

Junior
Certificate
School
Programme



Stray

By David Belbin

Student Workbook



AN ROINN
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AGUS SCILEANNA

DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION
AND SKILLS

PDST
Professional Development
Service for Teachers

An tSeirbhís um Fhorbairt
Ghairmiúil do Mhúinteoirí



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Stray STUDENT WORKBOOK

Stray Workbook

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Prologue

1. Name two things the girls threw around in the shop.

2. Who was the leader of the girls?

3. Who was standing outside the shop looking in?

4. What did Simone throw to Stacey?

5. Name the other two girls who were in the gang.

6. How long had those girls been in the gang for?

7. How did the shopkeeper look when the girls ran off?

8. Why do you think the boy didn't want to be a witness?

9. Read the blurb again. What do you think the boy in the shop is called?

10. After reading the blurb and the first chapter what do you think Kev has to save Stray from?

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Activity: Dictionary Work – Book Key Words

Look up these key words in your dictionary and write in the definition opposite the word.

Word	Definition
Author	
Blurb	
Chapter	
Contents	
Epilogue	
Prologue	
Title	

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Chapter One

1. How long had it been since Kev had seen Stacey?
2. In what way was Stacey like Kev?
3. Describe Stacey's hair.
4. Who did Kev have to talk with to find Stacey?
5. Where did Simone hang out every lunch time?
6. What did Kev want to find out about Stacey?
7. What did Kev want Simone to give to Stacey?
8. Do you think that Simone is a nice person? Why?

9. Look for the words in chapter one that mean the following:

Cared for by another family

Made fun of

Cigarette

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Activity: Write out the conversation that might take place between Simone and Karla after Kev has walked away.

Simone	
Karla	

Chapter Two

1. What year was Kev in?
2. What did Kev have to worry about apart from girls?
3. Who did Kev think about all the time?
4. Where did Simone ask Kev to go to that night?
5. What did Simone give Kev?
6. What did half the estate use that Kev didn't?
7. What did Simone say to Kev when he got back to the pub?
8. When did Simone tell Kev she'd give him Stacey's number?
9. Do you think Simone will keep her promise?

Explain your answer:

10. Write out these sentences from the chapter putting in capital letters and full stops.

it was only a crush, i told myself

i'd do anything to get close to Stacey

i left

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Activity: Anticipating what will happen.

As we read each chapter we often wonder about what will happen. After reading this chapter make a list of some of the things you wonder about. You will be able to find out the answers to your questions as you read through the novel.

I wonder if...	What happened
I wonder if Kev will deliver the package	
I wonder if...	

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Chapter Four

1. Who says '*Aim for the best*'
2. Why was Simone the only way Kev could get to Stray?
3. Who rings Kev?
4. What did the girls on the wall tell Kev about Stray?
5. What does Simone want Kev to do?
6. Where did Kev go after he made the drops?
7. Who is waiting for Kev?
8. What did Kev tell Lucy?
9. "*Everyone does stupid things when they're young.*" Do you agree with this? Explain your answer.

10. Kev could get into a lot of trouble for delivering the packages but he's willing to take a chance just to see Stray. Would you risk getting into trouble just to see someone you like? Explain your answer.

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Chapter Five

1. How did Stray's voice sound on the phone?
2. When did Stray's ASBO run out?
3. When did Stray want to meet Kev?
4. What did Stray want Kev to do?
5. Where did Stray want to meet Chris?
6. What did Stray want Kev to wear? Why?
7. Why could Kev not call Stray back?
8. What did Kev hope that Stray would do to him again?
9. Do you think that Kev will do whatever Stacey wants him to do? Explain your answer.

10. Do you think Stacey feels the same way about Kev as he does about her? Explain your answer.

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Chapter Six

1. What were the four girls doing when Kev arrived?
2. Simone's gang have a plan. What job does Simone give Kev?
3. What would Tracy and Karla do while Stray was distracting the shop owner?
4. Where would Kev have to cycle to?
5. Why did Kev not like the plan?
6. How did Kev say he felt about Stray?
7. Who was on the getaway bike instead of Kev?
8. How did Kev feel when Stray asked him to bring the bag to Martin?
9. "*I didn't want to hold her. I only wanted to save her.*" What do you think Kev wanted to save Stray from? Explain your answer.

10. Kev thinks that Martin has given Stray drugs. What effect would this have on her? Why would he do this? Explain your answer.

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Activity: Prediction.

Before you read the last chapter write out how you think the book will end for Stacey, Kev and Simone.

Will Stacey leave the gang?

Will Kev end up going out with Stacey?

Will Simone get caught by the police for robbing the shop...?

Kev	
Simone	
Stacey	

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Chapter Seven

1. What did Kev do when he saw the police car?
2. Who did Kev say dropped the bag?
3. What did the police ask Kev to do?
4. Why did Kev point the police towards Crow Lane?
5. Why did Stray call around to Kev's house on his birthday?
6. What did Stray say Martin would do to her?
7. What did Kev ask Stray to do?
8. What kind of look did Stray give Kev?
9. Do you think Stray cared about Kev? Explain your answer.

