

# Nelson English Usage

*Digital resources for the Australian Curriculum*

*Write the first paragraph to your own  
favourite novel*

## Part Two

### Task 3: Extended analysis

You must pick one of the five novels that you assessed in Part One and read it in full. When you have done this, revisit your original assessment of the book and give the following extra information. Submit your extended analysis to your teacher.

Author	Book title		
	Previous score		New score
Blurb analysis Did the book live up, in your opinion, to the blurb's description? Why or why not? (100 words)			

Your assessment of the full book (200–300 words)

Are you glad to have read the book? Why/why not? (75–100 words)

Do you think the first paragraph adequately introduced the story that followed?  
(150 words)

How do you think the opening paragraph should have been written? Rewrite it (up to 200 words), but remember:

- It should not give away all the plot details or resolution
- It should advertise the book, not insult it or make false promises

## Task 4: Assess a specific paragraph

### The Gang of Four

THEY CALL THEM THE GANG OF FOUR. Secretly of course, in private, in break rooms and conference rooms and over the phone, they call them that in the way that some teachers mock and rage about their students in the staff room at lunch and morning tea. One of the shrinks, a man lumped with two of them, is bursting to tell one of his burdens of their derogatory moniker. When he cannot hold it back any longer, he tells the most vocal member of the titular gang, and in such a way that she believes him to have thought of it then, at that moment. The shrink wants her to think he is clever, because theirs is a battle of wits as much as of wills, and he believes that she delights in making him feel as if he has missed the joke.

Using the *Wuthering Heights* assessment example in Part One as a guide, assess the opening paragraph of *The Gang of Four*.

Your assessment (comments)	
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### Additional questions to consider

- 1 How old do you think the author and/or narrator of *The Gang of Four* is?
- 2 What do you think *The Gang of Four*, as a novel, would be about?
- 3 What point of view does *The Gang of Four* use?
- 4 What tense does *The Gang of Four* use?
- 5 Do you think *The Gang of Four* would be about past, current or future events?

- 6 Is the language of *The Gang of Four* very formal, casual or standard? How can you tell?
  
- 7 Is there any rhythm or repetition to the choice of words? List examples.
  
- 8 Do you think the main character of *The Gang of Four* will be the shrink or the patient?  
Would your desire to read the book change if the main character was different?
  
- 9 Research to find out who the real *Gang of Four* were. List each person.
  
- 10 Knowing who the real *Gang of Four* were, what do you now think this novel would be about?