

Task for *Evil Genius*

Realism

Broadly speaking, narratives are usually categorised as realistic fiction or fantasy fiction and the sub-genres are identified from there. Realism has its place in both of these categories as even in a fantasy, sci-fi or alt-reality, the world created by the author must be believable to engage a responder successfully. Conventions of contemporary realism include:

- Setting is easily recognised as an actual place: city, town, country.
- Language is easily recognisable in colloquialisms, idioms or jargon.
- A realistic representation of social structures and institutions like schools.
- Believable representations of relationships such as family and friendships.
- A relevant and familiar exploration of moral codes and ethical structures.
- A protagonist relevant to the target audience who undergoes appropriate emotional and moral conflict.

Refer to your reading journal in order to find appropriate textual references to support your responses to the following questions.

1. Briefly explain how the author has used a **realistic setting** in *Evil Genius*.

2. Find examples of three different uses of colloquialisms in the novel.

3. In your opinion, is the representation of Crampton College realistic? Why or why not?

Another way authors create realism is with the clever use of **technical language / jargon** to make a world seem realistic even when we know that what they are suggesting is impossible in reality. For instance, we know it's impossible to use the water in a toilet bowl as a means of transmitting images, but Catherine Jinks' use of ICT jargon such as 'DNA wired transmitter' makes that leap of imagination easy for us.

4. Find examples of technical language. Explain the effect of this language.

Tracing Realism in the novel chart

Features	Examples	In what way are these examples realism?	Effect
Plot			
Setting			
Social structures			
Protagonist			
Characters			
Language			
Moral codes			