Part 1: Predictions

With a partner, read the sentences below from the first chapter of *The Black Book of Secrets* and make as many predictions as you can about:

a) the setting of the book  
b) the characters of the book  
c) the events of the book

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Setting of the book</th>
<th>Characters of the book</th>
<th>Events of the book</th>
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<tr>
<td>‘When I opened my eyes I knew that nothing in my miserable life prior to that moment could possibly be as bad as what was about to happen.’ (p.1)</td>
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<td>‘Dark stains on the floor suggested blood.’ (p.1)</td>
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<td>‘I believe to this day his greatest pleasure in life was inflicting pain on others.’ (p.2)</td>
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<td>‘For at least a half-mile they chased me down the uncobbled narrow alleys and the filthy streets, tripping over bodies and avoiding snatching hands, all the way to the river.’ (p.3)</td>
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If you think that you have gleaned all that you can about these aspects of the book, try to make predictions about the tone of the novel.
Part 2: Questions

Now, individually, you should note down five questions about *The Black Book of Secrets* that you would like answers to.

1. ........................................................................................................
   ........................................................................................................

2. ........................................................................................................
   ........................................................................................................

3. ........................................................................................................
   ........................................................................................................

4. ........................................................................................................
   ........................................................................................................

5. ........................................................................................................
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After you have read the chapter for the first time, you should swap books with your partner and try to answer their questions about the book.

Part 3: The author’s craft

Look through chapter one and find one place where:

a) the author uses short sentences to create tension
   ........................................................................................................

b) the author uses a simile to describe Ludlow’s feelings
   ........................................................................................................

c) the author uses a metaphor
   ........................................................................................................

Choose one of these examples and write a paragraph where you explain the author’s technique, focusing on the effect on the reader.

Remember to make a point, give an example and explain the effect.