7 Teen fiction

VOCABULARY Fiction: adjectives and nouns

1 Write the words in the box below into the correct column.

character	complex	contemporary	factor	
flavour	issue	key	major	minor
moving	outstanding	plot	role	tale
treatment	unpredictable			

Nouns	Adjectives

2 Complete the sentences with nouns from exercise 1.

1 Money was a key ..... in his decision to write his life story.
2 I knew he was a major ..... in the play because his name was the same size as the title on the poster.
3 The book has a very contemporary ....., with lots of textspeak and internet language.
4 I only have a minor ..... in this play – I'm a pizza delivery boy!
5 The story has such an unpredictable ..... that you get a surprise at the end of nearly every chapter.
6 The teacher read us a very moving ..... about a child who was brought up by wolves.
7 The outstanding ..... of very complex ..... is what makes this book so special.

3 Choose an adjective + noun phrase from exercise 1 to complete each of the short texts below.

0 Have you read the latest thriller by R L Stine? It's amazing – you don't know what's going to happen from one page to the next. It's got such an ...unpredictable plot.....
1 It's a very sensitive topic but I think the writer handles it brilliantly. In fact, I think she should win a prize for this ..... .
2 It's unusual for an author so young to attempt to write about such difficult and ..... and do it so successfully.
3 The fact that the writer brings in political issues that are happening at the moment gives the book a really ..... .
4 Everyone says that the book is really popular because it's a fast-moving thriller, but I don't agree. I think it's the really realistic dialogue that is the ..... .
5 Every now and again I just have to read a book that makes me cry. Sometimes the most important thing for me is that the book has to have a ..... .

READING

1 How many ways can you think of to read fiction? Look at the photos on page 29 and make a list.

.....
.....
.....

2 Read the article quickly. Is it positive or negative about technology? Does it mention your ways of reading from exercise 1?

.....

3 Five sentences have been removed from the article. Choose from the sentences A–F the one which fits each gap (1–5). There is one extra sentence which you do not need to use.

A Cartoon characters like Tintin and Asterix are as popular today as they were when they were first written in the mid-20th century.
B Although teenagers may not be reading books, that does not mean they are not reading.
C You might think that the smaller reading surface of a smartphone or tablet would make it difficult to read long books, but this is not the case.
D As a result the ability to concentrate is being affected and young people have a shorter attention span than their parents and grandparents.
E This variety of digital devices tends to encourage reading rather than discourage it, as the activity can take place anywhere, anytime.
F They are 'digital natives' – that is, they were born at a time when the internet was already part of everyday life and take it for granted.

LIVEWORKSHEETS

Do you like reading?

Do you read for pleasure, or only if you have to, for school? Not so long ago, children and teenagers used to read a lot of comics, novels and books of short stories. Sometimes, if the story was really exciting, they were so keen to find out what happened to their favourite characters that they would read under the bedclothes at night with a torch.

