Before reading

Looking at the cover, what do you think the book will be about? Why?
Themes in *Trash*

A theme is a big idea that the author wants the reader to think about that runs all the way through a novel.

Here are some of the themes in *Trash*:

- Corruption
- Friendship
- Hope
- Poverty

You might see others as you read through, or you might give these themes slightly different names. For instance, part of *Friendship* might be labelled *Loyalty* and this might be seen as a theme on its own.

As you read the novel keep a record of these themes and examples from the text which demonstrate these themes.

**Raphael talking about Gardo**

'He’s not my brother but he might as well be' p.7

**Task**

Focus on the section in Chapter three describing the visit of the police to the dumpsite. Draw six storyboard frames showing six key points in the incident. Next to each one, write the thoughts and feelings that were going through a character’s mind at the time.

**Task**

Imagine there is going to be a film of *Trash*. One of the scenes is going to be filmed from one character’s point of view. There will be a voiceover giving the character’s thoughts and feelings.

From what you have read so far, select a scene that you found interesting. List the key incidents in this part of the story, then choose a character from that scene and write down their thoughts and feelings for that scene. This will become the ‘voiceover’ part of the scene.
Now work with a partner who has chosen a different character. Talk through the ideas you both have and make any suggestions needed to improve. Finally, present your ‘scene’ to another group/rest of the class, explaining why you chose that scene and character, then presenting your voiceover.

**Task**

Read pp.19 – 22 and answer the following questions.

1. How did Rat get his name?

2. Why is Rat more alone than the other the dumpsite children?

3. Describe Rat’s home. Explain the problems caused by living in such a place. Why does Rat live there?

4. Read the description of Rat on pp.22-23.
   How does this description evoke the reader’s sympathy?
   Think about:
   - the description of his appearance
   - his body language
   - how the dumpsite children had treated him in the past.

5. Read to the end of the chapter.
   - How does Rat show his ability to deduce when he looks at the photos?
   - What does he say that shows he has learned to look after himself where money is concerned?
   - What knowledge does Rat have that the other boys lack?

6. Put these words in order according to how well they describe Rat.
   Resilient
   Greedy
   Pathetic
   Cheerful
   Wary
   Intelligent
   Resourceful
   Miserable

Take your top three and explain why you made your choices.
Trash by Andy Mulligan  - Pick and mix tasks

Task

Part three, Chapter 1

Read pp.77-79

1. Why did Olivia Weston decide to stay in the city?
2. What does Olivia call Rat? Why doesn’t she call him Rat?
3. What does it tell the reader about the people of Behala?
4. Do you think this is a good or a bad thing? Why?

Read pp.80-83

1. Which lies do the boys tell Olivia?
2. Why do they lie?
3. How do they persuade Olivia to do what they want?
4. Should they have lied?
5. Why do you think Andy Mulligan tells the story through Olivia at this point?

Task

Read Chapter 2 (Part three) p.84

How does this part of the story hook and keep the reader?
What do you think might happen next? What makes you think this?

Task

p.86 Describing a place

Read the description of the prison building.
What sort of impression does the writer present?
How does the writing convey this impression?

Read the following descriptions of a building. Which one do you like best and why?

1. In front of me there was a gloomy grey house that looked as ugly as a toad. Weeds grew everywhere, twisting and coiling around the battered old building so the windows were half hidden. Although the doorway was dark and scary something about it seemed to be pulling me towards the house.
2. There was a gloomy grey house in front of me. It looked old and battered. The gardens were all overgrown. The windows were hidden behind ivy. There was a dark doorway. It was scary but I wanted to go inside.

3. In front of me a gloomy grey house squatted in the tangled undergrowth of the neglected garden. Forbidding windows glinted in the dying light, half blind eyes squinting at me malevolently. There was a doorway. A dark doorway. Dark and scary … but … was drawing me in …

Using the picture below, write your own three paragraph description imagining you are standing by the gates and about to walk up the path.

Remember to:
- refer to the senses
- vary sentence structure
- link paragraphs.
Task

Read Part three, Chapter 9

1. What new name does Rat use at this point?
2. Why is it unusual for Rat to be able to get a ride?
3. Quote three things that make the journey through town seem lively and busy
4. What did Rat do as he left the bus that shows he was enjoying himself?
5. On p.119 Rat takes charge. What does he do and say that shows this?
6. What sort of place does Zapanta live in?
7. What does the gardener tell the boys about the way Zapanta treats him (p.123)? What sort of person does this make Zapanta seem?
8. How did Jose Angelico steal the money? What does this show about him?
9. How is Zapanta presented in this part of the story?

Think about the following to help you answer the question:

- his life style in comparison with that of the dumpsite people
- how he acquired his wealth and what it shows about him
- how the gardener describes him.

Task

Read Chapters 5 & 6 (Part four) pp.159-165 and answer the following questions.

1. Think back to how Rat was described at the start of the story. How do these chapters show he has changed?
2. Draw a tension graph for these two chapters, with a brief explanation for each point on the graph.
3. Write a paragraph explaining how the writer keeps the reader engaged with this part of the story and how he creates tension. Remember to give evidence and explanation for the points you make.

Read the four newspaper reports.
Match the papers with the descriptions of their audiences and explain how you decided:-

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>I. Star Extra</th>
<th>II. Inquirer</th>
<th>III. Daily Star</th>
<th>IV. University Voice</th>
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</thead>
</table>

a) A newspaper whose readers want some news but lots of personal political views from the writer.

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b) A newspaper whose readers want the news kept short, expect a chatty style that uses humour and has lots of personal comment on the politician. They want entertainment and amusement with their news.

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c) A newspaper whose readers have a good vocabulary and expect serious news that gives lots of information.

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d) A newspaper whose readers want the news but expect some entertainment and comments on the politician’s personality.

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Are any of the papers on Zapata’s side? How can you tell this?

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**Book cover**

These covers have been used for different editions of the novel. Think about which one you prefer and why.
Task

You're going to design an alternative book cover. Before you start your design look at your current book cover and make sure you include the key information:

- front cover picture
- title
- author
- endorsement quote
- blurb
- mini-review from another author/newspaper.

Task

Write a review of the text making sure you include the following information:

- what happens
- the characters
- the setting
- how the text is written
- the themes it covers
- how it makes an impact on a particular audience.