

Read and Understand

Which date is mentioned in the *voiceover*?

In combination with the old-fashioned map and the music, what kind of story is *Black Water* likely to be?



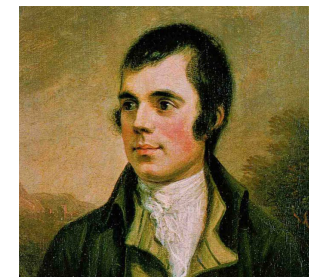
Infer What's Not There

From the trailer, can you make a guess at what kind of wares (items) were being *smuggled*? Come up with a quick list in your group.



Reflect and Respond

Why is the reference to *Robert Burns* included in the trailer?



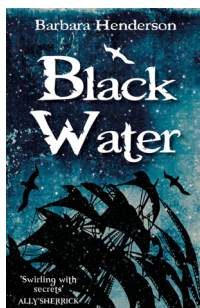
Why could this help the book succeed and sell more copies?

Reflect and Respond

Listen to the music at the beginning of the trailer again. Make a note of your thoughts, feelings and any instruments you recognise.

How does the music make you feel? Can you think of any films which use similar music?

Black Water Book Trailer



Simply google 'black water book trailer barbara henderson' to find the trailer online—or type the link below into the address bar of your browser.

<https://youtu.be/zuVBioyQMCw>

Connect 4

GROUP CHAT

What have you learned (or what do you already know) about:

Robert Burns?

Dumfries (where the book is set)?

Smuggling in Scotland?

Is there anything you would like to know?

Explore Some More

- What *cinematic camera technique* is used to heighten the drama in the shot of the horses' hooves?
- Which *camera movement* is used at the beginning of the trailer, the shot with the map?

Are these techniques effective? Why?

Reflect and Respond

What do you think of the trailer overall?

Has it made you want to read the book? Why? Why not?

How could the trailer have been improved?

Create Something Great

Have a go at being a *voiceover* artist! Practise (or create and record) your own *voiceover* and sound for the trailer.

You can then perform it/read it out while the sound in the original is muted. What type of sound/voice works best?

Read and Understand

In your jotter, begin a list of all the **characters** as you meet them, with a one-line explanation of who they are.

Leave a few lines between each one so that you can add any new important facts or info as you read the rest of the book.



Infer What's Not There

Using clues from the text, draw a picture of Henry on a page in your jotter or on an A4 sheet.

Choose at least three **adjectives** to describe him with **quotes** from the text to back these up. You can add to this as we learn more about him.

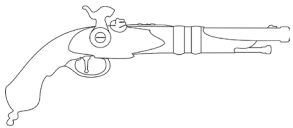
Read and Understand

In your group, discuss and write a short and snappy summary of Chapter 1. Use the question headings **Who?**, **What?**, **Where?**, **When?***, and **Why?** to help you make notes under each one.

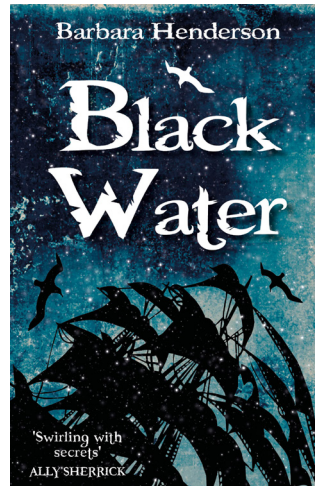
Challenge: now transform your notes into a proper paragraph.

Reflect and Respond

Did you enjoy this first chapter? Why/Why not?



How does the author make the reader want to read on?



Chapter 1 Solway Seas

Connect 4

GROUP
CHAT

The villains were **smuggling** salt, tea, and wine in their boat. Why do you think this is?

In your group, come up with a list of as many items as you can that people **smuggle** today.



Explore Some More

Who is afraid in this chapter, and who is not? How do you know?



What is each character afraid of?

Explore Some More

On pages 1-2, there are three sentences which begin with the same word. Identify that word.

Which of the three sentences has the most impact? Explain your answer.

Challenge: find as many **similes** or **metaphors** as you can.

Create Something Great

Find Dumfries and Galloway on a map of Scotland.

Draw your own map of the area at that time. Include Dumfries, Annan, Gretna, the Solway Firth, Criffel, Sarkfoot, Carsethorn and Torduff Point. Add any other places of interest you like.