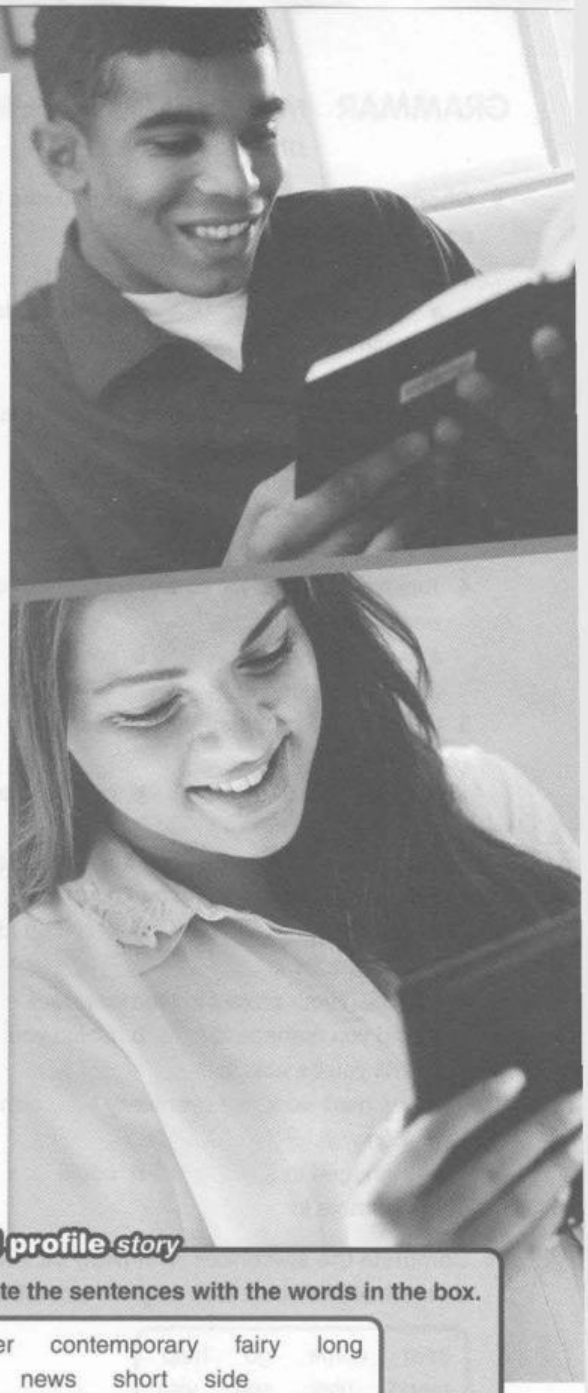
However, that was at a time before television was available 24 hours a day. Today's teens also have access to the internet and instead of reading books, as earlier generations did, spend time on social media, messaging and chatting to their friends. [1] At least that's what many people believe, but recent research suggests something different.

In contrast to what a lot of older people think, teens don't in fact just use new technologies to talk to their friends. [2] A World Book Day survey of teenage reading habits revealed over 40% read books on a computer, almost 20% on a mobile device and around 14% on a tablet, with around 10% reading on an e-reader.

Why should this be? Well, the British telecommunications supervisor Ofcom points out that children as young as six understand digital technology better than adults. [3] Teens today have never known a time without the internet, so it is as natural to them to use internet-enabled devices as it was to their parents to use books.

So, what are teenagers reading? [4] Today's teens still like to read the classics as well as modern fiction and have no difficulty in reading them on a digital device. Adventure, crime and spy stories are all popular, with some authors like John Grisham and Ian Rankin as popular among teens as adults. Among the classics Charles Dickens remains a favourite, along with Jules Verne and Alexandre Dumas.

The classics do not only include novels. [5] It isn't only older comic-style books that are proving popular with teens these days either, but the modern-day comic, the graphic novel, is gaining in popularity everywhere. So it seems there is no danger of young people losing the habit of reading any time soon!



4 **Underline the parts of the text which gave you the answers. This has been done for the first gap.**

5 **Write questions about the article, for these answers.**

0 Why did children use to read under the bedclothes with a torch?
Because they were keen to continue their book.

1 .....
That smartphones, tablets and other digital devices affect concentration.

2 .....
Because they've never known a time without the internet.

3 .....
John Grisham and Ian Rankin for example.

4 .....
The graphic novel.

EP Word profile *story*

Complete the sentences with the words in the box.

another contemporary fairy long main news short side

1 I've always enjoyed reading ..... stories – they're so magical.
2 To cut a ..... story short, I eventually got home about 3.00 in the morning!
3 The big earthquake in China was the first ..... story on TV last night.
4 Many successful novelists start their careers by writing ..... stories in fiction magazines.
5 I told the police my ..... of the story, and they let me go.
6 Her first novel was terrible, but her next one was ..... story – it was brilliant!
7 It's a very ..... story. It takes place at the Olympics in Tokyo.
8 The ..... story from Wimbledon today is the exit of the world number 1.

LIVEWORKSHEETS