

Teaching the novel at B2

Clear language / demanding ideas



AI-created interpretation; check details against the novel.

Use the new illustrated guide as the shared reading support. Every section has a picture, short summary, three key points, two explained themes and a comprehension model. The website also offers developed analytical paragraphs.

Stage	Teacher move
Read	Preteach two useful words; read a short passage.
Talk	Pairs answer aloud before seeing the model.
Check	Secure events and find one precise detail.
Explain	Use answer -> detail -> choice -> meaning.
Extend	Compare a second scene or add a qualification.

Withdraw frames gradually. At B2, language support should help students explain complex ideas rather than reduce every task to recall.

Course, assessment and access

Use the correct cohort and task conditions

Confirm the cohort year, prescribed-text allocation and exam conditions before setting a formal assessment. The practice questions here are original and support both novel study and transferable reading and writing skills.

NESA prescriptions: <https://curriculum.nsw.edu.au/resources/hsc-english-prescriptions>

NSW EAL/D resources and the 43-section guide: <https://education.nsw.gov.au/teaching-and-learning/curriculum/english/planning-programming-and-assessing-english-11-12/english-eald>

What gets marked automatically?

Objective matching, sorting, best-answer and cloze tasks have fixed feedback. The new clinics contain 68 checked items. Writing uses models and self-assessment; no automatic HSC essay grade is assigned.

Access

Drag tasks also support clicks and dropdowns. The chapter summaries have read-aloud buttons where the browser supports speech. Responses save locally; export the notebook before changing devices.

Sensitive content and accuracy

Preview violence, alcohol misuse and loss. Keep questions about the text; never require personal disclosure. Images are imagined. Verify exact quotation wording and references in the student's edition.

Feedback

Name one effective explanation and one precise change. Ask for a revised sentence that shows the change. Accept different supported interpretations.

Two-week teaching route

Weeks 1-2

Week 1: Meet the brothers

Read narrative sections 1-7.

Writing question: How does Parrett use setting to shape your understanding of vulnerability?

Lesson	Move
L1 / Read and check	Read the selected section. Use the picture and short summary to check events. Teach two useful words.
L2 / Talk and explain	Pairs answer the simple question aloud. Compare their answers with the short model. Find one detail in the novel.
L3 / Write and revise	Use a sentence frame to explain the detail. Compare an early and later scene. Revise one unclear sentence.

Workbook 1: pages 3-7. Use the chapter guide and theme chart as needed.

Week 2: Look through a character's eyes

Read narrative sections 8-14.

Writing question: How do narrative perspective and structure influence the reader's judgement?

Lesson	Move
L1 / Read and check	Read the selected section. Use the picture and short summary to check events. Teach two useful words.
L2 / Talk and explain	Pairs answer the simple question aloud. Compare their answers with the short model. Find one detail in the novel.
L3 / Write and revise	Use a sentence frame to explain the detail. Compare an early and later scene. Revise one unclear sentence.

Workbook 1: pages 8-12. Use the chapter guide and theme chart as needed.

Two-week teaching route

Weeks 3-4

Week 3: Understand care and duty

Read narrative sections 15-21.

Writing question: How does the narrative represent responsibility as both care and burden?

Lesson	Move
L1 / Read and check	Read the selected section. Use the picture and short summary to check events. Teach two useful words.
L2 / Talk and explain	Pairs answer the simple question aloud. Compare their answers with the short model. Find one detail in the novel.
L3 / Write and revise	Use a sentence frame to explain the detail. Compare an early and later scene. Revise one unclear sentence.

Workbook 1: pages 13-17. Use the chapter guide and theme chart as needed.

Week 4: Compare the sea's meanings

Read narrative sections 22-28.

Writing question: How does a recurring image develop meaning across the novel?

Lesson	Move
L1 / Read and check	Read the selected section. Use the picture and short summary to check events. Teach two useful words.
L2 / Talk and explain	Pairs answer the simple question aloud. Compare their answers with the short model. Find one detail in the novel.
L3 / Write and revise	Use a sentence frame to explain the detail. Compare an early and later scene. Revise one unclear sentence.

Workbook 1: pages 18-22. Use the chapter guide and theme chart as needed.

Two-week teaching route

Weeks 5-6

Week 5: Follow memories and clues

Read narrative sections 29-35.

Writing question: How do memories reshape the significance of earlier events?

Lesson	Move
L1 / Read and check	Read the selected section. Use the picture and short summary to check events. Teach two useful words.
L2 / Talk and explain	Pairs answer the simple question aloud. Compare their answers with the short model. Find one detail in the novel.
L3 / Write and revise	Use a sentence frame to explain the detail. Compare an early and later scene. Revise one unclear sentence.

Workbook 2: pages 3-7. Use the chapter guide and theme chart as needed.

