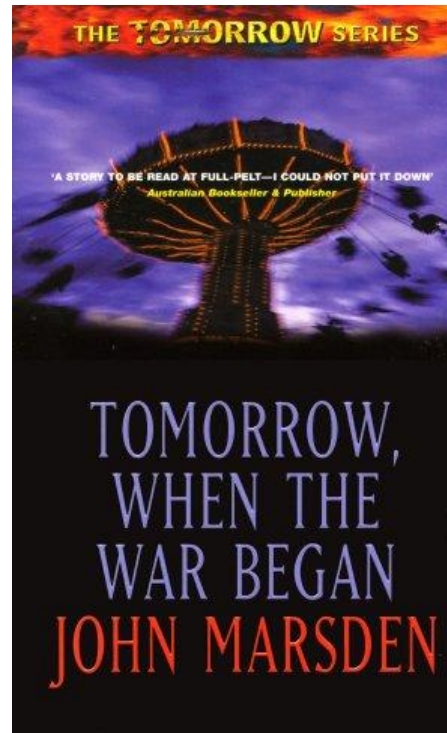


Year 10 English

Extended Text Study



Tomorrow when the War Began

by John Marsden

Elements of a Novel

What happens: Plot

Where/ When the story happens: Setting

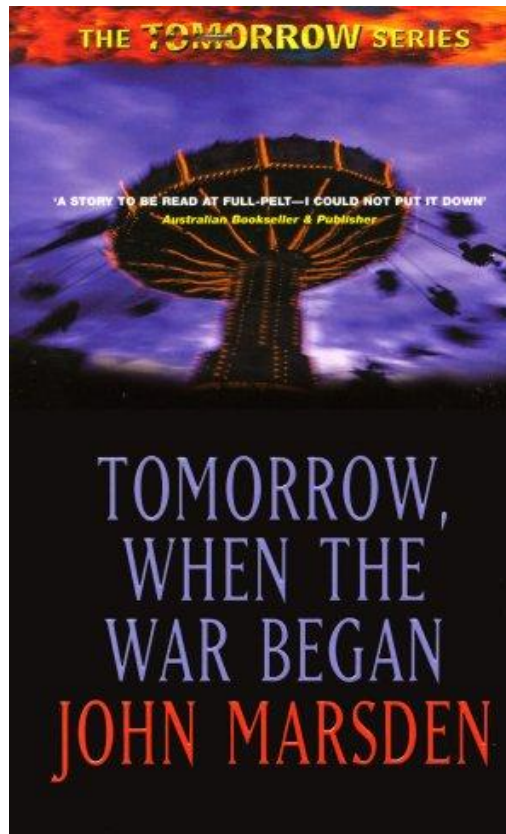
Who the story is about: Characters

Why the story is being told (the message): Theme

How the story is being told: Style

Name:.....

PREDICTION



One advertisement for **TOMORROW WHEN THE WAR BEGAN** states:

“Hell isn’t only a place for the damned, sometimes it’s a place where the saved take refuge ... Seven teenagers take a trip to Hell. And seven come back. To Hell”

TASK 1: DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- **What** do you think this statement means?
The people that have to fight are forced to fight for their country and they don't have a choice.
- **What** could '*Hell*' mean in this context?
War and fighting
- **Why** do you think the story is entitled TOMORROW WHEN THE WAR BEGAN?
Because the story is about a war.
- **What** does that make you think the book will be about?
Teenagers fighting for their country and them wanting to go back to a normal life because war life is too hard and scaring.
- **Who** do you think the story will be about?
A normal teenager that is forced to go to war to fight for the country
- **What** do you think the characters will be like?
Scared and excited to go to war because they wouldn't know what will happen to them
- **What** do you think will happen to them?
They will experience war and live through the most hardest things in life
- **Where** do you think the action will take place?
In a western country
- **How** do you think the novel will be written?
Informal, First person and Diary

TASK 2: STORY PYRAMID

Complete the **three** tasks below based on your reading of the novel:

Ellie
Confident, Caring
Spectacular, Untouched, Warzone
War zone has approached
Wirawree is a new place
Robyn and Lee were found again
They went back to Hell to hide
Corrie got shot, they had to leave.
They lived in Hell to keep in safety

A: On the pyramid above write:

1. The **name** of **one** main character.
2. **Two** words describing the **character**.
3. **Three** words describing the **setting** of the story.
4. **Four** words describing the **complication (problem)**.
5. **Five** words describing **one event** in the story.

