

Junior
Certificate
School
Programme

Stone Cold

By Robert Swindells

Student Workbook



AN ROINN
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AGUS SCILEANNA

DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
AND SKILLS



Professional Development
Service for Teachers

An tSeirbhís um Fhorbairt
Ghairmiúil do Mhúinteoirí



Junior
Certificate
School
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STONE COLD

STUDENT WORKBOOK

Stone Cold Workbook
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Stone Cold: Novel Questions

Link Section 1

1. What is the title of the novel?
2. Who is the author?
3. Where is Link at the beginning of the book?
4. Where was Link born?
5. Who does he blame for how he's ended up?
6. Describe Vince.
7. How did Link end up homeless?

Daily Routine Orders 1

1. How do we know someone different is speaking in this section?
2. What does he call himself?
3. Do you think this is his real name? Explain.

Link Section 2

1. *"I knew the streets weren't paved with gold."* What did Link mean by this statement?
2. What did Link dislike about being homeless in Bradford?
3. Link used to spend some nights at his sister's house. Why did he decide to move on?
4. Do you think this was a good decision? Explain.
5. What type of people might you face when living on the streets?

Daily Routine Orders 2

1. How does Shelter get used to his name?

Activities

We learn about characters by seeing things from their point of view.

- What impression do you get of Shelter so far? Give reasons for your answer.
- List three differences between Link and Shelter's sides of the story.
- **Dictionary work:** Look up the meaning of each of the following words: handsome, authentic, signature, precious, recruiting, stalling, indulging, anticipation. Put each one into a sentence to show their meanings.

Link Section 3

1. Why did Link not get any of the jobs that he applied for?
2. What was his Christmas present? Why was he unhappy about this?
3. What happened on Boxing Day that really upset Link?
4. Do you think Link has a supportive family? Explain your answer.
5. What does he decide to do on December 28th?

Daily Routine Orders 3

1. What do we learn about Shelter's previous job?
2. Why was he discharged from his position?
3. How old was he when this happened?
4. Is he happy about being discharged? Explain your answer.
5. *"I can't turn garbage into men anymore, but I can clean up the garbage, can't I?"* What do you think he means by this statement?

Link Section 4

1. What types of jobs had Link applied for?
2. Why did no one hire him?
3. Why was it the worst Christmas Link ever had?
4. How would you feel if you were Link at this time?
5. How well do Link and Vince get on?
6. *"And the worst thing was, nobody stuck up for me. Not even my sister."* What is your opinion of the way they treat Link?
7. If this was a film, what song would you play at this moment to create an atmosphere?
8. Write the conversation between Link and Carole as he leaves for good.

Daily Routine Orders 4

1. Why does Shelter get a cat?
2. What does he call the cat?
3. Shelter says he is now ready to start "recruiting". What do you think he means by this?

Activity

- Imagine what Shelter looks like. Draw a picture of this image.

Link Section 5

1. What mistakes did Link make when he first arrived in London?
2. How did he find somewhere to live?
3. What happened when Link went to the Job Centre/Careers Office?
4. Why did he begin to feel nervous?
5. How would you feel in Link's position?

Activity

- Imagine you are Link. Write a covering letter and curriculum vitae for a job application.

Daily Routine Orders 5

1. Describe the night when Shelter finds his first recruit.
2. How does he persuade the homeless man to go with him?
3. What kind of man is Shelter? Explain.
4. "There's one less dosser to clutter up the place." What do you think Shelter means by this?

Activity

- **Dictionary work:** Look up the meaning of each of the following words: perished, tatty, suspicious, hostile, preparation, sodden, misery, clutter. Put each one into a sentence of your own to show their meanings.

Link Section 6

1. In what areas of London did Link look for work?
2. How did Link save money during this time?
3. How does Link's landlord treat him?
4. How does Link feel as this section ends?

Daily Routine Orders 6

1. What excuse does Shelter give for killing people?
2. How does Shelter view himself?
3. Why does he think he won't be caught?

Link Section 7

1. How was Link feeling as he sat in the doorway after being evicted from his flat?
2. What, according to Link, are the “setbacks” of being homeless?
3. “*I felt terrific-streetwise and tough.*” What makes Link feel like this?
4. What happens when Link returns to his doorway?
5. Why is Link’s watch so important to him? How do you think he feels after he loses it?