Week 6: Explain the ending

Read narrative sections 36-43.

Writing question: To what extent does the ending offer resolution?

Lesson	Move
L1 / Read and check	Read the selected section. Use the picture and short summary to check events. Teach two useful words.
L2 / Talk and explain	Pairs answer the simple question aloud. Compare their answers with the short model. Find one detail in the novel.
L3 / Write and revise	Use a sentence frame to explain the detail. Compare an early and later scene. Revise one unclear sentence.

Workbook 2: pages 8-12. Use the chapter guide and theme chart as needed.

Two-week teaching route

Weeks 7-8

Week 7: Build a clear argument

Reread selected sections from across the whole novel.

Writing question: How does Parrett represent the relationship between care and vulnerability?

Lesson	Move
L1 / Read and check	Read the selected section. Use the picture and short summary to check events. Teach two useful words.
L2 / Talk and explain	Pairs answer the simple question aloud. Compare their answers with the short model. Find one detail in the novel.
L3 / Write and revise	Use a sentence frame to explain the detail. Compare an early and later scene. Revise one unclear sentence.

Workbook 2: pages 13-17. Use the chapter guide and theme chart as needed.

Week 8: Write and revise

Reread selected sections from across the whole novel.

Writing question: To what extent does the novel suggest that connection can endure alongside loss?

Lesson	Move
L1 / Read and check	Read the selected section. Use the picture and short summary to check events. Teach two useful words.
L2 / Talk and explain	Pairs answer the simple question aloud. Compare their answers with the short model. Find one detail in the novel.
L3 / Write and revise	Use a sentence frame to explain the detail. Compare an early and later scene. Revise one unclear sentence.

Workbook 2: pages 18-22. Use the chapter guide and theme chart as needed.

Objective activity keys

Sets 1-2 / labels, not shuffled letters

Character / role

1. Harry
2. Miles
3. Joe
4. The father / Dad
5. George Fuller
6. Aunty Jean

For explanations, use the matching feedback in the hub.

Technique / definition

1. Sensory imagery
2. Personification
3. Simile
4. Metaphor
5. Symbolism
6. Motif
7. Contrast
8. Juxtaposition

For explanations, use the matching feedback in the hub.

Objective activity keys

Sets 3-4 / labels, not shuffled letters

Scene / analytical idea

1. Care with limits
2. Freedom with a cost
3. Memory helps discovery
4. Belonging beyond family
5. Nature can help and harm
6. Connection after loss

For explanations, use the matching feedback in the hub.

Reader impact / method

1. Focalisation
2. Delayed revelation
3. Foil
4. Circular structure
5. Sensory imagery
6. Juxtaposition

For explanations, use the matching feedback in the hub.

Objective activity keys

Sets 5-6 / labels, not shuffled letters

Plot, analysis or unsupported claim?

1. Plot description
2. Analysis
3. Unsupported claim
4. Plot description
5. Analysis
6. Unsupported claim

For explanations, use the matching feedback in the hub.

Sequence the reader's discoveries

1. Harry explores the opening coast
2. Miles finds the tooth in the car
3. Joe's departure is felt
4. The photograph triggers memory
5. The storm and revelation
6. Joe supports Miles afterwards

For explanations, use the matching feedback in the hub.

Objective activity keys

Sets 7-8 / labels, not shuffled letters

Build an analytical paragraph

1. Care matters, but it cannot always keep the boys safe.
2. Miles shelters Harry in the caravan.
3. The shelter contrasts with the unsafe home.
4. The contrast shows care, but also the boys' lack of power.
5. Care helps Harry, although it cannot give lasting safety.

For explanations, use the matching feedback in the hub.

Question-unpacking lab

1. Command
2. Concept
3. Scope
4. Qualification

For explanations, use the matching feedback in the hub.

Objective activity keys

Sets 9-10 / labels, not shuffled letters

Fact / inference / evaluation

1. Stated event
2. Inference
3. Evaluation
4. Stated event
5. Inference

For explanations, use the matching feedback in the hub.

Identify devices in micro-extracts

1. Personification
2. Simile
3. Metaphor
4. Sensory imagery
5. Repetition

For explanations, use the matching feedback in the hub.

Objective activity keys

Sets 11-12 / labels, not shuffled letters

Command-word clinic

1. Analyse
2. Evaluate
3. Discuss
4. To what extent
5. Compare
6. Explain

For explanations, use the matching feedback in the hub.

Build an analytical paragraph

1. Claim
2. Scene evidence
3. Textual method
4. Meaning
5. Qualification

For explanations, use the matching feedback in the hub.

Objective activity keys

Sets 13-14 / labels, not shuffled letters

Fact, inference or overclaim?