6. **Six** words describing a **second event**.
7. **Seven** words describing a **third event**.
8. **Eight** words describing the **denouement** (*plot resolution*).

B: Find **quotes** to support each of your choices. On the lines on the following page, write down the quotes (and page references) that support each of your answers 1-8.

C: Compare your pyramid with a friend's. Check that each of you have quotes that are accurate and appropriate to your answers.

TASK 2(b): QUOTES FOR YOUR STORY PYRAMID (*add page references*)

2. "I shook my head but truth to tell I was feeling more confident and relaxed. I always prefer action: I'm always happier when I'm doing things. I've always found television boring for instance; I prefer work or cooking or even fencing." Page 194

"When Robyn sat up, the first thing I asked her was 'Where's Lee?' 'He's been shot.' She said, and I felt as though I'd been shot and everything in my world had died." Page 199

3. "The cliffs all around it are spectacular, hundreds of metres high in places

Page 14

"For any little Wild things living in the clearing we must of seemed like visitor's from Hell, not visitor's to it." Page 56

'The General repeated his claim that the invasion was aimed at "reducing imbalances within the region". Page 258

4. 'The General repeated his claim that the invasion was aimed at "reducing imbalances within the region". Page 258

5. 'Robyn!' I screamed.

'Ellie,' Robyn said, and fainted. She'd always been a bit prone to fainting

6. They load Corrie's Toyota with everything useful they can find. Then they go

to Kevin's and do the same. And to my place and Ellie's if there's time. They pick up the Land rover at Kevin's and fill it too. I'm talking food, clothes, petrol, rifles, tools, everything. By Dawn we want to have two vehicles fuelled up, packed to their roofs, and ready to go.' 'To go where?' Kevin asked. 'To Hell,' Homer answered."

7. Corrie still didn't open her eyes. I couldn't move. It was as though I too had joined the tableau.

Then Kevin said, 'She's been shot Ellie'. Page 424

8. I don't know how long we'll be here. Maybe as long as the Hermit. We've got the chooks, and we've planted vegetables, and we still hope to get ferrets and nets. Page 429

TASK 3: CLOZE EXERCISE

Fill in the missing words from the word bank to complete the plot summary.

TOMORROW WHEN THE WAR BEGAN by John Marsden is the story of **seven** teenagers who go on a week-long **camping** trip into a secluded spot known as HELL. The camp site is in an inaccessible area where it is rumoured that an ex-murderer lived for years as a **Hermit** after he had supposedly murdered his wife and child.

The organisers of the camp are **Ellie** and Corrie; who invite **Homer** Ellie's childhood friend and **Kevin**, Corrie's **boyfriend**; and three other friends from **school**: Robyn, who is an athletic netballer, and **Fi** and **Lee**, who live in the **town**

On their return from the camp, the teenagers find that their world has changed. They immediately realise that something is very wrong. Their homes are **deserted** their families gone and their pets are **dead** they figure out that the country had been invaded on **Commemoration** Day, and that their families are probably held captive at the Wirrawee Showgrounds.

Although they do not know exactly what has happened, the group decides to resist the invaders and hope to be able to help their **families** they are shot at they kill some of the enemy soldiers by blowing up a ride-on **lawn mower** and they blow up **bridge** endangered and they retreat back to **Hell** and make plans to survive the **Invasion**, u

WORD BANK

LeeFiKevinHomerEllie

bridge lawnmower Hell invasiondeserted

neighbourhermitschooltownCommemoration

sevenboyfriendcampingdeadfamilies

TASK 4: VOCABULARY DEFINITIONS

Use a **dictionary** to complete column B with definitions for the words in column A.

