Books

1 Basic vocabulary

Translate the following words into your language:

1. paperback . . . . . 5. characters . . . . . .
2. novel . . . . . 6. chapter . . . . . .
3. fiction . . . . . 7. poem . . . . . .
4. non-fiction . . . . . 8. poetry . . . . . .

2 Kinds of books

1. Put the following into the correct column below:

encyclopedia	atlas	classic
ghost story	textbook	detective story
novel	dictionary	autobiography
biography	thriller	science fiction

fiction	non-fiction
. . . . .	. . . . .
. . . . .	. . . . .
. . . . .	. . . . .
. . . . .	. . . . .
. . . . .	. . . . .
. . . . .	. . . . .

2. In which of the non-fiction books would you:

a. look up the meaning of a word?
b. look up the height of Niagara Falls?
c. find a detailed map of China?

3. Which of the following books would you buy in the situations below?

a cookery book
a travel guide
a children's book
an autobiography

1. You don't like fiction. You prefer to read about the life stories of real people, written by the people themselves.
2. You are 20 years old and are leaving home to share a flat with some friends. You've never cooked for yourself before.
3. You don't know what to buy your seven-year-old nephew for his birthday.
4. You are going trekking in Nepal. You've never been there before.

Most biographies and reference books are hardbacks but most novels are paperbacks.

3 Writers

Match the writers with what they write:

1. Authors	a. write poetry.
2. Novelists	b. write about famous people.
3. Poets	c. write any kind of book.
4. Playwrights	d. write articles in newspapers.
5. Journalists	e. write fiction.
6. Biographers	f. write plays.

4 Novels

Mark each sentence P – if it expresses a positive idea – or N for a negative idea. The phrases in green will help you decide.

1. I've just finished a Stephen King novel. I couldn't put it down.
2. I just couldn't relate to any of the characters.
3. It's no masterpiece but it's very readable.
4. The main characters don't really develop and some of the minor characters are very one-dimensional.
5. The first few chapters were such heavy going that I gave up.
6. It's such a moving story. I couldn't stop thinking about it.
7. It's a very simple story but there's no real plot. Nobody seems to have a reason for doing what they do.

Novels are fictional stories invented by the writer although some are based on true stories.

A classic is a famous book which everyone agrees will last, for example, 'Pride and Prejudice' or 'The Three Musketeers'.

What kind of novels do you like?

5 Poetry

Use these words to complete the following:

poems poetry poet verses recite

When we did . . . . . at school, we had to learn whole . . . . . by heart and then . . . . . them for the whole class. Philip Larkin was my favourite . . . . . . I remember the longest poem I had to learn had over 20 . . . . . !