

VOCABULARY

1 Choose three phrases for each description.

bedtime reading a real page-turner tedious
have me in stitches I couldn't put it down
she got me hooked best-selling author
confusing heavy-going

1 I haven't been out all weekend because I downloaded *Yellow Crocus* by Laila Ibrahim. I wasn't able to do anything else until I'd finished it. She's written other novels but I absolutely loved this book – I'll definitely read anything else she publishes.

2 I know they are for children but I still find Roald Dahl's books really clever and they always make me laugh uncontrollably. More than 250 million copies of his books have been sold. I still have all my old copies and I sometimes pick one up and read for a bit before I sleep. They help me relax.

3 We had to read it for school but I didn't enjoy it at all. There was too much detailed description of every little thing. Our teacher explained how much skill the writer had used and how much care had gone into every detail of the structure, but I couldn't really get what the author was trying to say half the time.

2 Complete the gaps in the conversation between Charlie and Nina. Use the words in the box.

awful deals with dull
gripping set in vital

Nina: Have you been watching that new drama series? The one (1) _____ Sweden.

Charlie: You mean the one where that family gets lost in the mountains? I watched one episode but I thought it was (2) _____, to be honest. It was so unbelievable and no one in it could act.

Nina: You're kidding! It (3) _____ some really important issues.

Charlie: Important issues? Such as what?

Nina: Well, if you had seen the second episode, you would have learnt a lot about how climate change has affected the environment in northern Europe.

Charlie: How very (4) _____! When you said important issues, I thought you meant social issues, not something boring like that.

Nina: How can you say that? Looking after the environment is (5) _____. Despite what you say, I think it's great. It's really (6) _____. I haven't missed a single episode.

PUSH YOURSELF C1

Choose a word or phrase from the box with a similar meaning to the underlined word or phrase in each sentence.

absorbing a must-read contemporary dense
minor role outstanding remake twists

- 1 I found the book *Never Let Me Go* really gripping. I just couldn't put it down.
- 2 Leonardo Di Caprio is an exceptional actor. He plays every role brilliantly.
- 3 I found the story quite difficult to follow. There were too many complications for my liking.
- 4 Dickens tells some marvellous stories but some of his books are very heavy-going.
- 5 In my view, that book is compulsory reading for everyone.
- 6 I had a small part in my school play.
- 7 I prefer modern literature to the classics.
- 8 Did you know there is another new version of *The Birds*?