A: Vocabulary	B: Definitions
Invasion	An unwelcome intrusion into another domain
Resistance	The refusal to accept or comply with something
Undergrowth	A dense overgrowth of shrubs and other plants, especially under trees and woodland.
Inaccessibility	Not accessible
Hermit	One that retires from society and lives alone especially for religious reasons.
Commemoration	Remembrance, typically shown as ceremony

Independence	Freedom from the outside control or support.
Feral	An animal in a wild state, especially after escape from captivity or domestication.
Survival	The state or fact of continuing to live or exist, typically in spite of an accident, ordeal, or difficult circumstances.
Sentry	A soldier stationed to keep guard or to control access to a place.
Patriotic	Having or expressing devotion to and vigorous support for one's country.
Inconspicuous	Not clearly visible or attracting attention.
Impenetrable	Impossible to pass through or enter.
Surreptitious	Kept secret, especially because it would not be approved of.

Reconnaissance	Military observation of a region to locate an enemy or ascertain strategic features.
Resilience	The ability of a substance or object to spring back into shape; elasticity.
Manoeuvre	A movement or series of moves requiring skill and care.

TASK 5: SENTENCE BUILDING

Use **six** of the words in the vocabulary exercise above to write **sentences** of your own that clearly show the meanings of your chosen words.

1. _____

_____ 2.

_____ 3.

_____ 4.

_____ 5.

_____ 6.

TASK 6: SENTENCE MATCHING

*Match the following sentence **fragments** correctly.*

- a) Ellie and Corrie are good friends
- b) Homer is a good leader
- c) Kevin is a well-built boy
- d) Fi is thought to be a bit strange
- e) Lee is an artistic boy from town
- f) Robyn is energetically competitive
- g) The only one allowed to drive the Landrover is Ellie

- 1. since she is the best driver.
- 2. who is very musical.
- 3. but he is afraid of bugs.
- 4. so enjoys a good challenge.
- 5. although he is considered the class clown.
- 6. because she has never eaten two-minute noodles before.
- 7. who plan a camping trip with their friends.

- a) **Ellie and corrie are good friends, who plan a camping trip with their friends**
- b) **Homer is a good leader, although he is considered class clown**
- c) Kevin is a well-built boy but he is afraid of bugs
- d) Fi is thought to be a bit strange because she has never eaten two-minute noodles before
- e) Lee is an artistic boy from town who is very musical.
- f) Robyn is energetically competitive so enjoys a good challenge.
- g) The only one allowed to drive the Land rover is Ellie since she is the best driver.

TASK 7: SENTENCE JUMBLE

*Rearrange these sentences into the correct **sequence** then write them accurately as a complete **paragraph**.*

- They were keeping together, moving through the garden, firing into anything that could have concealed a person: a bush, a barbecue pit, a compost heap.
 - A volley of gunfire interrupted us.
 - They'd probably seen enough of us to have an idea that we were empty handed, but they were still moving cautiously.
 - As we watched, trembling, we began to recognise their tactics.
 - We could see the flashes of fire from the guns.
 - It was frighteningly loud.
-
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 - We could see the flashes of fire from the guns.
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 - They'd probably seen enough of us to have an idea that we were empty handed, but they were still moving cautiously.

(Check your paragraph with the one on page 87)

TASK 8: THEME MATCHING ACTIVITY

Some of the themes of the novel as shown in **chapter 7** (pages 69-92) are listed in the table below. Complete the table by (i) finding the **page references** in that chapter for the examples below; (ii) **matching** the examples to the themes.

Themes / ideas	How are they shown?
Love	Corrie's father's fax note shows his love through his concern for his daughter (p.73)
Leadership	<i>Ellie leads the others into Mrs Alexander's yard. She then gets them out of trouble by blowing up a lawn mower. (p140)</i>
Courage	<i>That's it! I thought. I've done it! It was a dance of courage."</i> (p. 129)
Friendship	<i>"All for one and one for all. Let's go. The three musketeers"</i> (p128)

Horrors of war	<i>“At that moment only a bullet could have separated me from those two people. Suddenly they’d become my family” (pg. 134)</i>
Teamwork	<i>Ellie and the others must blow up a lawn mower in 3 of the soldiers’ faces to escape them. (pg 140)</i>

