

Top tips for students



Appoint a team leader

Appoint a team leader for your group, a captain for **each** session, someone who will gather the materials you need, keep a check on the timing, chair group discussions, make a note of any difficulties you encounter, ensure that everyone gets a fair chance to say what they feel, and that your group works to its best ability. Rotate the role so that everybody gets a turn.



Support one another

Help anybody who has been off sick by recapping on what they've missed in the plot that was important and what you've achieved as a group while they were absent. If you're keeping reading journals let them see some entries about the bits they've not worked on.



Know where you are going

Ask your teacher for copies of the planning sheet so that you can see what is coming and plan ahead.

Look at the instructions for lesson 6 where you get the chance to interrogate the author. Use any website references given to find out what you can about the writers and their views in advance of the activity. Use a highlighting pen on the planning sheet to show where you've got to after each session - if you need to revisit some work after a break then this will show it. Write down when homework is to be set and what it will be.



Your chance to be independent

To get the best out of these lessons you must work independently. Avoid the temptation to keep checking with the teacher that what you're doing is right. Trust yourselves: if you're not sure. If you have a question you really must ask, make a note of it, move on, and then come back to it later. You may well find that after you've had time to reflect you can answer your own question.



Keep your book with you

If you take the books home make sure they come back next lesson! Sharing books slows everybody down and is not fair on the others in your group.



Get into a library

Get into the school, or a local library and see if you can borrow any other books by the same writer. Sometimes authors explore the same themes in different books - see if you can compare these treatments.



Think presentation

Remember that all of this work is building towards a presentation to the whole class about your book. If there's anything you can do to help that, do it while it's still fresh in your head. If there's a task that needs finishing - don't wait to be told - do it yourself. It will help everybody.



Use the plenary

Use the plenary as your chance to show what your group has been thinking and doing. Expect to be asked for some kind of input. Prepare ahead - select who might be best for feedback - talk through what they might say, then if your group is asked to contribute, you'll

Reading on is fine

Reading on is fine. Your teacher wants you to enjoy these books. If you really must get to the end as soon as you can, that's great. If you've read further than the others, don't worry about it. Just be careful not to spoil the excitement for your friends.

