

Year 7: “Coraline” knowledge organiser

Key vocabulary	Contextual information	Characters
<p>Beldam - a Middle English word meaning ‘grandmother’, ‘ugly old woman’, ‘hag’, or ‘witch’.</p> <p>Distorted – pulled or twisted out of shape. Giving a misleading or false impression of something. A misrepresentation.</p> <p>Abandonment – having been deserted or left.</p> <p>Neglect – to fail to care for something properly. The state of being uncared for.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coraline is a dark fantasy novel, written in 2002 and adapted for film in 2009. It was written by Neil Gaiman, a writer for adults and children. • It went on to win the British Science Fiction Award, the Hugo, the Nebula, the Bram Stoker, and the American Elizabeth Burr/Worzalla award. • Coraline alludes to lots of other books outside the gothic genre, such as Alice in Wonderland: Through the Looking Glass and The Chronicles of Narnia. • Neil Gaiman lists Shelley as one of his heroes, stating that Frankenstein is, ‘The glittering promise of science, offering life and miracles, and the nameless creature in the shadows, monster and miracle all in one, back from the dead, needing knowledge and love but able, in the end, only to destroy ...’ 	<p>Coraline - Curious, intelligent, resourceful, and courageous. Coraline is often irritated by rain, crazy grown-ups, and not being taken seriously because of her young age.</p> <p>Miss Spink and Miss Forcible: A pair of retired actresses who live in a flat under Coraline’s new home. They read Corlaine’s fortune in tea leaves and give her a stone with a hole in to protect her after seeing that she is in danger.</p> <p>Mrs Jones: Coraline’s mother. Very busy and although she loves and cares about Coraline, Coraline thinks she is quite boring.</p> <p>The Other Mother – The creature that created much of the Other World and the main villain of the novel. She looks similar to Coraline’s real mother but taller and thinner, with long black hair that seems to move by itself, black button eyes, paper-white skin, and extremely long, twitchy fingers with long dark red nails. During the course of the novel, she grows taller, thinner, and paler, looking less and less like Coraline’s mother. She collects children, with whom she loves possessively to the point of eventual destruction, and imprisons them behind a magical mirror.</p> <p>The Cat: The cat acts as Coraline’s mentor and guides her through her journey. It claims to have no name. The cat is very sarcastic but is also helpful to Coraline.</p>
<p>Nefarious – wicked or criminal.</p> <p>Petulant – childishly sulky or bad tempered.</p> <p>Illusion – a deceptive appearance or impression</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Plot</p> <p>While exploring her new home, a girl named Coraline discovers a secret door, behind which lies an alternate world that closely mirrors her own but, in many ways, is better.</p> <p>She rejoices in her discovery, until Other Mother and the rest of her parallel family try to keep her there forever.</p> <p>Coraline must use all her bravery (along with her new friend the nameless cat) to make it back to her own family and life.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Subject-specific language</p> <p>Allegory – a story or poem which reveals a moral or political message.</p> <p>Foreshadowing - Giving a hint at an event that will happen later in the narrative.</p> <p>Theme – the main ideas that are explored throughout a piece of literature.</p> <p>Personification – when an inanimate object is given human attributes or abilities</p> <p>Setting – the place or surroundings in which events happen.</p> <p>Simile – when one thing is likened to another in order to make its description more vivid.</p> <p>Parallelism – when elements correspond or align in some way.</p>