

# Talking about 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@email.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.

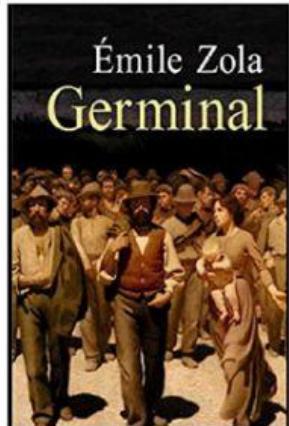
Happy reading!

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

1. "Nasty and frightening." \_\_\_\_\_
2. "Unbelievable". \_\_\_\_\_
3. "Unsurprising" \_\_\_\_\_
4. "Amusing" \_\_\_\_\_
5. "Addictive reading" \_\_\_\_\_
6. "It really makes you think" \_\_\_\_\_