

Subject: KS3 English – Year 7: Skellig	Answers:
1. Which awards did the book <i>Skellig</i> win?	The Carnegie Medal and the Whitbread Children's Book of the Year.
2. Who is the main character (protagonist) of <i>Skellig</i> ?	Michael.
3. How does Michael tell the story in <i>Skellig</i> ?	First person narrator.
4. Why might Michael be an 'unreliable narrator'?	We only get his point of view about certain key events.
5. What is the name of the girl who Michael befriends?	Mina.
6. What is unusual about Mina's education?	She is home-schooled.
7. Why does Mina prefer to be home schooled?	She believes that normal school 'cages' children and stifles their creativity.
8. Who is the poet that Mina enjoys and often quotes from?	William Blake.
9. What is Blake's famous poem that criticises schools and the negative impact they have on children's creativity?	The School Boy.
10. What is the name of the genre which presents a realistic view of the world with some magical elements?	Magical realism.
11. Where would you find the Skellig Islands?	Off the coast of County Kerry, Ireland.
12. What is Skellig's favourite food?	27 and 53.
13. How does Skellig describe 27 and 53?	"Food of the gods."
14. What is the name of the road that Michael and his family move to?	Falconer Road.
15. What was the name of the old man who used to live in Michael's new house?	Ernie.
16. What degenerative condition does Skellig suffer from?	Arthritis.
17. What do the children discover between Skellig's shoulder blades?	Wings.
18. What bird does Skellig most resemble – he even makes pellets of regurgitated food like one?	An owl.
19. What does Skellig leave along with his message at the end of the book?	Three white feathers.
20. Who are Michael's footballing friends from school?	Leakey and Coot.
21. What are some of the key themes running through <i>Skellig</i> ?	Nurturing and Care; Life and Death.
22. What nickname does Michael give the doctor who looks after his baby sister?	Doctor Death.
23. What animals do the boys compare Mina to?	A crow and a monkey.
24. What animal does Mina liken the boys to?	Hyenas.
25. Who wrote <i>Skellig</i> ?	David Almond.
26. What line first came into the author's head, inspiring him to write the story?	"I found him in the garage on a Sunday afternoon."
27. Complete the quote from William Blake: "How can a bird that is born for joy..."	"Sit in a cage and sing?"
28. How does Skellig describe himself to the children?	"Something like you, something like a beast, something like a bird, something like an angel."
29. "Even the bricks were crumbling like they couldn't bear the weight anymore." What literary technique is this an example of?	Simile.
30. (of the garage) "It was like the whole thing was sick of itself and would collapse in a heap." What literary technique is this an example of?	Personification.