Activity

- Pretend you are Link. Write a diary entry about how you are feeling and what you are worried about.

Daily Routine Orders 7

1. Describe the “trap” that serial killers fall into, according to Shelter.
2. How does Shelter plan to avoid this trap?
3. Describe Shelter’s next victim. How does he get her to go home with him?
4. What type of person do you think Shelter is?

Link Section 8

1. Why did Link not tell Ginger his real name?
2. Why do you think he gives Ginger his Snicker bar?
3. “*Folks like us, we’ve got to look after number one.*” What do you think Ginger means by this statement?
4. What does Ginger do to make money?
5. What is a “solecridulist” according to Ginger?
6. How does Link ease his conscience for eating in Church?
7. What type of person do you think Ginger is?
8. Do you think it’s a good thing that Link met Ginger? Explain your answer.

Activity

- Imagine you are Ginger. Write in your diary about your time with Link so far.

Daily Routine Orders 8

1. “*It has happened again.*” What has happened that upset Shelter so much?
2. Shelter says he never forgets a face. What do you think he has planned if he meets the two boys again?

Link Section 9

1. Does Link have much success with his begging at first? Why do you think this is?
2. How do you think Link is feeling as he stands outside the National Gallery begging?
3. How much does he collect? Do you think this is a good amount?
4. Why does Link buy cigarettes for Ginger?
5. Describe a typical night for a homeless person.
6. What, in your opinion, is the worst thing about being homeless?
7. What happens when Link returns to the DSS?
8. What type of friendship do you think Link and Ginger have? Do you think it's a good idea that they spend their time together? Explain.

Activity

- **Research:** Find out about groups that help homeless people. List three interesting facts about the work they do.

Daily Routine Orders 9

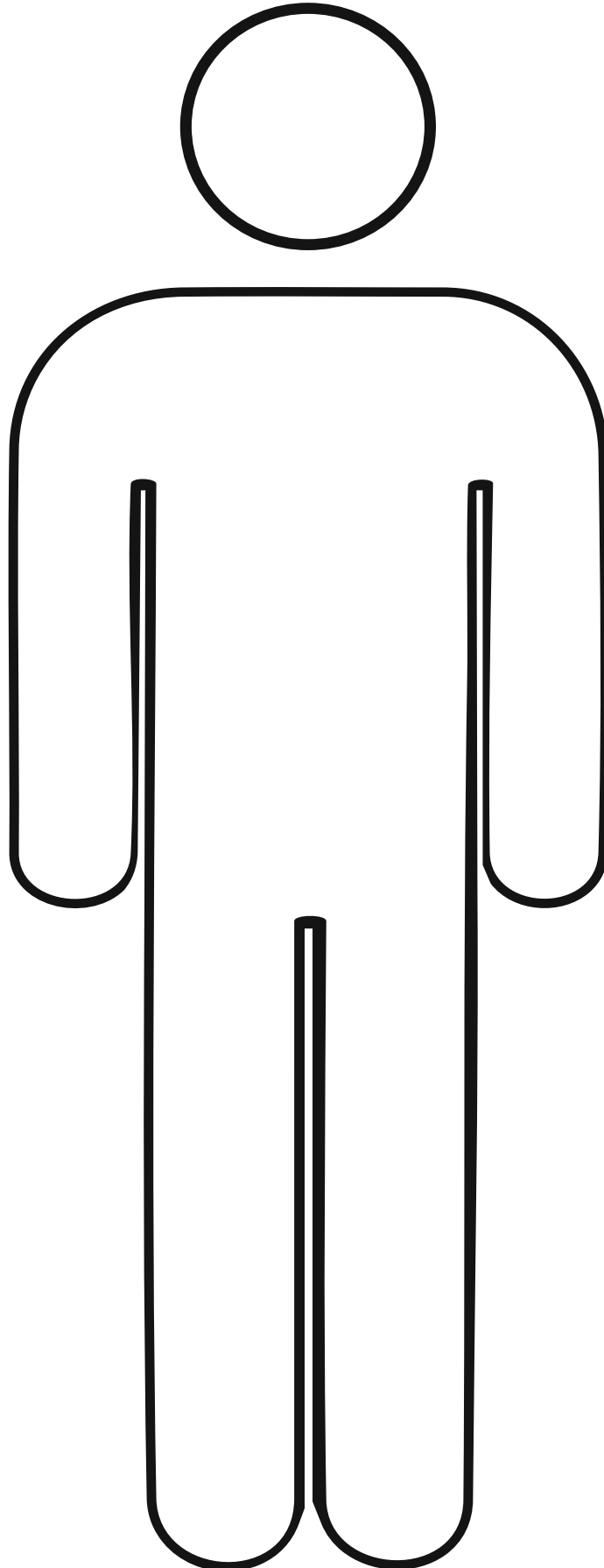
1. How many recruits does Shelter have now? What does that make him in the eyes of the law?
2. How does he have the bodies arranged?
3. Describe how he finds his third "recruit" and persuades him to go home with him.
4. What is the homeless man's opinion of the army? How do you think Shelter feels when he hears it?
5. How does he manage to kill his third victim? What does he do to make him look more like the other victims?

