



Name.....Group.....

**EXPECTATIONS**

- Look at the **cover** and read the **blurb**. What sort of story do you think this will be? What clues do you have about character and plot from the blurb? What is the main “hook” in the blur that makes the reader want to read the story?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

- Do you think this story is set in a real or fantasy world or a mixture of both? Cite evidence from the blurb.

.....

.....

.....

.....

**A DISCOVERY (Chapters 1-7)**

- **Read to the end of Chapter 3.** What has Michael found in the garage?

.....

- **Summarize** what else is happening in Michael’s life.

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

- Read **Chapter 5.** Why do you think Michael holds back from telling his secret?

.....

.....

Why do you think he has a burning desire to confide in someone? Who does he tell and why?

- **Read to the end of Chapter 7.** How is Michael feeling? Why doesn't he tell anyone at school about his discovery?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

- Can you **guess** what the creature means by "27 and 53"?

.....

.....

.....

### **FRIENDSHIP (Chapters 8-29)**

- Read **Chapter 10.** What does Michael know about Skellig so far?

.....

.....

.....

.....

- Had you heard of **William Blake** before? Find out some information about him



➤ **Revelations:** Put the following facts on the order Michael learns them:

- He has wings
- He eats insects
- He talks in a squeaky voice
- He can fly
- He makes owl pellets
- His name is Skellig
- He likes Chinese takeaways

➤ In **Chapter 14** describe the plans Michael’s parents have for the garden and generate the words and phrases to depict the state of the garden.

.....

.....

.....

.....

**Chapter 17: Debate about Education**

➤ Read to the end of **Chapter 19**. Why do the children think Michael decides to share his secret with Mina?

.....

.....

.....

➤ Read on to the end of **Chapter 24**. What has been learned about the creature? What are Michael and Mina trying to do?

.....

.....

- Read **Chapter 25**. How is Michael feeling about the baby- scared for her and protective of her because she is vulnerable? Which words or phrases suggest this?

.....

.....

.....

- Have there been times when you felt resentful or jealous because a sibling is taking up your parents' time? (After answering to this question complete the photocopiable sheet *Between the lines*)

.....

.....

.....

.....

- Michael is worried about the baby's heart operation. Identify the symptoms of worry that Michael shows during the story.

- He has trouble sleeping
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 
- 

- Now focus on what Michael does to cope:

- He confides in Mina
- 
- 
- 
-

- Read **Chapters 27 to 29**. How Michael’s school friends make him feel? Write adjectives.....

.....

- The boys and Mina represent two sides of Michael’s character. Compare them. Why might Michael need a friend like Mina at the moment?

.....  
.....  
.....

- Read on to the end of **Chapter 29**. Discuss that Michael is upset because he feels torn between his mates at school and Mina, and he and Mina have quarrelled.

.....  
.....  
.....

- Complete photocopiable sheet *Poetic eyes*.

### **HIGHS AND LOWS (Chapters 30-40)**

- Read to the end of **Chapter 33**, what has happened to change how Michael is feeling and why he excels at football?

.....  
.....

- What do the doctor and his family think is going on with him?

.....  
.....

- Point out the *cliffhanger* (check the meaning of this literary technique if you don’t remember) at the end of Chapter 33 when there is a crisis with the baby.

- Read **Chapters 35 and 36**. Discuss the idea of classification, which Mina is rejecting, but which Michael’s school education might favour. Briefly explain the system of classification for plants and animals established by **Carolus Linnaeus** in the 1700. He grouped animals and plants by similar physical characteristics, and gave a name to each species.

.....

.....

.....

.....

- Complete photocopiable sheet *An extraordinary Thing*
- Read on to the end of **Chapter 38**. How would you describe the mood or atmosphere?

.....

.....

- Establish what things are uncertain at this stage

.....

.....

- Continue to the end of **Chapter 40**. What might have happened when Michael’s father says “*It’s over*”?

.....

.....

### TURNING POINT (Chapters 41-42)

- Read on to the end of **Chapter 42**. What has happened?

.....

.....

- Can you explain the connection between Skellig and the baby?

.....

.....

### HAPPY ENDINGS (Chapters 43-46)

- Read to the end of the story. Why does Leakey feel that Michael has been *miles and miles away*?

.....

.....

- Why is it so important that the old garage is demolished?

.....

.....

- Summarise the “new beginnings” that come at the end of the story

.....

.....

.....