

CLIFFHANGER SERIES

By David Harris

Dead Silence

Artwork

Look at the cover illustration on *Dead Silence*.

- a. How does it make you feel?
- b. What kind of story would you expect it to be?
- c. List three genres or writing styles and say what kinds of covers each one might have.
- d. Judging by the cover of *Dead Silence* who would you expect the readers to be?
- e. Are the colours important?

What if?

- a. List three 'What ifs' that drive the story.
- b. Write three amazing 'What ifs' from your own imagination? Turn the best one into a short story.

Characters

Every character is a mix of fear and courage, sense and silliness. The main character in this story, Rob, is nominated for an award. Write half a page on why you think

- a. he deserves the award
- b. he doesn't.

Fear

The main character must overcome his fears.

List three fears that you had when you were little, and 3 fears you have now. Then turn one of them into

- a. a funny story
- b. a scary story
- c. a newspaper article.

Courage

What, in your opinion, is courage?

Name two things that Rob does in the story that require courage.

Then write a paragraph about a time that you did something brave.

Relationships

Rob and Francesca have an unusual friendship. Write five lines about that friendship.

Give two other examples of unusual friendships, either in books or real life.

Suspense

Suspense is a strong element of adventure stories. How is suspense created in *Dead Silence*.

Humour

Were there any moments or scenes that you found humorous. Why?

Write your own adventure story

Think of a really boring sentence as bad as 'He sat down.' Then write it eleven lines down the page.

Write the ten lines up to it, filling them with suspense and drama, so the eleventh line is now a 'blast'.

List five dot points of other scenes that could happen in your adventure story, in any order.