Activity

- **Roll on the wall:** Pretend this outline is Shelter. Write everything he is feeling inside the outline. Write everything that is going on in his life outside the outline.

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Link Section 10

1. Describe Captain Hook's business idea. Do you think it's a good one? Why?
2. How much is it to spend the night there? How do Link and Ginger afford it?
3. Why does nobody care that Captain Hook does not obey the Health and Safety regulations?
4. Do you think the boat sounds like a nice place to stay? Explain your answer.
5. Link is able to sleep peacefully on the boat. Why do you think this is?
6. What upsets Ginger about Camden Lock market?
7. Why do Link and Ginger hang around there?
8. How is Link feeling as Ginger talks to his acquaintances in the cafe? Why do you think this is?
9. How did "*Doggy Bag*" get his name?
10. Why is Link close to tears as he thinks about Doggy Bag?

Daily Routine Orders 10

1. Why is Shelter feeling very happy with himself?
2. What two things is he hoping for?
3. What has Shelter observed about his "enemy"?
4. What is his plan to get at the boys?

Link Section 11

1. Why did Link nearly go back to Vince? What do you think stopped him?
2. What keeps Link and Ginger alive until January?
3. Why has Link not been attending job interviews during this time?
4. Why did Ginger go to Holborn? Why do you think he doesn't invite Link?
5. How does Link spend the day? What happens when he sits down to wait for Ginger?
6. What do you think has happened to Ginger?

Activity

- Design the missing poster for Ginger.

Daily Routine Orders 11

1. “*Laughing Boy One. That was the code name of the exercise.*” What exercise is Shelter referring to?
2. What intelligence work did Shelter do?
3. Describe how Shelter persuades Ginger to go with him.
4. What happens when they get back to Shelter’s flat?
5. How do you think Link will feel when he discovers what has happened to Ginger?

Activity

- **Speaking and Listening:** Turn to the person beside you and discuss how you feel about what has happened to Ginger. Are you shocked? In pairs brainstorm how you are feeling at this moment.

Link Section 12

1. What does Link think has happened to Ginger?
2. How does Link describe Ginger?
3. What advice does Toya give Link? Does he take this advice?
4. “*I was halfway down the mug when she walked in.*” Who is Link talking about? How does he describe her?
5. Why is Link trying to act “cool” around this girl?
6. Where is Gail from? Why is she homeless?
7. Why does Link decide to stay with her?
8. Do you think he makes the right decision? Explain.

Activity

- Imagine you are Link. Write out a list of instructions for a newcomer to the streets like Gail.

Daily Routine Orders 12

1. What mistake does Shelter make?
2. What name has he given his army?
3. Why does he need to “devise fresh tactics”?

Link Section 13

1. What normal everyday experiences do you miss out on if you are homeless?
2. What is the hardest thing about being homeless if you are a guy?
3. "I should've pushed a bit harder but I was well in love by this time and you don't, do you?" What do you think Link means by this?
4. What was Gail very curious about?
5. Describe Link and Gail's first day together.
6. Do you think it is a good thing that Link has met Gail?
7. Why does Link feel panic on Sunday?
8. Where has Gail been?
9. Why does Link no longer feel the cold?

Activity

- Write the phone conversation between Gail and her sister in dialogue form.

Daily Routine orders 13

1. How many recruits does Shelter now have?
2. Why does he feel seven is a significant number?
3. How has he ensured that there is no pattern to his murders?