- *“At that moment only a bullet could have separated me from those two people. Suddenly they’d become my family” (p....)*
- *Ellie leads the others into Mrs Alexander’s yard. She then gets them out of trouble by blowing up a lawn mower. (p....)*
- *“That’s it! I thought. I’ve done it! It was a dance of courage.” (p....)*
- *“All for one and one for all. Let’s go. The three musketeers” (p....)*
- *Ellie and the others must blow up a lawn mower in 3 of the soldiers’ faces to escape them. (p....)*

TASK 9: MATCHING PLOT EVENTS & THEME

Match the events to the theme (idea) it shows:

EVENT	THEME
Ellie and her friends return home from Hell to find their families gone and pets Dead	Love / courage / strength
Lee is shot in the leg and Robyn carries him to safety	Sometimes you have to do terrible things for the sake of survival / leadership / teamwork
Ellie blows up the lawn-mower and kills 2 people	Courage / strength at a time when it is needed / friendship / horrors of war
Corrie is shot and Kevin takes her to the hospital, giving himself up to the enemy	Revenge / adventure / courage / strategic thinking
The gang blows up the main bridge out of Wirrawee	How quickly life can change / taking things for granted

Choose **one** of the themes in the right-hand column and **explain** how the example(s) show that theme.

Ellie blows up the lawn-mower and kills 2 people

**Courage / strength at a time when it is
needed / friendship / horrors of war**

The examples show the theme because Ellie needed a lot of courage at the time to do that, she also had to think how it would affect her future because killing someone like that isn't a short term problem. Strength also ties in with the courage, even though she was scared she did it to save the lives of her friends so they could have a potential future.

TASK 10: TIMELINE OF EVENTS

Arrange the following events in sequence on the timeline below. Match the letter of each event to the corresponding number:

- A. The group discovers Chris at his house. (5)
- B. Ellie blows up a lawn-mower. (4)
- C. Ellie discovers the hermit's hut. (8)
- D. Corrie gets shot. (10)
- E. Chris falls asleep while on sentry. (7)

F. Ellie decides to go bush with her friends. (1)

G. The group blow up the bridge. (9)

H. Lee gets shot in the leg. (6)

I. Corrie's house gets blown up. (3)

J. Ellie and some of the others see fighter jets pass over Hell without lights on. (2)

1

2

3

4

5

6

7

8

9

10

TASK 11: CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Complete the following table with Ellie's description of her friends in chapter 1

CHARACTER NAME	DESCRIPTION	SUPPORTING QUOTES
ELLIE		
HOMER		
CORRIE		
ROBYN		

KEVIN		
LEE		
FIONA (FI)		

TASK 12: COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

Read each chapter carefully then answer the questions that follow:

