

Tuesday 2nd June 2020

WALT look at techniques to engage the reader.

Happy Tuesday!

So, yesterday we looked at how the blurb and a trailer can engage the reader. Today, we are going to start reading and continue looking at how the reader is engaged. I don't know about you, but I decide quite quickly whether or not I want to stay with a book and I really want to be gripped from the outset.

Now, some teachers have been recording themselves reading stories to their classes. I have gone one better and asked the wonderful Stephen Fry to read a bit for you...

Now, I only want you to listen to the **first** extract - we'll look at the second tomorrow.

Here is my good friend Stephen Fry... (honest!)

<https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zj74kmn>



He reads it so well doesn't he? And I love all the books he has around him.

Anyway, now scroll down to the first activity:

Extract 1

Look, I didn't want to be a half-blood. If you're reading this now because you think you might be one, my advice is: stop listening right now.

Believe whatever lie your mom or dad told you about your birth, and try to lead a normal life.

Being a half-blood is dangerous. It's scary. Most of the time, it gets you killed in painful, nasty ways.

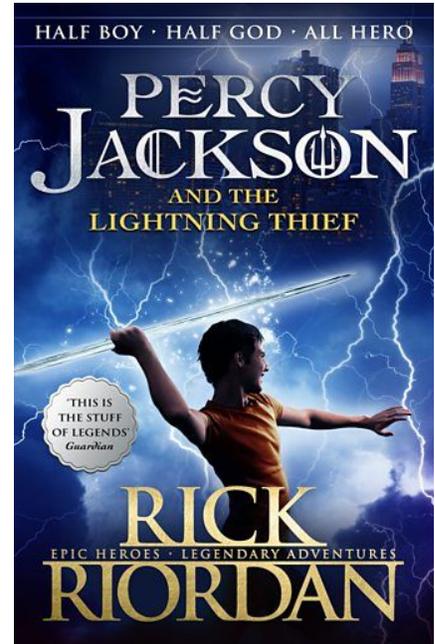
If you're a normal kid, reading this because you think it's fiction, great. Read on. I envy you for being able to believe that none of this ever happened.

But if you recognize yourself in these pages – if you feel something stirring inside – stop reading immediately. You might be one of us. And once you know that, it's only a matter of time before they sense it too, and they'll come for you.

Don't say I didn't warn you.

My name is Percy Jackson. I'm twelve years old. Until a few months ago, I was a boarding student at Yancy Academy, a private school for troubled kids in upstate New York.

Am I a troubled kid? Yeah. You could say that.



Activity 1

1. Read the first extract again.

How would you explain the writer's style of writing? Do you think that this style is an engaging opening for a book?

2. Copy the table and find an example of the following techniques that the writer uses to engage his readers.

Technique	Example
Directly talking to the reader	
Advice for the reader	
Example of humour	
Rhetorical question	

Finally, has the author made you want to read on?

What questions do you have?

E.g. *How did he become a half-blood?*

What danger is he in?

Why is he a troubled kid?

Why did he have to go to a special school for troubled kids?