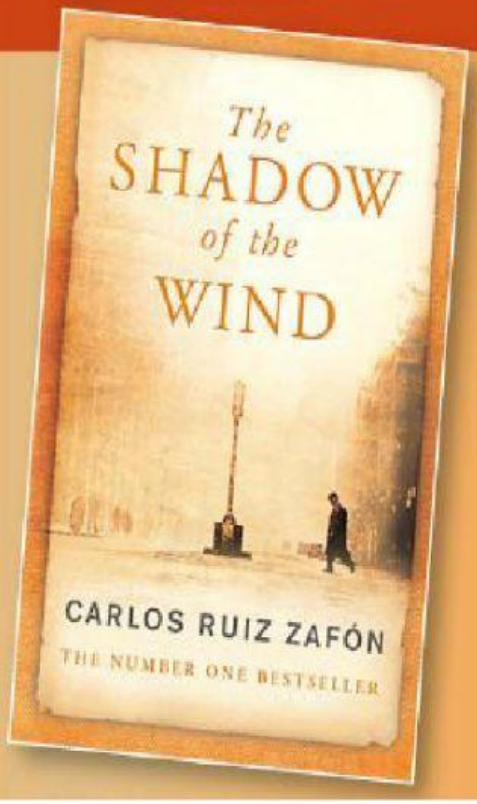
War Horse, **adapted from** the book by Michael Morpurgo, **tells the story of** a horse in the First World War. Before seeing the play I couldn't imagine how this story could work **on stage** – but it does. Joey and the other horses in the play are astonishingly life-like **puppets** and they **steal the show**. Very quickly, you come to completely believe in them and the unfolding story. In fact they are so good that the human characters seem less **well-rounded** in comparison. The **sound effects** are also incredible and with the **dramatic lighting** create the terrifying sensation of being right in the middle of battle. Although *War Horse* is not a musical, the **musical score** is a highlight, with simple but beautiful **melodies** and **lyrics**. The play is altogether **an amazing spectacle** and I was unsurprised when the **applause** from the **audience** lasted for more than five minutes at the end. Now I can't wait to see Spielberg's film version!



Books

The Shadow of the Wind

A worldwide **best-seller** from the Spanish **author**, Carlos Ruiz Zafón, *The Shadow of the Wind* is an unusual and moving book which will undoubtedly become **a modern classic**. **The book is set in** Barcelona where there is an old bookshop, called the Cemetery of Forgotten Books, right in the centre of the old city. As its name suggests, the bookshop sells only forgotten and **out of print** books. **The main character**, Daniel, visits the bookshop as a child and is allowed to choose a book to keep and look after. The book he chooses is called *The Shadow of the Wind*. As he grows up several people seem very interested in this book, which is the only copy left in the world. Gradually, he discovers that he is in great danger from a mysterious man who has the same name as one of the characters in the book. *The Shadow of the Wind* is **full of atmosphere** and is part thriller, part love story. Both the **descriptions** and **dialogue** are **beautifully written** and **the plot** is **a real page-turner**. The **first chapter** in particular **took my breath away**. If I have one complaint, it is that the ending feels rather sudden, but perhaps that's just because I **couldn't put it down**.



LIVEWORKSHEETS