CHAPTER 1

1. What kind of story do you think Ellie is going to tell? _____
2. What clues in the text have led you to this?

3. Why do you think it will be difficult for her to tell this story?

4. What kinds of emotions or feelings do you think might “get in the way”?

CHAPTER 2

1. What are the two special events happening the day after the teenagers leave for the bush?

2. Who is the hermit and what is he supposed to have done?

3. Do you think the hermit will be significant to this story? Why, why not?

CHAPTER 3

1. Who does Robyn think are the only people ever to have gone into Hell?

2. Why does she think this?

3. Why do you think the valley is called Hell?

4. What picture of Kevin do we get in this chapter?

5. What does Ellie liken Fi to?

6. Why must the teenagers seem like visitors from hell to the wild things living in the clearing? How is this ironic?

CHAPTER 4

1. What was especially peculiar about the planes that flew over Hell?

2. What do you think might be the significance of this?

3. Why do you think the planes were flying over Wirrawee?

CHAPTER 5

1. Why do you think Ellie and Lee feel uneasy just before their return to Wirrawee from the bush?

2. What do you think will await the group back home?

CHAPTER 6

1. What is the first sign that something is wrong at Ellie's house?

2. Who is the first person to realise what is happening?

3. What is Ellie's reaction to this?

4. Why do you think Ellie reacts this way?

CHAPTER 7

1. Which people in the group are starting to stand out as leaders?

2. Is this surprising? Why or why not?

3. What does Lee mean when he says "we might have to make some ugly choices"?

4. How is Ellie's image of Kevin changing in this chapter?

5. How is Ellie "transformed" once she steps out from behind a tree near the Showgrounds?

CHAPTER 8

1. How does Ellie feel after the lawn mower incident?

2. How does she think the others will react to her story once she tells it?

3. How do they actually react? Why?

CHAPTER 9

1. Corrie and Ellie reminisce about how innocent they were in high school and even a few days ago. Why were they still innocent then? Why are they no longer innocent?

2. Why, in Ellie's opinion, is Cobler's Bay and Wirrawee so important to the invaders?

3. Why does Homer think splitting up is a good idea?

4. Why do you think the invaders dropped a bomb on Corrie's house?

CHAPTER 10

1. Why does Homer insist on going on with the plan after Corrie's house blows up? How does he convince Corrie that this is a good idea?

2. Describe the strategy Homer and Ellie use to ensure their safety when riding their bikes into town. What does this show about how they are starting to think?

3. Why is Ellie feeling more relaxed and confident now?

4. Why do you think Mr Clement is reluctant to help Lee and Robyn? How would you react if you were in his position?

5. What are the 2 different types of soldiers and how do they each treat the inhabitants of Wirrawee?

6. What do you think happened to people who “tried to be heroes”?

7. Why do you think Robyn had the strength to carry Lee?

8. Who gives Lee injections? Why is this surprising?

9. How has Homer changed in Ellie’s eyes since the invasion?

10. Why have the group decided to use a big, noisy and conspicuous truck to rescue Lee? Whose idea is it?

CHAPTER 11

1. How does Ellie feel as she is waiting in the truck at the Council Depot?

2. Where does her fear come from?

3. What is Homer’s explanation for the need to swap cars at Chris Lang’s place?

4. What does this show about the way he is thinking?

CHAPTER 12

1. Why is it so terrible that Chris falls asleep while on sentry duty?

2. How does Ellie react?

3. Why do you think she reacts this way?

4. How does she feel about her reaction later?

CHAPTER 13

1. According to what the teenagers hear on Corrie's radio, why would America be best not to get involved in Australia's struggle?

2. Why is Australia being invaded?

3. How are the prisoners being treated?

4. What do Kevin and Robyn argue about?

5. The group is starting to think about long term survival in Hell. What are some clues to this?

6. What does the group decide they must do at this point?

CHAPTER 14

1. What reasons does Ellie give Lee for not wanting a relationship with him?

2. What do you think are the real reasons?

CHAPTER 15

1. What do Ellie and Lee find in the Hermit's hut that the others don't know about?

2. According to the coroner's report what are the two possible ways the Hermit's family died?

3. Which do you believe? Why?

CHAPTER 16

1. What is the Hermit's mother in law's attitude toward him as seen in her letter?

2. What does this suggest about the way in which the Hermit's family actually died?

3. What makes Ellie change her mind about Lee on the way back from the Hermit's hut?

CHAPTER 17

1. Why does Ellie feel uncomfortable with Chris bringing cigarettes and alcohol into Hell?

2. Why do you think prisoners are sent to clean up the houses around town?

3. What is meant by a "clean war"? Why are the invaders so intent on having a "clean war"?

4. What happened to the soldiers involved in the lawnmower incident, according to Robyn? How does this make Ellie feel?

5. What does Kevin want to bring into Hell by way of livestock?

CHAPTER 18

1. What does Ellie find primarily attractive about Lee?

2. Who is she attracted to physically?

3. What are the group's options according to Homer?

4. What do they decide to do and why?

CHAPTER 19

1. What makes Ellie think the soldiers walking past them are professionals?

2. What do the soldiers fire at in the bushes?

3. What are some clues that the group is starting to think "more like soldiers"?

4. What does Homer suggest they do when the group goes up to the Heron?

5. What are his strategies to put his plan into action?

6. Do you think the plan will work? What problems do you think they might encounter?

CHAPTER 20

1. Why is Ellie nervous about being paired with Fi?

2. What is true courage according to Ellie?

3. Were her concerns about Fi realised? Explain.

4. What is a clue that Fi's relationship with Homer is becoming serious?

5. What problems do Fi and Ellie encounter on their mission to bring the tanker to the appropriate place under the bridge? How do they deal with these problems?

