Complete the sentences with one word. The first letter is given.

1. The book t_____ the story of a family in Baltimore.
2. The book begins with a terrible e_____ that changes the lives of everyone involved.
3. The novel manages to r_____ difficult questions about how far we are responsible for our actions.
4. The story f_____ the lives of the couple as they go through a divorce.
5. It's actually quite funny, although it also looks at some quite serious i_____.
6. I quite enjoyed most of the book, but I didn't really like the e_____.
7. The book e_____ the changing nature of family life.
8. She really brings the characters to l_____. You really believe in them.
9. However, he then d_____ she has a secret past and has to reconsider their relationship.
10. I lost i_____ halfway through the book.

Miracle on 5th Avenue by Sarah Morgan: Winner of the RITA Award

Sarah Morgan's third book in the *From Manhattan with Love* series opens with Eva Jordan on her way to look after an empty apartment for a few days and get it ready for the owner's return. It's Christmas and it's snowing. Eva is working too hard and she's single – still. But then she discovers that she isn't empty after all. The best-selling crime writer Lucas Blade is finding it hard to write as he struggles to recover from his wife's death. The last thing he wants is to celebrate Christmas or spend time with anyone ... until Eva arrives! Will his heart melt as the snow falls outside? Of course, we know the answer, and although there's some decent humour along the way, this is really only a book for fans of the genre. Personally, I lost interest towards the end.

A Head Full of Ghosts by Paul G Tremblay: Winner of the Bram Stoker Award

A Head Full of Ghosts tells the terrifying story of 14-year-old Marjorie's developing madness. Doctors fail to make her better, and her family have huge medical bills. Marjorie's worried parents agree to take part in a reality TV programme called *The Possession*, hoping for an alternative solution. The result is an awful event. Years later, Marjorie's younger sister, Merry, is interviewed and as she retells what she remembers, she reveals new deeper fears that raise questions about memory, religion and science, as well as the nature of evil. It's a clever, scary book. You won't want to turn the lights off after reading it!

Honeybees and Distant Thunder by Riku Onda: Winner of the Naoki Prize

Riku Onda is a multi-award-winning writer, who has previously written fantasy and crime fiction. This brilliant novel won one of Japan's most important prizes for literature and shows all of Onda's skills. The story follows four main characters in an international piano competition. It is told through the different points of view of the people involved – judges and news reporters as well as the pianists themselves. The novel is a bit like a sports movie in terms of type of characters and plot. There's a young unknown taught by an expert, and an older competitor having one last try. There's also a wealthy 'prince' and a beautiful young pianist who is returning to competition after a terrible experience. Onda brings excitement to each player's progress through the competition. However, more than anything, her book explores in wonderful detail the nature of music and human beings, and she manages to bring the music to life through her words.

The Mark of the Meridian (La Marca del Meridiano) by Lorenzo Silva: Winner of the Premio Planeta

Lorenzo Silva was the surprising winner of one of the world's greatest book prizes when he won with the seventh book in his Bevilacqua and Chamorro series. The story follows two police officers trying to find out about a death in Logroño. The dead man was a friend and colleague and as they try to find the murderer, they have to examine events from the past that they were trying to forget. The book touches on some serious issues, but not in a deep way. It was quite tense at times, but this reader found the ending rather dull and undramatic.

LIVEWORKSHEETS