

Task for *The Natural Way of Things*

Keeping a reading journal

After you have finished reading *The Natural Way of Things* post your answers to the following questions in your journal space on your school's learning management system.

Obviously you don't have to write a great deal for your journal. Perhaps respond to just a couple of the points below for each chapter.

- How does this chapter contribute to the **overall plot** of the novel? (For example, opening chapters would presumably set the scene for the story and introduce the characters.)
- What **central problem** emerges in the plot and how does this drive the plot forward?
- What sort of story is this? That is, what **genre** has the author used to tell this story?
- How does the writer manage **time**? For example, are there flashbacks or foreshadowing of things to come?
- How does the **central problem** finally lead to **conflict** and how is this conflict resolved?
- Describe the **main characters** as they appear. Is there a central character in the story? Is there a **focalising character** in the novel? That is, a character from whose **point of view** the reader is invited to make an **invited/preferred reading** of the novel?
- What devices does the writer use **to position** readers to make a preferred reading? Are you inclined to accept/resist the points of view being presented in the novel? Why/why not?
- Who might be an **ideal reader** of this novel?
- Who might challenge the viewpoints being expressed?
- What social issues and concerns of the society in which the novel was produced are revealed?
- Are these still relevant today?
- What do you think is the overall message of the novel?