1. Scene paraphrase
2. Supported inference
3. Unsupported absolute
4. Scene paraphrase
5. Supported inference
6. Unsupported absolute

For explanations, use the matching feedback in the hub.

Choose the stronger thesis

1. Care sustains the brothers but remains limited by unequal power and unsafe conditions.
2. Memory gradually changes the brothers' and readers' understanding of loss.
3. Belonging can sustain the boys, but family membership does not guarantee safety.
4. The sea's importance lies in its shifting roles as livelihood, freedom and threat.
5. Joe's departure and later support expose a tension between freedom and responsibility.
6. The ending presents continued connection without undoing irreversible loss.

For explanations, use the matching feedback in the hub.

Objective activity keys

Sets 15-16 / labels, not shuffled letters

Evidence-selection workshop

1. George's refuge and the unsafe household.
2. Surfing and the storm.
3. The wrecked car followed by later accident recollections.
4. The caravan refuge and its temporary nature.
5. Departure and later care for Miles.
6. A brief quotation checked in your own edition.

For explanations, use the matching feedback in the hub.

Method > reader understanding

1. Limited focalisation
2. Delayed revelation
3. Foil
4. Juxtaposition
5. Circular structure
6. Recurring object

For explanations, use the matching feedback in the hub.

Objective activity keys

Sets 17-18 / labels, not shuffled letters

Paragraph sequencing

1. 1 - Argument
2. 2 - Precise scene
3. 3 - Choice / relationship
4. 4 - Meaning
5. 5 - Qualification

For explanations, use the matching feedback in the hub.

Analytical language cloze

1. limits
2. meaning
3. edition
4. juxtaposition
5. focalisation
6. motif

For explanations, use the matching feedback in the hub.

Objective activity keys

Sets 19-20 / labels, not shuffled letters

Spot the analytical trap

1. Overgeneralised reader response
2. Supported inference
3. Quotation error
4. Question mismatch
5. Analysis
6. Technique spotting only

For explanations, use the matching feedback in the hub.

Micro-quotation analysis

1. The compressed fragment suggests the water's pervasive presence.
2. The sea draws Joe's attention away from Harry.
3. Harry's vulnerable internal response.
4. Accumulated sensory descriptions make the water threatening.

For explanations, use the matching feedback in the hub.

Objective activity keys

Sets 21-22 / labels, not shuffled letters

Unseen reading: inference with limits

1. The brother adjusts how he speaks to Lina.
2. A contrast between possible shelter and their immediate orientation.
3. She actively responds to an uncertain task.
4. Explained relevant details linked to the question.
5. Their cooperation develops while control remains uncertain.
6. The boat pulls away as Lina holds the rope.

For explanations, use the matching feedback in the hub.

Read images without confusing evidence

1. Artwork observation
2. Textual evidence
3. Interpretive hypothesis
4. Needs verification
5. Artwork observation
6. Interpretive hypothesis

For explanations, use the matching feedback in the hub.

Weekly print task keys

Use the answer labels; letter order is shown on each worksheet

Week 1: Analyse; Evaluate; Discuss; To what extent; Compare; Explain

Week 2: Claim; Scene evidence; Textual method; Meaning; Qualification

Week 3: Scene paraphrase; Supported inference; Unsupported absolute; Scene paraphrase; Supported inference; Unsupported absolute

Week 4: Limited focalisation; Delayed revelation; Foil; Juxtaposition; Circular structure; Recurring object

Week 5: 1 - Argument; 2 - Precise scene; 3 - Choice / relationship; 4 - Meaning; 5 - Qualification

Week 6: George's refuge and the unsafe household.; Surfing and the storm.; The wrecked car followed by later accident recollections.; The caravan refuge and its temporary nature.

Week 7: Care sustains the brothers but remains limited by unequal power and unsafe conditions.; Memory gradually changes the brothers' and readers' understanding of loss.; Belonging can sustain the boys, but family membership does not guarantee safety.; The sea's importance lies in its shifting roles as livelihood, freedom and threat.

Week 8: Overgeneralised reader response; Supported inference; Quotation error; Question mismatch

Writing: look for progress

Formative feedback / not an official marking scale

Look for	Next step
Main answer	Rewrite the thesis to answer the exact question.
Accurate evidence	Check one quotation and its context.
Specific explanation	Replace a vague effect with what the detail shows.
Comparison	Explain what changes between two scenes.
Clear English	Use because, whereas or although purposefully.

A shorter response with a precise explanation can show more learning than a long retelling. Increase independence gradually: oral rehearsal, supported paragraph, planned response, timed response.

Open tasks and models

For the five open activity tasks, use the online guidance. Students may give different answers if their evidence and explanation support them. The model booklet now uses developed 430-470-word responses, presented across two pages each. The four unseen texts are worked examples, not scripts to memorise.