Talking about books

VOCABULARY PRACTICE
INTERMEDIATE | B1-B2

Name: _____ Date: _____

1 Tick the correct category for each book word.

Word | Story element | Quality | Person | Reading experience

1 protagonist [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
2 cliffhanger [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
3 unputdownable [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
4 narrator [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
5 subplot [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
6 immersive [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
7 predictable [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]
8 twist [ ] [ ] [ ] [ ]

2 Correct the mistake in each sentence.

1 The protagonist of book is likeable. _____
2 The chapter ended on a cliffhanger moment. _____
3 This story is very unputdownable read. _____
4 The narrator tell the story from her view. _____
5 There is an interesting subplot in book. _____
6 The world-building was very immersion. _____
7 The ending was too much predictable. _____
8 The plot twist surprised to everyone. _____

3 Choose the more suitable description.

1 For the main character of a story: protagonist / minor character.
2 For a chapter ending that leaves you wanting more: cliffhanger / resolution.
3 For a book so good you can't stop reading: unputdownable / forgettable.
4 For a story easy to guess the ending of: predictable / surprising.
5 For an unexpected turn in the plot: twist / routine event.
6 For a secondary storyline within a novel: subplot / main plot.

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4 Complete the reviews with words from the box.

cliffhanger | immersive | narrator | predictable | protagonist | subplot | twist | unputdownable

Review A: The 1 _____ is a young journalist investigating a crime, and the story was so 2 _____ that I finished it in a single weekend.
Review B: Every chapter ended with a 3 _____, making it hard to stop reading. There's also a fascinating 4 _____ involving the character's estranged sister.
Review C: The 5 _____ tells the story in first person, creating a genuinely 6 _____ reading experience.
Review D: Unfortunately, the final 7 _____ felt somewhat 8 _____, as I guessed the outcome halfway through.

5 Read the text and answer the questions briefly.

Why we love a good twist

Plot twists remain one of the most powerful tools in storytelling, capable of transforming a reader's entire understanding of a book in a single sentence. A well-executed twist relies on careful groundwork: subtle clues planted earlier in the narrative that only make sense in hindsight. Poorly handled twists, by contrast, can feel unearned, undermining a reader's trust in the narrator or the story's internal logic. Some authors deliberately use an unreliable narrator to heighten this effect, letting readers discover gradually that events were not quite as they first appeared. When done well, this technique can turn an already gripping book into a genuinely unputdownable one.

1 What are plot twists capable of doing? _____
2 What does a well-executed twist rely on? _____
3 What can poorly handled twists undermine? _____
4 What technique do some authors deliberately use to heighten the effect? _____
5 What do readers discover gradually with an unreliable narrator? _____
6 What can this technique turn a gripping book into? _____

6 Rewrite each phrase using the word in capitals.

1 The main character was very likeable. PROTAGONIST _____
2 The chapter ended in a very tense, unresolved way. CLIFFHANGER _____
3 The ending was easy to guess. PREDICTABLE _____
4 I couldn't put the book down. UNPUTDOWNABLE _____

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OVER TO YOU

Write a 100-120 word review of a book (real or imaginary), covering the plot, main character and your overall opinion.

[ ] Use at least ten target expressions. [ ] Include polite, precise wording. [ ] Organise the review clearly.

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ANSWER KEY

1 Categories

1 Person 2 Story element 3 Quality 4 Person 5 Story element 6 Quality 7 Quality 8 Story element

2 Corrections

1 protagonist of the book 2 ended on a cliffhanger 3 a very unputdownable read
4 tells the story from her point of view 5 an interesting subplot in the book
6 very immersive 7 too predictable 8 surprised everyone

3 Suitable descriptions

1 protagonist 2 cliffhanger 3 unputdownable 4 predictable 5 twist 6 subplot

4 Reviews

1 protagonist 2 immersive 3 cliffhanger 4 subplot 5 narrator 6 immersive 7 twist 8 predictable

5 Reading - suggested answers

1 Transform a reader's entire understanding of a book in a single sentence.
2 Careful groundwork: subtle clues planted earlier in the narrative.
3 A reader's trust in the narrator or the story's internal logic.
4 An unreliable narrator.
5 That events were not quite as they first appeared.
6 A genuinely unputdownable one.

6 Rewriting - possible answers

1 The protagonist was very likeable. 2 The chapter ended on a cliffhanger.
3 The ending was predictable. 4 The book was unputdownable.

Over to you

Answers will vary. Check range, respectful register and clear organisation.