

Name: _____

Date: _____



Read this diary extract. With a partner, discuss the questions below.

Dear diary,

I had to shout at the others again today. Why can't they just listen to me? I'm the leader, aren't I? They keep looking at Zoe like she's better than me – but she's not. She's just a girl who turned up here by chance.

I feel angry when they ignore me. What would this island be like if I wasn't in charge? A total disaster, that's what!

Right now, I'm sitting in the corner, trying to think of a plan. Maybe I need to show them who's boss...

1. Whose diary do you think this is? Why?
2. Can you find two rhetorical questions? Why do you think the writer used them?
3. Can you find an example of when the diary writer uses past tense, and an example of when they use present tense?
4. What is the diary writer's opinion of Zoe?
5. How does the diary writer show his feelings about the others ignoring him?
6. Does the diary writer describe any truthful events (things that happened), or do they focus more on their feelings? Explain.
7. Which diary features are not used here?

Name: _____

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Read this diary extract. With a partner, discuss the questions below.

Dear diary,

I can't believe how fast everything changes here. One minute I'm searching for scraps of food, the next I'm wondering if I'll even survive till tomorrow. My stomach aches and my head feels heavy - will it ever stop?

Dooby was shouting again today. He thinks he's in charge, but really, does he even know what he's doing? Sometimes I wonder if he's more scared than the rest of us. I hate the way he looks at me, like I don't belong. But I do belong. Don't I? It's strange - the sea is calm tonight, almost too calm. I sit and listen to the waves, trying to imagine Mum's voice, Dad's laugh... Will I ever see them again? Or is this island the only life I'll ever know?

I have to be strong. I have to believe there's a way off this broken place. If I give up, what's left?

1. Whose diary do you think this is? Why?
2. Find two examples of emotive language that show the diary writer's feelings.
3. The diary writer uses both past and present tense. Can you find one example of each?
Why do you think they switch between them?
4. Where can you see stream of consciousness (thoughts tumbling out without much order)?
5. Which part shows the diary writer's opinion of Dooby?
6. Where does the diary writer sound chatty or informal, almost like they're talking to a friend?
7. Does this diary sound real and believable? Which features help make it effective?

Name: _____

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Read this diary extract. With a partner, discuss the questions on the next page.

Dear Diary,

I don't even know why I'm writing this. What's the point? The water keeps creeping closer every day, swallowing the edges of the island as if it's hungry. Hungry like me. Hungry like all of us.

Dooby barked orders again - surprise, surprise. He struts around like a king, but kings are supposed to protect their people, aren't they? What does he protect us from? Nothing but his own temper. And Zoe . . . well, she's different. Brave. I can see it in her eyes when she talks back to him. She makes me wonder - could she actually get away? Could we? Or am I too scared to even try?

I remember when Mum told me stories about safe places, dry places, where people lived without fear of the sea. Was that real, or just another story to stop me crying? Sometimes I can almost hear her voice in the waves - calling, warning, comforting all at once.

Right now, I'm shivering under broken wood and scraps of plastic, trying to feel warm. My mind won't stop racing. What if the water rises tonight? What if I close my eyes and never wake up? What if tomorrow, there's no land left at all?

Still, some tiny part of me won't give in. Not yet. Because if Zoe's right - if there really is a way out - then maybe, just maybe, I'll see tomorrow.

Name: _____**Date:** _____

1. Whose diary do you think this is? Why?
2. Find three examples of emotive language. How do they make you feel as the reader?
3. Which parts are written in the present tense, and which are in the past tense? Why might the writer switch between them?
4. Identify at least four rhetorical questions. What effect do they have on the diary writer's voice?
5. Where does the writing show a stream of consciousness?
6. How does the diary writer give their opinion of Dooby? Quote the evidence.
7. What does the diary writer think about Zoe? Which words show their respect for her?
8. How is the setting (the sea, the island) described? What mood does this create?
9. Which parts of the diary include memories or flashbacks? How do they add to the entry?
10. Where does the diary writer sound chatty and informal, almost as if talking to a friend?
11. Which sentences show the diary writer's fears for the future?
12. Where does the diary include truthful details (things that really happened on the island)?
13. Does this diary feel believable and effective? Which features make it so?

Floodland Character Analysis

Comparison Grid

Diary Feature	Dooby's Entry	Zoe's Entry	Munchkin's Entry
Informal/chatty tone			
Thoughts/feelings			
Opinions of others			
Past tense			
Present tense			
Truthful details			
Rhetorical questions			
Stream of consciousness			
Emotive language			

Which diary felt most powerful? Why?

Which features had the biggest impact on the reader?



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I feel angry when they ignore me. What would this island be like if I wasn't in charge? A total disaster, that's what!

Right now, I'm sitting in the corner, trying to think of a plan.

Maybe I need to show them who's boss...

Dooby

Dear diary,

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I have to be strong. I have to believe there's a way off this broken place. If I give up, what's left?

Zoe

Dear Diary,

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Dooby barked orders again - surprise, surprise. He struts around like a king, but kings are supposed to protect their people, aren't they? What does he protect us from? Nothing but his own temper. And Zoe . . . well, she's different. Brave. I can see it in her eyes when she talks back to him. She makes me wonder - could she actually get away? Could we? Or am I too scared to even try?

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Munchkin