

Task for *Burial Rites*

Quotations to support the study of themes

Use the following extracts from Kent's novel to analyse how they work to convey a theme or themes.

- *You must administer God's word and inspire repentance and an acknowledgement of Justice.* (p. 7)
- *It is an opportunity for our community to witness the consequences for grave misdemeanour.* (p. 16)
- *Your father's title comes with responsibility. I'm sure he would not question me.* (p. 17)
- *He had wanted to run away, flee at the sight of her. Like a coward.* (p. 49)
- *I shall make no secret of my displeasure to you. I don't want you in my home. I don't want you near my children [...] I have been forced to keep you here [...].* (p. 61)
- *Everything I said was taken from me and altered until the story wasn't my own.* (p. 100)
- *I've told the truth and you can see for yourself how it has served me.* (p. 110)
- *And I am so scared, I thought it could work, I thought I could pretend, but I see it will not, I will never, I cannot escape this, I cannot escape.* (p. 128)
- *You will not find proof of innocence in Agnes's stories of her life, Reverend. She is a woman loose with her emotions, and looser with her morals. Like many older servant women she is practised in deception, and I do not doubt that she has manufactured a life story in such a way so as to prick your sympathy.* (p. 170)
- *Margrét wondered at how, even for an hour, Agnes had seemed part of the family.* (p. 201)
- *Why on earth would Lauga be envious of a woman who would be dead before the weather turned again? Yet, there was an intensity to her revulsion that seemed fired by something more than resentment.* (p. 201)
- *He offered me friendship, and I was pleased to have it, for I had precious few friends about me.* (p. 217)
- *Only the outlying tongues of rock scarred the perfect kiss of sea and sky – there was no one and nothing else. There was nowhere else to go.* (p. 265)
- *Loneliness threatened to bite you at every turn.* (p. 274)
- *You will be lost. There is no final home, there is no burial, there is only a constant scattering, [...] and if no one will say your name you are forgotten. I am forgotten.* (p. 321)
- *I won't let go of you. God is all around us, Agnes. I won't ever let go.* (p. 328)