10. Do you think Kev still feels the same way about Stray? Explain your answer.

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Activity: Different points of view.

Kev wants Stray to forget about Martin and stay with him.
However Stray decides to return to Martin.

In the first part of this exercise pretend that you are Kev and write down the reasons why Stray should be with you.

In the second part of this exercise pretend that you are Stray and explain why you decided to go back to Martin.

Kev:

Stray:

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Epilogue

1. When had Kev last seen Stray?
2. Who was Kev going out with now?
3. What kind of job did Simone have?
4. What could Stray have been if she'd played her cards right?
5. Where did Simone say Stray might now be?
6. What was Simone's boyfriend called?
7. What did Karen think of Simone?
8. Without looking back or using a dictionary, write out the definition of the word 'Epilogue'.
9. Simone said that the rest of her old group of friends were holding her back. Do you agree with her?
Explain your answer.

10. Kev said that Stray always chose the wrong friends. What did he mean by this? Do you think he was trying to annoy Simone by saying this? Explain your answer.

Story Pyramid

A story pyramid can help you summarise the important events in a novel using a few words. Try putting suitable words into the spaces below.

1. _____
Main character's name

2. _____
Two words describing the main character

3. _____
Three words describing the setting or place

4. _____
Four words describing an important event

5. _____
Five words describing another important event

6. _____
Six words describing how the novel ended

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3 – 2 – 1

Based on your reading of the novel fill in the 3 – 2 – 1 worksheet with the following information:

- Three things you found out
- Two interesting things you noticed
- One question you still have

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

Reflections on the novel

These questions will help you to think about the novel, its characters and themes.

1) Describe briefly any ONE of the following –

A person you liked

OR

A person you did not like

Say why you liked or disliked this person.

2) Choose an important event in this novel.

(i) Describe what happens during this event.

(ii) Why do you think this event is important?

Explain your answer with reference to the novel.

3) This novel presents the characters with important decisions which could change their lives.

(i) Describe one event in which a character has to make an important decision.

(ii) Explain why you think the character made this decision.

4) Would you recommend this novel to other people of your own age?

Explain why or why not.

5) Give the title of this novel and the name of the author.

Briefly tell the story.

Did you enjoy this novel? Explain why or why not.

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Activity: Dictionary Work – Book Key Words - Revision

Without using your dictionary or looking back in your workbook, write out the definitions for these words.

Use the dictionary to correct your work.

Word

Definition

Author	
Blurb	
Chapter	
Contents	
Epilogue	
Prologue	
Title	

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Activity: The 'Five Ws'

Imagine you are writing a newspaper article about the robbery of the Jeweller's. Before you write it you will have to answer five questions: Who? What? Where? When? Why? Use what you have learned from reading the novel to answer these questions.

Who?	
What?	
Where?	
When?	
Why?	

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Activity: Making connections

Sometimes when we read something it reminds us of something similar that happened to us and how we felt. This can help us understand what we have read. Use the chart below to write about three connections you made while reading the book so far. Then show how the connections you made helped you understand what you read.

Page	How this is connected to something I have read, heard about or that happened to me	How making this connection helped me to understand what I was reading

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Making a choice

“I didn’t use drugs, but half the estate did. “Live and let live” would have been my motto. I’d do anything to get close to Stacey. So I cycled to the block of flats.”

Kev decided to deliver a package which probably contained drugs, just to get a chance to see Stacey.

Write down three bad things that could have happened to Kev because he decided to deliver the package.

1) _____

2) _____

3) _____

Having looked at the bad things that could have happened to Kev, do you think that he made the right decision?

Explain your answer:

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Drugs

“She took off the cap and her long hair fell down. There was no panic in her dull eyes. What drugs did Martin have her on?”

Drugs can ruin people’s lives. As well as that it causes a lot of hurt to the people who love them to see them like this. People who use drugs often get into trouble as they need to find money to pay for the drugs because they are addicted. This may be why Stray is robbing the jewellery shop for Martin.

Use your library and the internet to find information on how drugs can ruin people’s lives.

Pretend that you are a good friend of Stacey and that you are talking to her BEFORE she started to take drugs. Write down at least four reasons why she should never take drugs. You can use examples from this book and information you find in your library or on the internet.

Hi Stacey, I just wanted to talk to you about drugs as I’m worried that you might start taking them. You must never use drugs.....

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Stacey, Stay and Stray

In this book one of the characters has three different names.

Her real name is Stacey.

Simone calls her Stay.

Kev ends up calling her Stray because ...

"It sounds like you. You've got a kind of lost look. Even in a gang you're on your own."

Stacey nodded. "I like that. Yeah, you call me 'Stray', Kev. Now I have to go see Simone."

Do you think that the author named the book and the girl who gets lost in a world of drugs and crime *Stray* on purpose? Explain your answer.

Imagine that you have entered a blurb competition. Your job is to write a blurb for a book called 'Lost'. The person who writes the best blurb will have a book written by David Belbin based on their work. You must write five lines and include the name of at least one character.

It could be about a person who gets lost in the woods, it could be about someone who loses his or her money, or it could be about a person like Kev who loses the person he loves to drugs.

Think about ALL meanings of the word lost.
