

## Task for *Evil Genius*

### Plot structure

Highlight or underline what you feel to be the **five** most important statements in **each** of the following lists:

#### What do we mean by 'plot'?

- It's what happens — the story.
- It's the controlling force that drives the story.
- It's a structure and a sequence of events that move the story from beginning to end.
- It's a logical means to originate ideas on which to hang characters.
- It's the vortex — everything centres around it and comes out of it — it's full of twists and turns.
- Thrillers usually follow a set pattern: set-up, detective work, climax, denouement.
- Work that is too formulaic is unsatisfying.
- A beginning, a middle and an end, but not necessarily in that order.
- Must a plot have a beginning, a middle and an end? Not necessarily.
- Plot is not essential — consider plays like *Waiting for Godot*.
- Plot is the backbone of the story, the main thing to make the reader/audience want to stay until the end.
- The outcome of the plot is the resolution of the issue that keeps you in your seat.
- Plot differentiates between literature and real life — real life meanders on, plot is specifically structured.
- A play/novel might have an objective rather than a plot.

#### What makes a good plot?

- It comprises good scenes in which 'good characters' make 'good speeches' based on 'good ideas'.
- It has a strong storyline.
- It includes an intrigue or mystery that readers/listeners want to solve.
- It is clear but not simplistic or predictable — easy to follow, yet engaging.
- It uses contrasting settings, moods, characters, etc. as a means of evoking readers'/listeners' memories and playing upon their emotions.
- It is credible and consistent in terms of style, characters and locations and how they relate to the action.
- It includes 'surprises', for example, unexpected events or characters behaving unexpectedly.
- It includes some elements of conflict — perhaps resolved — perhaps not.
- It includes at least some elements of originality.
- It conveys a clear message/s to the reader/listener, even if the message is an unresolved issue.
- It does not dominate the other features of the piece, such as characterisation.
- The key elements of the plot are memorable.

Record the definitions of any words you don't recognise or fully understand here:

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