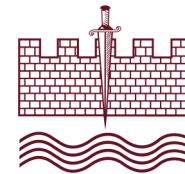


Half term 5 & 6

Two Can Keep a Secret

Key Stage 3: Year 9

Knowledge Organiser



WHAT IS TWO CAN KEEP A SECRET?

A young adult novel by Karen M. McManus (the bestselling author of *One Of Us Is Lying*).

A perfect town is hiding secrets. Secrets that somebody would kill to keep hidden.

Ellery's never been to Echo Ridge, but she's heard all about it—a small town that keeps losing its homecoming queens. Two murders, still unsolved. As Ellery and Malcolm race to unravel what happened, they realise every secret has layers in Echo Ridge.

ABOUT THE AUTHOR:

Karen M. McManus is an American author of young adult fiction. She is most known for her first novel, *One of Us Is Lying*, which spent more than 130 weeks on the New York Times bestseller list. It received a starred review from Publishers Weekly.

OTHER BOOKS BY THE SAME AUTHOR:

- One Of Us Is Lying
- One Of Us Is Next
- The Cousins
- Nothing More To Tell

EXAM SKILLS:

- AO1: Read, understand and respond to texts using textual references. Identify and interpret explicit and implicit information and ideas.
- AO2: Use PEEL to analyse how the writers use language and structure techniques to achieve effects and influence readers
- AO3: Show understanding of the relationships between texts and the contexts in which they were written
- AO5: Respond creatively, effectively and imaginatively. Adapt tone, style and register for different forms, purposes and audiences.

"Or maybe we're finally figuring out that we haven't been normal for years and it's time to redefine the word." - Karen M. McManus

SUCCESS CRITERIA:

1. Identify techniques and analyse language, form and structure.
2. Understand and comment on the writer's intentions.
3. Understand and evaluate the reader's response.
4. Understand and evaluate the effects and significance of context (audience, social, historical, cultural).
6. Be able to explore a text independently and interpret and evaluate the ideas.
7. Use precise evidence to support ideas.
8. Analyse multiple meanings/interpretations where possible.
9. Use material to create own creative responses

KEY CHARACTERS

The Hadley Family (Crosses):

Ellery—some of the novel is told from her perspective. She moves to Echo Ridge to live with her nana, she becomes involved with solving the local mysteries

Ezra—Ellery's twin

Sadie—their mother who grew up in Echo Ridge and is currently in rehab (Sarah's sister)

Lacey Kilduff/Sarah—two past homecoming queens to have gone missing

Jason Bowman—a victim of a hit and run accident

Officer Ryan Rodriguez—the town's police officer

Malcom—another protagonist, helps Ellery

Declan—Malcom's brother, lives out of town because the town think he's guilty

Katrin Nilsson—A popular girl at school and Malcom's step sister. Her father (Peter) owns the town's law firm

Brooke Bennett—Katrin's best friend

KEY TERMS

Thriller novel—a genre of fiction including crime, horror or detective elements. Thrillers are characterized and defined by the moods they elicit, giving their audiences heightened feelings of suspense, excitement, surprise or anticipation

Murder mystery—a narrative about a murder/mystery and how the murderer is discovered