

Nelson English Usage

Digital resources for the Australian Curriculum

*Write the first paragraph to your own
favourite novel*

Part Three

Task 5: Assessing your favourite stories

Using the same principles from Part One one of this task, assess the opening paragraph of three of your favourite books. You may find it more difficult to do this because you have already read your stories and know that they are your favourites, but you should try to be objective.

Submit your assessments to your teacher.

Book title #1	Author	ISBN (under back cover barcode)
Blurb analysis		
Cover analysis		
The actual first paragraph		

Your assessment	
Your score	
Why did you choose to read this book?	
Does the first paragraph of this book suit the book overall? How could it be better?	

Book title #2	Author	ISBN (under back cover barcode)
Blurb analysis		
Cover analysis		
The actual first paragraph		

Your assessment	
Your score	
Why did you choose to read this book?	
Does the first paragraph of this book suit the book overall? How could it be better?	

Book title #3	Author	ISBN (under back cover barcode)
Blurb analysis		
Cover analysis		
The actual first paragraph		

Your assessment	
Your score	
Why did you choose to read this book?	
Does the first paragraph of this book suit the book overall? How could it be better?	

Task 6: Assess a specific paragraph

Going-away present

Thumping on my front door. Thumping on a Saturday morning, and before eight o'clock, no less. I hated unannounced visitors. I often hated visitors, period. My friends and family all knew this, had all been victims of my hermit-like tendencies.

Only bible-bashers and hawkers could be as inconsiderate as this, so I ignored the thumping. For a while. As it grew more insistent, I knew it could only be one thing: the very worst going-away present of all time.

Using the *Wuthering Heights* assessment example in Part One as a guide, assess the opening paragraph of *Going-away present*.

Your assessment (comments)	
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Additional questions to consider

- 1 How old do you think the author and/or narrator of *Going-away present* is?
- 2 What do you think *Going-away present*, as a novel, would be about?
- 3 What point of view does *Going-away present* use?
- 4 What tense does *Going-away present* use?
- 5 Do you think *Going-away present* would be about past, current or future events?

- 6 Is the language of *Going-away present* very formal, casual or standard? How can you tell?
- 7 Is there any rhythm or repetition to the choice of words? List examples.
- 8 Do you notice anything unusual about the sentences in *Going-away present*? For example, are all the sentences complete sentences? How can you tell? Are the sentences long or short, or a mixture? Does this make it easier or harder to read?
- 9 Do you think the main character in *Going-away present* is male or female? How can you tell?
- 10 Do you think the main character in *Going-away present* is kind or mean, rude or polite, patient or impatient, friendly or unfriendly? How can you tell?
- 11 Do you think anything in *Going-away present* might offend people? Give examples and explain your reasons.