Read and Understand

Update your list to include all the new characters you meet in this chapter.

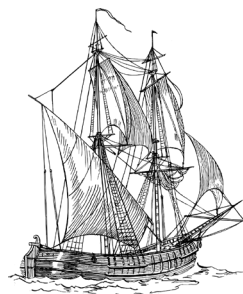
Now match them to the following activities: *hurrying, preparing food, toddling, quaking, drumming his fingers.*



Infer What's Not There

Old Finlay is 'not surprised' when he hears of the schooner.

What rewards may he get from the smugglers for his help? Give reasons for your guess.



Explore Some More

Read the conversation between Henry and Old Finlay again.

Do you feel sympathy for Old Finlay or for Henry in this chapter? Why? Why not?

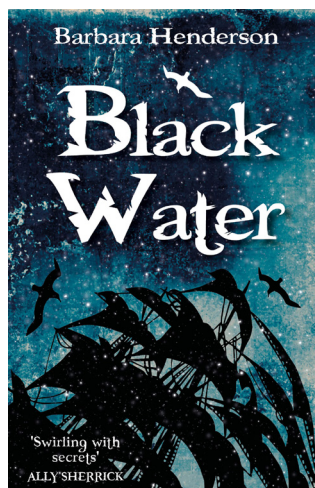
Extra! Extra!: Is Henry respectful of his elders? Explain your answer.

Reflect and Respond

Finlay speaks in Scots. When and where do you hear Scots spoken today?

In which situations is this normal? And in which situations would you speak more formally, like Henry?

Is one worth more than the other?



Chapter 2

Crawford's Mission

Connect 4



Old Finlay has done wrong in the eyes of the law. Have you ever been caught doing something you shouldn't have? How did you feel?

Or have you ever had to tell someone else that they were doing the wrong thing? Was that easy? Are rules ever wrong?

Explore Some More

'Finlay, open the door.' (p.11). This sentence is a **command**. Find and note examples of the **Four Sentence Types**:

Command:

Question: clue—ends with ?

Statement:

Exclamation: clue—ends with !

Reflect and Respond

Mary feels responsible for Old Finlay and tries to protect him.

Is there someone you feel protective of? How do you help them? Explain your answer.

Create Something Great

Using a pen, or quill and ink, create the letter from Mr Crawford to Henry's father in your best handwriting—or old lettering. Add a greeting and some more detail. You could use cream paper or make your own 'old paper' with a tea or coffee 'wash'. Let it dry first! Use pencil for your first draft.

Film Title:

Scene 1:

Scene 2:

Director:

Scene 3:

Description/Shot:

Action:

Dialogue:

FX & Props:

Description/Shot:

Action:

Dialogue:

FX & Props:

Description/Shot:

Action:

Dialogue:

FX & Props:

Read and Understand

- Why does 'the tide' being 'out' help the Excisemen?
- Make a list of new, unusual or effective words used in this chapter. Write the meaning beside each one.



Infer What's Not There

'The men are remonstrating with Crawford.' (p.23)

What does '*remonstrating*' mean, do you think? What clue(s) helped you to understand the meaning of the word? Use a dictionary to confirm your answer.

Read and Understand

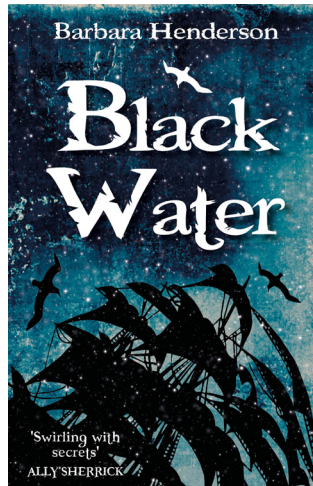
In your group, discuss and write a short and snappy summary of Chapter 3. Use the question headings *Who?*, *What?*, *Where?*, *When?**, and *Why?* to help you make notes under each one.

Challenge: now transform your notes into a proper paragraph.

Reflect and Respond

'Waving his flag high above his head, he advances, step by squelching step, towards the vessel...'

Some say Mr Crawford is '*mad*' to attempt to board the ship, others say '*he is no fool*', calling him a '*brave and devoted servant of the law*' instead. Who do you agree with? Would *you* board the ship?