CHAPTER 21

1. What is it that primarily attracts Fi to Homer?

2. What are Fi's intentions regarding Homer?

3. Why does this surprise Ellie?

4. How do Ellie and Fi feel as they are leaving the scene on their motorbikes?

5. Why do you think the group decided to blow up the bridge?

6. How is this exploit different from the other exploits the group has been on? (ie blowing up lawnmower, rescuing Lee, going into town to check things out...)

CHAPTER 22

1. What do Ellie and the others see in Ellie's shed when they ride up her driveway?

2. What does Ellie compare this scene with? Why do you think she does this?

3. What does Homer suggest the group does?

4. What does Kevin decide to do?

5. What does this reveal about him?

EPILOGUE

1. What is Ellie's concern about her story?

2. How is her story the same as what the Hermit left in his box?

3. How has Ellie's view of Kevin changed from what she thought of him in the beginning?

4. What do you think will happen to Corrie and Kevin?

PLOT

[*What* happens in the story]

Exposition (*beginning*)

The presentation of the situation, setting and characters at the beginning of the novel

Suspense (*rising action*)

A growing awareness of the opposing forces in the plot developed through the interaction and conflicts between the characters (*The things that happen to the characters in the story.*)

Climax (*turning point*)

The point in the plot where all the minor crises culminate or come together

Resolution / Denouement (*ending*)

The gradual unravelling of the plot to reach a satisfying conclusion which answers the readers' questions

TASK 13(a): INFORMATION TRANSFER TABLE

Complete the table with as many details of the various *plot* aspects as you can. Find a supporting quote for each aspect.

ASPECT	DETAILS	QUOTES
Exposition		
Suspense		
Climax		

Resolution		
------------	--	--

TASK 13(b): INFORMATION TRANSFER TABLE

Using the information in the table on page 3, write a brief **summary** of the plot

CHARACTER

[*Who* the story is about]

- The people in the story are either **main** characters or **minor** characters.
- The main character is sometimes called the **protagonist**
- We learn about the characters through:
 - What they **say and do**
 - What **other characters** say about them
 - How the writer **describes** them
- Characters are important because they help relay the *themes* of the story

TASK 14: CHARACTER DESCRIPTION

Choose **one** important character and describe him/her in terms of the above criteria

NAME:	DESCRIPTION	SUPPORTING QUOTE
----------------	-------------	------------------

What he/she says or does		
What others say about him / her		
How the writer describes him / her		

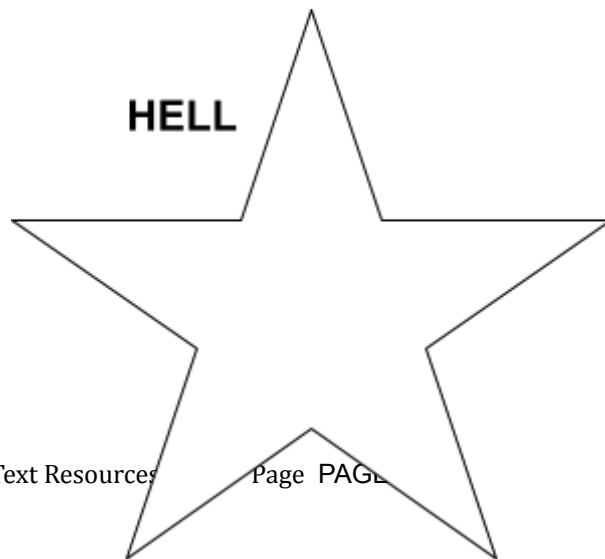
SETTING

- The setting is **where** (**place**) the story takes place.

