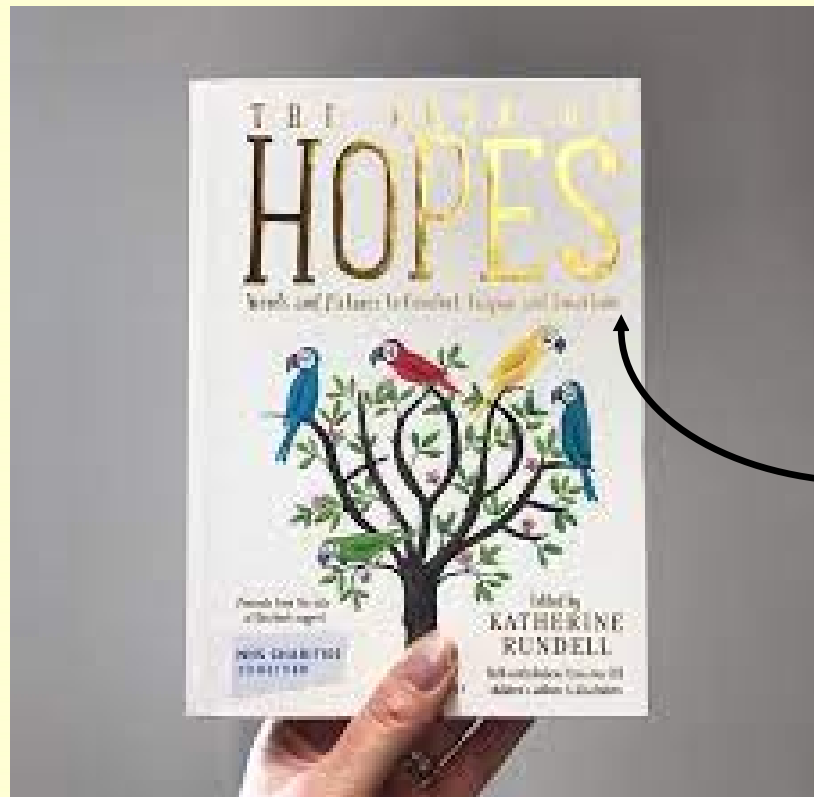


Wednesday 22nd April 2021

Reading - Murkaster

LO: To summarise a text



Murkaster - By Frank Cottrell-Boyce.

Taken from The Book of Hopes

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Read through the text for your third read.

Whilst reading - make bullet point notes on your whiteboard of the key events. You may work with your partner.

A B C D E F G H I J K L M N O P Q R S T U V W X Y Z

Using 20 words or fewer, summarise what you learn about Murkaster from this section.

You won't find Murkaster on a map. Maps show rivers, mountains and cities. They don't bother with clouds because clouds come and go.

Except in Murkaster.

The clouds came to Murkaster.

But they did not go away again.

They sat there on the roofs and in the squares and streets and gardens, until it was wiped off the map.

The world forgot Murkaster and Murkaster forgot the world.

If you were a Murkaster girl, like Sunny Hotspur for instance, you'd wear your hair in the Murkaster fashion – high and curly like your own personal cloud. You'd shop and chat using Murkaster's special app, which was called Gloom. You would not go out, not without a mask and snorkel, because inside a cloud it's wet, dull and endless. Once, Sunny asked her Mum, "My names Sunny – what does it even mean?"

Murkaster is a city which you will not find on any maps because it is covered in Cloud.

I
Do

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Using 20 words or fewer, summarise the elephants actions in this section.

You would have known right away that this was an elephant and that it was lifting her with its trunk. High into the damp air she rose until she was, yes, above the murk. The sky was blue. The distance was green. And sometimes blossom white. Above her head, streaks of yellow!

The elephant waved her around in the air. What was it doing? What did it want?

"You're lost!" yelled Sunny. "You're lost in the murk, like us. You want me to find a way out?" She could guide the elephant out of here and leave the murk forever. But what about everyone else? Could she leave them all behind?

While she thought, the elephant blew impatiently, and where it breathed, the murk grew thinner and light showed through. And when it breathed, it sounded like a trumpet. And another trumpet answered and another and another. There must be a dozen elephants lost in the murk.

Sunny swung the trunk this way and that, steering her elephant towards the nearest elephant, then leading the two to the next elephant and the next until she brought a dozen elephants together in the centre of the murk. "Now sing!" she cried. "Sing me a city."

We
Do

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Write a short blurb (summary) about this short story which will encourage someone else to read it.

You
Do



Example blurb to create curious readers.

Harry Potter has never even heard of Hogwarts when the letters start dropping on the doormat at number four, Privet Drive. Addressed in green ink on yellowish parchment with a purple seal, they are swiftly confiscated by his grisly aunt and uncle. Then, on Harry's eleventh birthday, a great beetle-eyed giant of a man called Rubeus Hagrid bursts in with some astonishing news: Harry Potter is a wizard, and he has a place at Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry. An incredible adventure is about to begin!

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