Link Section 14

1. What were the drawbacks for Link of being with Gail?
2. Why does Link feel his job interviews were unsuccessful?
3. What do you think has happened to Toya?
4. Why do you think Link and Gail both feel close to tears after speaking to Toya's dad?

Activity

- *Imagine you are Toya's dad. Write about your search for your daughter so far.*

Daily Routine Orders 14

1. Who do you think rang Shelter's bell?
2. What is Shelter's golden rule? Why do you think he follows this rule?
3. What are Shelter's instincts telling him?

Link Section 15

1. Who is Nick?
2. What important information does he tell Link?
3. What plan do Nick and Link decide on to deal with what is happening?
4. How does Gail react to the discussion between Nick and Link?
5. What makes Link decide to go the police after all?
6. How does the Sergeant react to what Link tells him? Do you think this is a normal reaction? Explain your answer.

Activity

- Write a paragraph on the character of Gail.

Daily Routine Orders 15

1. What happened when the police called to Shelter's door?
2. What excuse did he give for having homeless people in this flat?
3. Shelter is laughing at the police. Why do you think this is?

Activity

- Imagine you are the policeman/woman that knocked on Shelter's door. Write your version of what happened.

Link Section 16

1. Why do you think Link feels uneasy when he thinks about Gail? What is bothering him about her?
2. Describe the front of Shelter's house.
3. What do they observe Shelter do on Sunday morning?
4. How is Link fooled by Shelter's cat?
5. Why do Link and Gail have a fight?
6. How does Shelter persuade Link to go into his flat?
7. At first Link feels safe inside Shelter's flat. Why does this suddenly change?
8. What does Shelter decide to show Link? How do you think he feels when he looks inside the hole?
9. How is Link's life saved?
10. What does Link discover about Gail? How do you think he feels after he learns the truth?

Activities

- Write the newspaper article Gail does on homelessness. Choose a headline and write a report answering the following questions:

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What happened?	
Who was involved?	
When did it happen?	
Where did it happen?	
Why did it happen?	

- Write the television report covering Shelter's capture.
- Write the last chapter from Shelter's point of view.

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Reflections on the ending of the novel

Write about the ending of the novel *Stone Cold*. You should mention the following points.

- What happens in the end?
- Were you surprised by the ending? Why/why not?
- How has Link changed as a character from the beginning to the end of the novel?
- Did you like/dislike the ending? Explain your answer.
- If you could change anything about the ending of the novel, what would it be?
- If you were writing the next chapter, what would happen next?
- Is there a hero in this story? If so what makes him/her a hero?
- Is Shelter a typical villain? Explain your answer.

***Stone Cold*: Exam Preparation Questions**

1. Discuss an interesting character from the novel '*Stone Cold*'.
2. Write about the relationship between two characters in the story. How do they treat each other in the story?
3. Describe a sad or worrying event that happens in the story. Explain how well the writer describes this sadness or worry.
4. What is the most exciting part of the novel? How did the writer make that part of the story exciting?
5. Describe in detail the beginning of the novel. You may refer to where it is set, any incidents that happen, characters, etc. Do you think it was a good beginning? Why/why not?
6. Discuss a friendship that develops or fails between two people in the novel. Why do you think this friendship develops or fails?
7. Describe your favourite moment in the novel and say why it is your favourite.
8. Who is your favourite character in the novel? Explain why he/she is your favourite.
9. If you were making a film of this story, what actors would you choose to play the main characters? Give reasons for your answer.
10. In this novel you get to see things from two different characters' points of view. How does this affect the story?

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Some Interesting quotes. What do these quotes tell you about the characters?

Link

“ I was happy I guess right then. I had a friend.”

“I should’ve realised it was being with Ging that was making things easy for me.”

“Don’t let anybody close. Don’t depend on anyone ‘cause they’ll only let you down.”

“I found myself standing in a haze of blue smoke, watching her exit my life.”

Shelter

“ And that was my mission in life-to turn dirty, scruffy, pimply youths into soldiers.”

“There’s always tomorrow. Unless you’re Ginger, I mean.”

