**Umbrella Activities:**

**Visual option:**

* You need a piece of paper – blank or refill.
* Make a heading: Umbrella Essential Questions
* Draw an umbrella, taking up about half of the page.



* In this umbrella, write down some essential questions which relate to the issue you are focusing on. (You may colour the umbrella in, but make sure the colour is light enough so that you can read your writing)
* Try to infer what the author’s answer to these questions would be. (Which may not match what you think) Think about the actions of the heroes and villains, how they become better people, what lessons they learn regarding this question or even what their attitude towards the question would be, and how the story ends for them. This will give you an idea as to what the author thinks. (See chart on the next page to help with this. Completing this is an optional, but recommended activity.)
* Use these inferences to create a series of theme statements and write these underneath the umbrella. (Aim for three)
* Illustrate the picture by adding rain, sunshine, whatever.

**Reading/Writing option:**

* Divide/rule up a page in two.
* Make a heading at the top: Umbrella Essential Questions
* Down the left hand side, write some essential questions to do with the issue.
* Try to infer what the author’s answer to these questions would be. (Which may not match what you think) Think about the actions of the heroes and villians, how they become better people, what lessons they learn regarding this question or even what their attitude towards the question would be, and how the story ends for them. This will give you an idea as to what the author thinks. (See chart on the next page to help with this. Completing this is an optional, but recommended activity.)
* Use these inferences to create a series of theme statements and write these down the right side of the page. (Aim for three)

**Aural and kinaesthetic option.**

* Film yourself or record your voice into recording software listing essential questions and then inferring what the author’s answer would be. Give reasons for your answer. (See chart on the next page to help with this. Completing this is an optional, but recommended activity.)
* Use these inferences to create a series of theme statements and write these down the right side of the page. (Aim for three)

**Analysing the essential questions – Put your top three essential questions in the far left column. Brainstorm and list ways in which each aspect below develops or relates to the question. There is one example shown, which you may delete. Feel free to change the margins of the table.**

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| Essential question | How characters relate to this – personality, heroes, villains, opinions, dialogue | How character development relates to this – lessons characters learn, ways they become better or worse people, redemption, whether the heroes succeed or fail. | How conflicts and relationships relate to this – what causes conflict, how they are resolved, what makes relationships strong etc | How structure relates to this – contrasts between beginning and end, key events etc | How setting relates to this – societal setting, the world, physical locations, setting as symbolism. | How language specifically relates to this - Style of language, language features, symbolism. |
| *E.g: How does adversity reveal or change character?* | *Adversity can bring out the worst of some people who will do whatever they can to survive in the face of adversity. E.g: Adversity reveals Roland’s ruthlessness and lack of morals. Lev also commits immoral actions – like stealing – in the face of adversity – but does so for admirable reasons, revealing noble qualities.* | *Under adversity, Connor is able to control his anger issues, realising not just that it’s important for him, but others like Risa. The adversity brings out Connor’s best qualities, showing that he’s a good person deep down.*  *The adversity that both Lev and Risa face bring out their best qualities, as they discover strengths they didn’t know they had.* | *Roland’s constant attempts to get rid of Connor by provoking him fail as, faced with adversity, Connor is able to show resilience and think beyond himself.* | *Lev was not facing any adversity at the start and had left a mostly self-entitled, sheltered life. Adversity led him to question the values he was raised with and leads him to a new understanding of what is right and wrong.* | *The opening setting – of Connor on the edge of the bridge – is symbolic of how Connor faces adversity, with the bridge representing all the dangers in his path. He confronts it and throughout the novel when faced with adversity, Connor’s courage becomes clear.* |  |
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