Stepres Background Knowledge



Machine Gunners - Learning Journey

THE BIG QUESTION:

How does conflict shape our experiences?













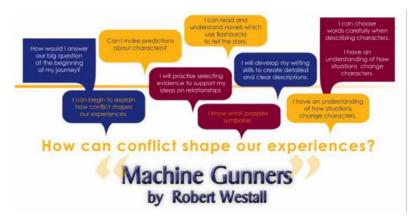






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Close reading is thoughtful, analysis of a text that focuses on significant details or patterns in order to develop a deep, precise understanding of craft and meaning in Machine Gunners.



CONTEXT

The Machine Gunners is a children's historical novel by Robert Westall, published by Macmillan in 1975. Set during the Second World War the story follows six children living in the fictional town of Garmouth which regularly suffers bombing raids by the German Luftwaffe. When Chas McGill finds a crashed German Heinkel 111 bomber he removes a fully operational machine gun and over 2000 rounds of ammunitio

BIG QUESTION

How can conflict shape our experiences?

DESCRIBING CHARACTERS

CHARACTER	CHARACTERISTIC	SYNONYMS
Boddser	guilty	bully / remorseful / shame / disgrace
Chas	caring	Warm-hearted / sneaky / brave / determined
Audrey	naive	tomboy / inexperienced / trusting / unsuspecting
Cem	snobbish	friendly / tough / blunt / thoughtful

Context and non-fiction: the Blitz. Chapters 1 & 2 main characters: The main characters and a diary entry. Audrey and her role Children In WW2 & Zlata's diary-non-fiction. Chapter 3.Chas and his dad. Chas, Boddser & violence Chapter 4 accents and dialects. Stan Liddell. Chapter 5:Adults and how they react Chapter 6, 7,8, Information retrieval: description of an air raid. The fight. Rationing. Nicky and Anderson shelters. Goodnight Mr Tom extract. Representations of war. Events in Ch8 and summary writing Chapter 9, 10, 11 Rudi and how he is presented. Chas and Rudi – character interaction. Summary writing. Chapter 12. Comparing characters. Poem: Flanders Fields. Chapter 13 & 14. Boddser and Chas: their fight. Nicky and his family. Chapter 15 & 16 investigating character & plot development. How the characters respond differently to the air raid. Rudi and how he is presented as a friend not an enemy. Tension and fear. New Experiences for children in war. 7 Chapter 17: predictions and reactions. Tracking action and preparation for the ending

Chapter 18: closure and review. Helga's diary and final diary writing