

Task 8: What is the main character of this book like and what is your first impression of him?

Read this chapter.

The letter

One day I'm going to be a reporter for the Evening Post. That's why I started walking straight home, so I could write stuff down.

I don't write in my notebook all of the time. I used to only write in it when bad things happened like when Grandma stopped coming around.

But now I write down all the interesting things that happen too, so the editor of the Post will want me to work for him when I leave school. I can show him my notebook as evidence of my reporting skills.

The bad thing at the river was definitely interesting.

I can do the tiniest writing in the world; even I can't read it sometimes. Nobody can tell other people what I've said, which is the best thing. You can't trust people, but you can trust your notebook.

I ripped out all the pages of my old Beano annual and I hide my notebook in there. Then I put the annual in the middle of a pile of annuals under the bed. Nobody will ever find it.

See, this is why I like writing in my notebook. I can talk about anything that's ever been invented and no one can tell me off.

I am in charge.

You can write sentences with only one word in them, like that. It's your choice.

I live in Nottingham. Not right in the middle, where the castle is, just at the edge of the middle.

'Just outside the city centre,' Miss Crane says.

I like saying 'edge of the middle' better. It feels more like a place.

Robin Hood came from Nottingham. He lived in Sherwood Forest and formed a merry band of men, including Little John, who was massive. Yorkshire tried to steal Robin Hood. They said he came from there but it's been proven by scientists that he was from Nottingham.

I stopped walking for a minutes and looked back at the embankment and the flashing blue lights of the police van.

Sometimes, when I look at the river I imagine it is a long, thin piece of sea. If you followed it for nearly a year, you would reach Australia. It's been here as long as Robin Hood. He might have stood in some of the exact places I do, looking at the river. I said that once. To my older brother.

'Course he did,' he replied.

Ryan is my older brother but not a proper one. I've got a different mum and dad to him.

My dad died. I only know him because of the photographs that mum kept to show me. I was just a baby then.

Are there any words you are unsure of? Write them below.

What could you do to help you understand what these words mean?

What have you learnt about Kieran?

What questions do you have about the story? Is there anything you are curious about?
e.g. What is...? Who is...? Why have...?

What predictions (guesses) can you make about the book or the story from this?

I think that...

I predict that...

It could be that...

Based on evidence from the text, I guess that...