

EMC Teaching a Novel:

WHERE WORLD^{THE} ENDS



EMC

Publications

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KEEPING A JOURNAL



The aim is to get through the reading of *Where the World Ends* fairly quickly. However, it's important that you get to explore your thoughts about the story as it unfolds. A fantastic way to do this is by keeping a writing journal as you go along. After reading clusters of chapters, your teacher will give you ideas about how to discuss your reading in groups. You can then draw on your discussions, along with your own ideas, to write down your thoughts about the book.

Here are some of the distinctive features of a typical reading journal. You can, of course, come up with different ideas about how you want to record your thoughts. You might, on occasion, for example, want to sketch something inspired by events in the book.

Typical features of a reading journal

- ▶ Written in a personal voice and style
- ▶ Focuses on what you find interesting
- ▶ Adds in ideas about what other people thought about the book
- ▶ Weaves in your thoughts about how the book relates to you personally – so how it relates to your own life and experiences, to your own reading or viewing, and so on
- ▶ Gives details of how your thinking about the book changes as you are reading, for example, new thoughts about a character, surprises about the plot, and so on
- ▶ Details how other readers have a different opinion of the novel compared to you
- ▶ Unconcerned with whether what you are saying is right or wrong – a journal is an exploration of your thinking about a book at a given point in time.

You do not have to write a journal entry after every break in the reading suggested in the pages that follow. Your teacher will let you know when to add to your journal.

BEFORE READING



Journal entry: Before reading



Discussion – generating ideas, clarifying thoughts

- In small groups, take a look at a copy of the book and discuss your thoughts about:
 - ▶ The front cover
 - ▶ The title
 - ▶ The blurb
 - ▶ What you think the book will be about
 - ▶ What genre you think the book will belong to
 - ▶ The contents page
 - ▶ The map that comes before the start of the novel.



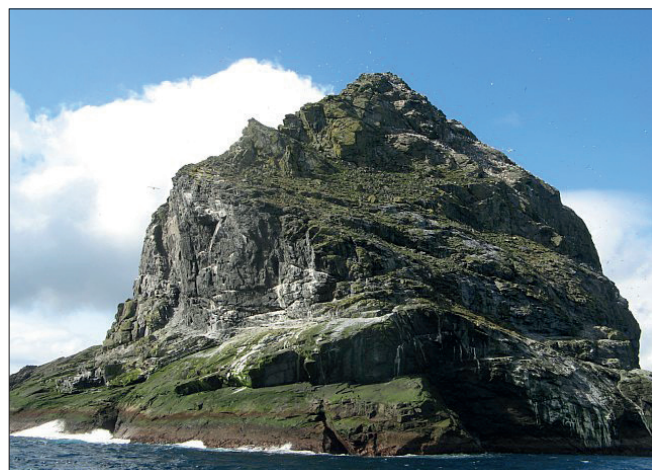
Starting your journal

- To get your journal started, draw on the discussions you have just had, focusing on what you found most interesting and significant.
- Share examples of your journal entries either round the class or in your groups.

Preparing for adventure

As you can tell from the front cover of the book and the blurb, the action is going to take place on a remote rock, known as a Warrior Stac or Stac an Armin. You can also see a picture of what it looks like here:

- Imagine that you are taking a trip to Warrior Stac (Stac an Armin) with a small group of other young people and adults. The plan is to be there for a couple of weeks to collect birds and eggs from the rocks. These will later be eaten or sold. The weather will be chilly, windy and wet but you should be back home before the harsh winter weather sets in. There is



wildlife that you can kill and eat – mainly birds and some fish – and you will be able to find fresh water. There are some caves for shelter, but little vegetation.



- Below is a list of items that you could take with you. There is limited room on the boat over, so you cannot take everything. Working in a small group, agree on which 10 things you will take and be ready to share and explain your choices to the class.

- ▶ Cooking equipment
- ▶ Blankets
- ▶ Sacks
- ▶ Money
- ▶ A board game or pack of cards
- ▶ A change of clothes
- ▶ Toothbrushes
- ▶ Soap
- ▶ A tinderbox for making fire
- ▶ A towel
- ▶ A water bottle
- ▶ A tent
- ▶ Books
- ▶ A bible or other holy book
- ▶ An old saddle
- ▶ Strong climbing ropes
- ▶ Enough food for a week
- ▶ Fishing line and hook
- ▶ Something to catch and kill birds with
- ▶ A warm coat
- ▶ Special 'climbing socks' which enable you to climb rocks without slipping
- ▶ Baskets designed for collecting eggs.



The novel's structure

- Working with a partner, look at some of the ingredients from the novel listed below. Discuss where they occur in *Where the World Ends*, including any that occur more than once.
- Cut the ingredients out and sort them into an order that makes sense for you. (You can group some together, rather than just putting them in a straight line.)
- Compare the order you chose with another pair. Make any changes based on your comparison.
- Write a few sentences about what for you was the most significant moment in the novel.
- Compare examples of what you have written around the class.

A complication	A rescue	Introducing setting
A death	A further complication	A problem that gets the story going
Departure	Digressions (<i>sections that move away from the main story</i>)	An epilogue (<i>what happened to the characters after the end of the story</i>)
Losing hope	Banishment	A surprise revelation
Arrival	Introducing characters	