Chapter 3

Musketry

Connect 4

GROUP CHAT

If someone came to your door and offered you some '*contraband*' such as a copy of a new film, cheap video games or a designer bag—would you be tempted to buy it?

Why? Why not?



Explore Some More

'But then – an almighty boom!' (p.23)

What is unusual about this sentence? (Is there something missing?)



Why do you think the author chose to express it this way?

Explore Some More

This chapter explains more about smuggling.

What items are smuggled? And why do ordinary people become involved in smuggling?

Give three reasons for your answer.

Create Something Great

This chapter is very dramatic and visual.

Using the template provided, create a simple storyboard for a film treatment, including a variety of different camera shots, ranging from wide and mid-shots to close ups.

Read and Understand

Summarise Chapter 4 using brief notes and bullet points.

Who?:

What?:

Where?*::

When?:

Why?:

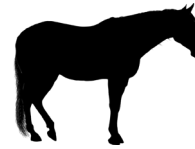
How?:



Infer What's Not There

Is it true that the surrounding farms can't offer them a bed for the night, food, or hay for their horses?

Why do you think they refuse to help?



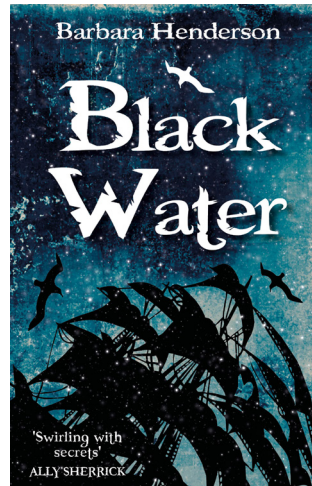
Infer What's Not There

'If there was anyone else to debate this with, he would not choose his son. But I am here beside him, so he tells me.' (p.30)

Are Henry and his Father close? Give reasons for your answer; include information from previous chapters if you like.

Reflect and Respond

- Robert Burns is introduced in this chapter. What did you know about him before?
- Is he what you expected him to be? Is he likeable or not? Give reasons for your answer.



Chapter 4

The Poet

Connect 4

GROUP CHAT

Henry stops to look at the poem Burns is writing and speaks to the poet when he should have followed his father without hesitation.

Do you think a child should always do as his or her parents/carers tell them?

Explore Some More

How does the Quartermaster feel about Robert Burns? Look at p.30. What does the word choice imply?



Explore Some More

Black Water uses some old-fashioned language to show that these events are set a long time ago.

Find the old-fashioned word that means 'over there' on page 32.

Note any other 'old' or unusual words and their meanings.

Create Something Great

In pairs, research and create a short quiz with ten questions about the real Robert Burns and try your quiz on another pair.

OR

Make a fact file about Robert Burns.

Does *Black Water* bring the poet to life for you, or do the facts do it better?

Read and Understand

- What does Mary tell the innkeeper?
- What items did the innkeeper and stable hands deliberately not give to Crawford and his team? Make a list.



Infer What's Not There

What must the innkeeper have done between speaking to Mary and the crew of the schooner attempting to '*sail her out of the Solway altogether*'?

Clue: '*I have no doubt how the smugglers knew...*' (p.43)

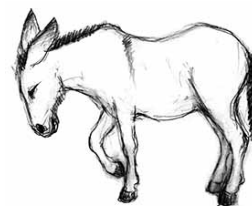
Read and Understand

Choose two words to describe Henry's father in this chapter and give reasons why.



Explore Some More

- Some capitalisation is used on page 47. Why? Does it make the scene more or less effective? Why?
- What type of technique/element of style is used when the quicksand is described as a '*sandy prison*' (p.47). Is this effective?



Chapter 5

A Great Deal of Trouble

Connect 4



Have you ever... ridden a horse? Or swum in the sea? Discuss your experiences.

OR

Do you think Henry was wise to run down to the quicksand to try and save his father?

Explore Some More

A word often has *connotations*, or additional meanings. What is implied by the following word choices:

'*scurries*' (p.41)

'*The truth trickles into my brain*' (p.41)

'*Father scoffs*' (p.46)

Reflect and Respond

When Henry rushes to his father's aid at the very end of the chapter, what motivates him to risk his life?

Is it an effective *cliffhanger*?

Does it make you want to read on? Why?

Create Something Great

What is Crawford's plan to board the ship?

Imagine you are Crawford. Draw a simple map/diagram illustrating the plan. Label it clearly. Include: quicksand, sand flats, horses, schooner, sea, and the main characters.