- The setting is often **when** (**time**) the story takes place.
- The setting is chosen for a special reason and may be as important as the *theme* (message) itself.
- The setting of a story often contributes to the atmosphere of the novel. It often provides a backdrop to the action of the plot.
- The setting is usually significant to the themes of the novel.

TASK 15: BRAINSTORMING

*Write down as many details as you can about the way **HELL** is described in the first few chapters of the novel. Compare your brainstorm with a friend's.*



TASK 16: EXPOSITORY WRITING

Use the details from your brainstorm above to **describe the setting** of the bush campsite and how you think it **relates** to an **important idea** in the novel.

The campsite **Hell** was _____

_____ **Hell**

was important to the idea of _____

STYLE

- Style deals with **HOW**:
 - the story is written (narrative structure)
 - the text achieves tension and climax
 - the text communicates its message.
- Style includes **LANGUAGE**:
 - Is it simple / complex / humorous / imaginary / etc.
 - Does it use direct / reported speech
 - Are descriptive words used [emotive words / slang / cliché / formal expressions]
 - Is the writing literal or are figures of speech used
 - Are sentences long/complicated or short/simple
- Style includes **NARRATIVE PERSPECTIVE**:
 - Who tells the story (first person / third person narrator)
- Style includes **ORGANISATION OF EVENTS / IDEAS**
 - *Chronologically*: in the order events happened
 - *View from the present*: story begins and ends in the present, but takes place mostly in the past
 - *Flashbacks*: past events are briefly shown to explain what is happening in the present
 - *Foreshadowing (Flash-forwards)*: we are briefly shown something which is still to happen
 - *Cyclical*: story begins and ends at the same point

TASK 17: DESCRIBING THE STYLE

Write down at least three points about the way the **events** in this novel are **organised**, using examples from the novel to support your description.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

THEME

[*Why* the story is being told- what message it has for us]

- Theme refers to the central message that a novel contains. (*The **main ideas** that the writer wants to convey to us*)
- The themes of a novel may be the writer's view of society, of personal relationships, or of universal ideas.
- Central characters are often presented as victims of fate, circumstances, society or their fellow human beings.

TASK 18: IDENTIFYING THEMES IN THE NOVEL

- Write down any / all of the words that you could use to describe the **feelings** and emotions **expressed in the novel** you have studied.

- Write down the **emotions** the reading of the novel has **aroused in you**.

- The emotions and reactions you have identified (1) and experienced (2) are expressions of the themes in this novel. Sort your descriptions above and write down the most important themes in the novel.

TASK 19: ANALYSING THEMES IN THE NOVEL

- **Why** did the writer write this work – what important message or idea is he/she trying to convey?

- **How** does the author achieve his/her intention, whether it be to explain, warn, influence, remind or teach the readers?

- **How well** is the theme/themes connected to setting, plot, character, style, and method of narration?

TASK 20: THREE LEVEL GUIDE

*Answer the following questions about the plot of **TOMORROW WHEN THE WAR BEGAN***

Level 1: *(Write **true** or **false** beside the following statements. Be ready to support your answers by referring to the text.)*

- a) Ellie is an only child
- b) The teenagers are the first humans to have entered the valley Hell
- c) Ellie kills 2 soldiers by blowing up the lawn mower
- d) The invaders are interested in taking over the whole of Australia
- e) Chris's parents have been captured
- f) The prisoners are treated badly by the invaders
- g) The invaders are Indonesian

Level 2: *(Write **true** or **false** beside the following statements. Be prepared to give reasons for your answers)*

- a) Homer and Ellie are best friends
- b) The invaders are evil
- c) Ellie is the leader of the group
- d) Ellie is not attracted to Lee
- e) Fiona is weak
- f) The group survived because they worked as a team
- g) Every member of the group shows courage at some point

Level 3: *(**Circle** the letters of the statements that you agree with. Be ready to give reasons for your answers.)*

- a) John Marsden is against war
- b) Invasions can sometimes be justified

- c) Nobody would ever want to invade New Zealand
- d) Middleclass New Zealanders and Australians take their lifestyle for granted
- e) It is completely by chance of birth that some people live in wealth and others live in poverty
- f) One should abide by human laws as much as possible under all circumstances