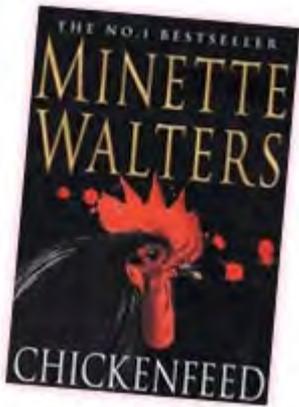


Quick Reads resources

Teaching notes

'Chickenfeed' by Minette Walters (Quick Reads)



We read this book as a group through a ten-week term. Most classes started with 10-15 minutes of reading aloud, with some learners reading in pairs. Everyone enjoyed the book and most learners took a copy home to finish – some had not read a book for years.

There are some great ideas for using with this book on the Quick Reads section of the Reading Agency website.

http://www.readingagency.org.uk/adults/LRMinette_Walters.pdf

The ideas on page 2 are a couple of extra things I put together as part of other work on punctuation and paragraphing.

'Murder in Catcher's Wood' by Paul Horsman from The Sun Book of Short Stories (Quick Reads)



1. I used this with a class of Entry 3 to emerging Level 2 learners. First we read through the first section of the story, which is just about Simon in the wood. The learners took it in turns to read aloud. Although I said that no-one had to join in with this, nearly everyone did when it came to their turn. With the less confident readers, we tried reading together, or getting them to read together with a learning assistant.
2. We looked at all the capital letters and discussed why each of them was used.
3. We looked at the other punctuation, tried to explain it – commas, apostrophes for possession and omission, question marks, ellipses – and discussed whether and how it affects the atmosphere of the story.
4. This led to a more general discussion about the atmosphere of the story and which words contribute to it.

References

Details of all Quick Reads books and general Quick Read resources - including a writing pack – are available from the main Quick Reads site <http://www.quickreads.org.uk/resources/introduction/>

The Reading Agency has resources for individual titles <http://www.readingagency.org.uk/adults/quickreads/>

Graphics

<http://www.quickreads.org.uk/about-the-books/quick-reads-backlist/the-sun-book-of-short-stories/>

<http://www.quickreads.org.uk/about-the-books/quick-reads-backlist/chickenfeed/>

Quick Reads resources

Chickenfeed

Add in some punctuation – capital letters, full stops, question marks, apostrophes, commas.

chapter two

north london – summer 1921

norman scuffed his feet along the pavement hed been given his cards by fiat and was living on ten shillings (50p) a week dole money everyones been laid off he told elsie its happening all over dad says theres three million out of work and its going to get worse elsie had to walk fast to keep up with his longer legs what will you do I don't know youll have to do something pet you cant live on the dole for ever she meant if you don't find another job soon itll be ages before we can marry but as usual norman dodged the issue

Where would you put two paragraph breaks?

There could be no talk of weddings while he was out of work. Wives and children cost money. A man should never make promises he couldn't keep. There was more to marriage than kissing. Hardship and poverty led to anger and hate. These weren't messages that Elsie wanted to hear. Her romantic streak said love could overcome all problems. What did it matter if they were poor as long as they had each other? She knew her feelings for Norman were stronger than his for her. She called him her 'lovey', her 'pet', her 'treasure', but he only ever called her 'Elsie' or 'Else'. She tucked her hand through his arm and put on her brightest smile. 'You're always telling me there's money in chickens. Why don't you start a chicken farm?'

Quick Reads resources

Murder in Catcher's Wood

E3/L1 Questions and Tasks

1. How long had Miss Phelps been head of department?
2. Did her students like her? How do you know?
3. How long ago was her body found?
4. How many things did Simon collect from the tree?
5. What does 'etched on its underside' mean?
Can you think of another way of saying this?
6. How did Simon know Miss Phelps?

Extension tasks

What do you think might happen next?

Work in pairs to write at least three more sentences.

Then... read the rest of the story.

Quick Reads resources

Murder in Catcher's Wood

L2 Questions and Tasks

1. What would the police report look like? Work as a group to write the police report.

Then... read the rest of the story.

Extension tasks

- write a version of the story where Simon gets caught
- write a report of the murder for the newspaper
- write Simon's diary entry.