

# THE SACRIFICE BOX

## Classroom materials

1. The beginning of the extract takes an omniscient view of the five main characters going about their morning routines. We're told that "time curled like a worm" around them, "bunching as it moved, alternately rushing and pausing and sometimes stopping completely."
  - Why do you think I chose to show time affecting each of the characters in a different way?
  - Do you think I'm right about this? Is time different for different people, or is it always the same?

2. Sep has to complete a form in order to finish his application for a prestigious school on the mainland, but he's stuck on the section about building relationships.

**Tell us about yourself outside of school. Think about times in your life when you've made successful connections with the people around you, perhaps as part of a group or team; or when you achieved something you're proud of.**

Often, small details at the beginning of a novel can provide a clue about what's going to happen.

- What do you think this application form tells us about the plot of the book?
3. As a former teacher (and, deeper in the mists of time, a pupil) I really enjoyed writing the school sequences — bringing the unique atmosphere of a classroom to life was good fun.
    - Which elements of Sep's history class do you think most accurately match your own school experience?
    - What does Sep's behaviour in school (in his interactions with Mrs Maguire, Wobie and his fellow pupils) tell you about him — what kind of person is he?
    - Identify a piece of evidence from the extract you think effectively characterises Sep.