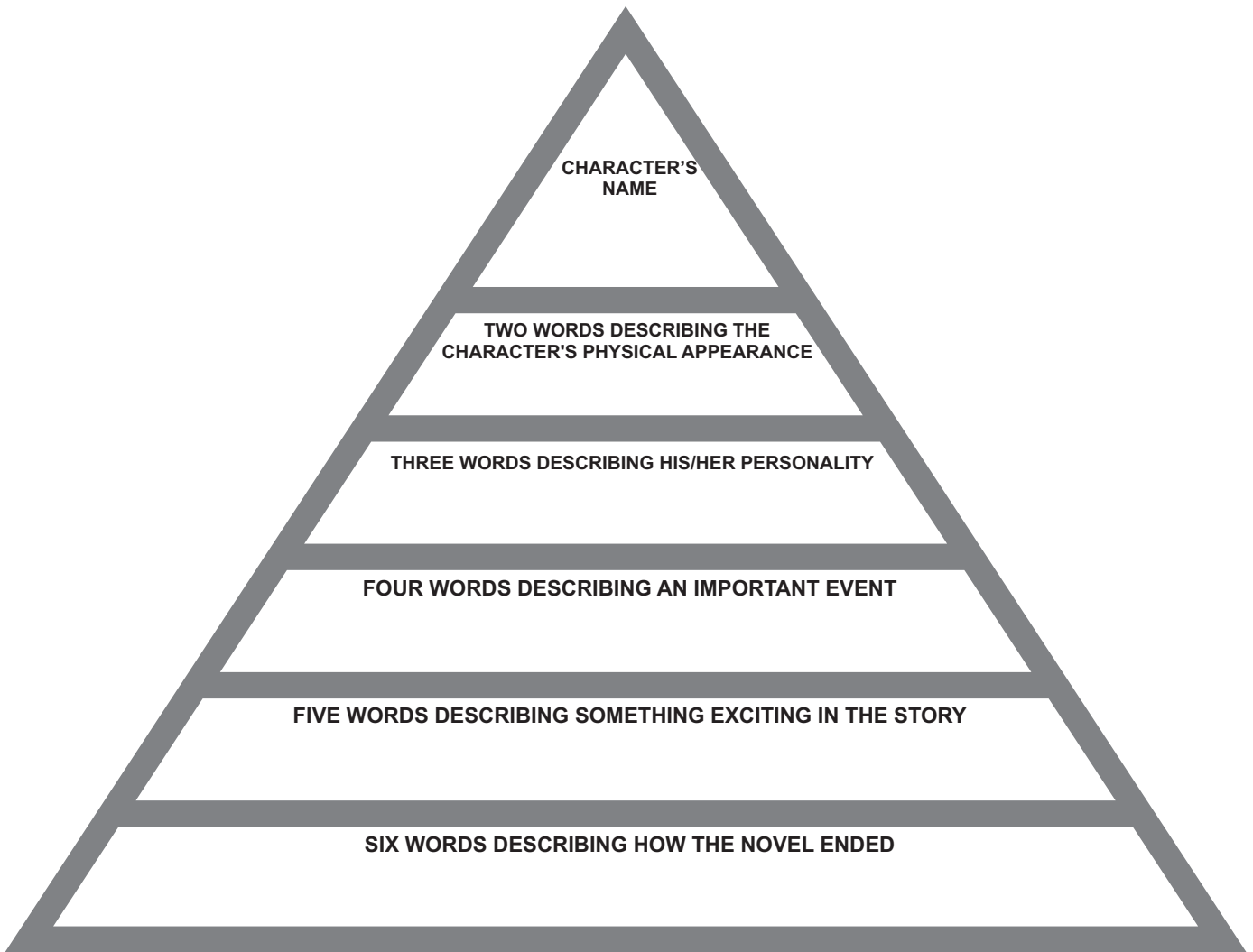
Cross Curricular Activities

1. Do you know of any organisations that work with the homeless community in Ireland? Pick one of these organisations and find out what they do.
2. People often use music to describe how they feel in certain situations. What songs would you choose for Link at different stages of this novel?

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Story Pyramid



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3-2-1

From your reading of the novel, fill in the worksheet below.

3	Things I found out
2	Interesting things
1	Question I still have

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Stone Cold Wordsearch

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

BEGGING
BETRAYAL
DANGER
GINGER
HOMELESS
HUNGER
INTERVIEW
LINK
LONDON
LONELY
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