Read and Understand

- Henry is familiar with horses—how does he succeed in calming the terrified animal in this chapter?
- Why does Henry feel a *pang of jealousy*? (p.53) Explain in your own words.



Infer What's Not There

'You can take the aft' (p.53) What do you think *'aft'* means? Reading the context around it will give you some idea.

Use a dictionary to confirm your answer. Write the correct definition in your jotter.

Read and Understand

What new information do we learn about Henry's father in this chapter?

Clue: 'Without me... she wouldn't have been in such peril in the first place.' (p.50)

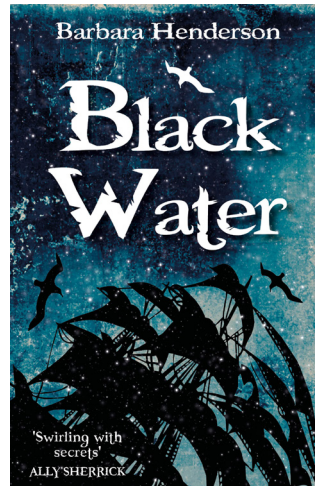
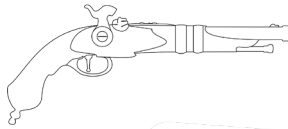
Are you surprised by his behaviour?



Connect 4

Do you think the adults are acting responsibly by allowing Henry, only thirteen, to be part of such a dangerous operation?

Should they have made him stay behind, even though he wanted to be part of it?



Chapter 6

With Pistol & Sword

Infer What's Not There

The novella is heading towards the final chapter. What do you think the outcome will be?

Who will survive? Will they catch the smugglers—or will they escape? How will the story end?



Explore Some More

Henry is surrounded by danger as the chapter draws to a close. Make a list of all the potential threats to his life and the dangers he faces.

Which one is Henry most afraid of and why?



Explore Some More

- 'The blade of icy water'* is a form of imagery. What kind of image (or element of style/technique) is it?
- What does it suggest about the cold water's effect on Henry?

Create Something Great

'A gaggle of boats' is used to describe the group of boats. The word *'gaggle'* is normally used to describe a group of geese. It is a *collective noun*.

Research, compile & illustrate your own list of favourite, fun or unusual *collective nouns* e.g. a school of fish, a wisdom of owls.

Read and Understand

Find five words in Chapter 7 which suggest that this operation is dangerous and risky.



Infer What's Not There

'I embellish the last line I have written a little as I answer, if I'm honest.' (p.60).

Why does Henry do this? What does it suggest about his attitude to the poet?

Explore Some More

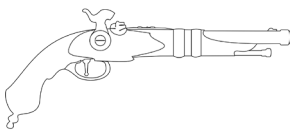
Describe the atmosphere at the beginning of this chapter.

How does the winter seaside setting contribute to this atmosphere?

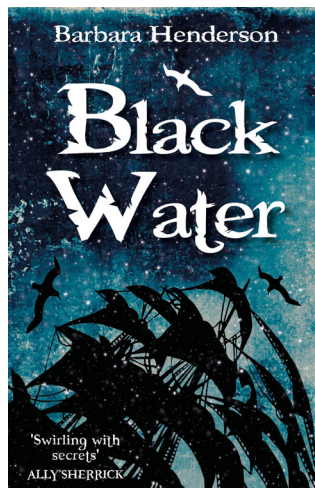
How does it make the reader feel?

Reflect and Respond

How effective is the ending of the book? In your opinion, is it a satisfying end to the tale?



Did you learn anything from it? Explain your thoughts.



Chapter 7 Of Quill & Ink

Connect 4



Henry wishes he could still go to school after turning 13, rather than having a job.

Which is better—having a real job at 13 or going to school to learn?

Could 13-year-olds today handle a job like Henry's?

Explore Some More

At the bottom of page 58, Henry's attitude to the smugglers has changed.

'I see them all in the distance...'—explain how the word choice here proves this.



Connect 4

Can you think of any other books or films that have a similar setting, description, or action like Black Water?



Create Something Great

Burns says: *'This is the life we have been given and we must make the best of it.'*

Make a list of 5 things you are grateful for or 5 ways you can make the most of your life this year. Decorate it and display it somewhere where you can see it often. Use Burns' quote at the top.