



### What should I already know?

I have read, studied and analysed texts and have developed inference and deduction skills. I have been able to select evidence from a text to support ideas I provide on what I have read. I have begun to think about the impact that specific words and phrases have on a reader. I have been introduced to some of the key terminology in English.

### What will I know by the end of the unit?

I will be able to summarise the key events, themes and ideas of the novel. I will be able to recall the key characters, their actions in the novel and their characteristics, identifying key quotations on the characters and explain what I can interpret about their character as a result. I will examine how language, vocabulary choice, grammar and text structure presents meaning, commenting on the impact of the author's language and structure on differing audiences.

I will be able to write a critical essay on a set question, commenting on characters, themes and events from the novel. I will be able to progress my own writing, reflecting on my work (considering how it reflects the audience and purpose for which it was intended (and adapt my own use of vocabulary, grammar and structure to improve the overall effectiveness of my work.

### Key Vocabulary

<b>Cul-de-sac</b>	A street with only one way in or out.
<b>Anxiety</b>	Feelings of unease, including worry or fear.
<b>OCD</b>	Obsessive Compulsive Disorder
<b>Bereavement</b>	The period of grief and mourning after the death of someone close.
<b>Mirage</b>	Something that is not real - without proof of reality.
<b>Crime</b>	An action which is punishable by law.
<b>Clues</b>	A piece of evidence or information used in the detection of a crime.
<b>Detective</b>	A person whose occupation is to investigate and solve crimes.
<b>Rectory</b>	Resident of a priest.
<b>Graveyard</b>	An area of land, often near a church, where dead people are buried.
<b>Missing person</b>	Anyone whose whereabouts cannot be established.
<b>Custody</b>	The protective care or guardianship of someone or something.
<b>Accused</b>	To say that someone has done something - usually something bad.
<b>Sitcom</b>	A comedy.
<b>Stigma</b>	A mark of disgrace associated with a particular circumstance, quality or person.
<b>Mystery</b>	Something difficult to explain/understand. A text dealing with a puzzling crime.

### Literary Techniques

<b>Alliteration</b>	The occurrence of the same letter or sound at the beginning of adjacent or closely connected words.
<b>Cliffhanger</b>	A dramatic and exciting ending, which leaves a reader/audience in suspense.
<b>Connotation</b>	Associated meaning of the word.
<b>Description</b>	A spoken or written account of a person, object or event.
<b>Emotive Language</b>	Language used to create a particular emotion in the reader.
<b>First Person</b>	A type of narrative in which the protagonist recounts their own story using the pronoun 'I.'



<b>Foreboding</b>	A feeling that something bad is going to happen.
<b>Foreshadowing</b>	When the writer hints at a future event.
<b>Metaphor</b>	A comparison – made directly or indirectly – without using ‘like’ or ‘as.’
<b>Narrator</b>	The person telling the story.
<b>Pathetic Fallacy</b>	When a character’s feelings, thoughts or emotions are displayed through the environment around them. For example, when a character is depressed and it is raining.
<b>Personification</b>	Giving human characteristics to something which is not human.
<b>Protagonist</b>	The main character.
<b>Simile</b>	A comparison made using the words ‘like’ or ‘as.’
<b>Theme</b>	The central idea of a literary work.
<b>Twist</b>	A radical change in the direction or unexpected outcome of the plot.

Key characters		Key themes	
<b>Matthew Corbin</b>	The narrator of the book and the ‘Goldfish Boy.’ He is a funny, kind, likeable twelve-year-old, but he also has an overwhelming fear of germs which is making his life very difficult. Because of his anxieties, he spends most of his time indoors watching the neighbours in the cul-de-sac from the safety of his window. Matthew is the last person to see Teddy before he goes missing.	<b>Mental health</b>	The protagonist suffers with OCD and this impact on his day-to-day life. He is unable to attend school and maintain healthy relationships.
<b>Melody Bird</b>	Melody lives opposite Matthew with her mum, Claudia. She keeps her head down at school and Matthew has never really paid much attention to her, until he notices her strange interest in the local graveyard. She is a kind, thoughtful girl and she decides that she and Matthew should be friends and solve the mystery of what has happened to Teddy together.	<b>Grief</b>	Matthew is grieving the death of his baby brother, Callum. Matthew’s parents have lost their baby son and have grieved for him. Old Nina has also experienced grief as she lost her own child years ago.
<b>Jake Bishop</b>	Jake and Matthew were best friends throughout primary school but drifted apart since starting secondary school. Jake suffers with chronic eczema and has been the victim of bullying in the past. His way of coping was to become the bully. He teases his old friend Matthew and shouts things up at his window but his favourite thing to do is torment Melody. When he finds out that Matthew and Melody have teamed up to solve the mystery, he tries to be included.	<b>Guilt</b>	Matthew is suffering with guilt and this is the trigger for the onset of his anxiety and OCD.



Topic: The Goldfish Boy

Year: 7

NC Strand:

<b>Casey and Teddy Dawson</b>	Six-year-old Casey and toddler Teddy are staying next door to Matthew with their Grandfather, Mr Charles, while their mum works abroad. Casey prefers her sinister china doll over her little brother. She torments Matthew, saying that he looks like a goldfish in a tank.	
<b>Old Nina</b>	Old Nina lives alone in The Rectory which backs onto the graveyard. A shy, reclusive character, she goes out of her way to avoid her neighbours, only emerging now and then to water her flower pots. Matthew is suspicious of her behaviour and is puzzled as to why she keeps a lamp lit in her window day and night.	

### Brief Summary

This is a mystery novel whose protagonist, Matthew Corbin, suffers from severe Obsessive Compulsive Disorder. Spending his days cataloguing the behaviours of his neighbours, he has not left the house in weeks. This happens to come in handy when a toddler who is staying at the house next door goes missing and Matthew is the last person to see him alive. As the mystery unfolds, Matthew is torn between wanting to stay at home where he has control and isn't judged for his illness and knowing that he is one of the few witnesses that can help find the little boy.

### Context

#### **Lisa Thompson (Author):**

Thompson worked as a radio broadcast assistant at the BBC, then for a production company making plays and comedy programmes. The Goldfish Boy is her debut novel, which was bought as part of a two-book deal with Scholastic. It was published in 2017, where it was a Waterstones Children's Book of the Month and went on to become a bestseller. It has been nominated for the Carnegie Medal, the Branford Boase Award and the Waterstones Children's Book Prize.

#### **OCD:**

Obsessive Compulsive Disorder (OCD) is a common mental health condition in which a person has obsessive thoughts and compulsive behaviours. It affects men, women, and children and can develop at any age. Symptoms include frequent obsessive thoughts and compulsive behaviours. Obsessions are unwanted and unpleasant thoughts, images or urges that repeatedly enter your mind, causing feelings of anxiety, unease or disgust. Compulsions are repetitive behaviours and mental acts that you feel you need to carry out to temporarily relieve the unpleasant feelings brought on by the obsessive thought. It is not clear exactly what causes OCD. Some factors which may contribute to it include family history (genetics,) brain differences (high activity levels or low levels of serotonin,) life events (bullying, abuse, neglect, bereavement) and personality traits (neat, meticulous, perfectionists.) It can be treated through psychological therapy (CBT) and medication.