CHARACTER Cheat Cards

1. Who are the main characters?
2. What words are used to describe their features, build, clothing, etc ?
3. Does the character have special interests?
4. How does the character behave towards others?
5. What do the characters' actions tell us about them?
6. Does the writer use direct speech? What does this tell us about what the character thinks, feels or is likely to do?
7. What do other characters think? Do they like or dislike, admire/despise, trust/distrust him/her?

PLOT Cheat Cards

1. What are some of the themes in the story? What does the writer want his reader to learn about this theme?
2. Is it first (I) or third (he, she) person narrator? Why has the writer made this choice?
3. What is the problem in the story? How do you think the problem will be resolved?
4. What clues does the writer give you about what will happen later?
5. Have characters changed from the beginning to the end of the story? Explain how a character has changed. What do you think caused this change?
6. Does the story end as you expected? How would you have liked it to end.
7. Is there a moral message? Have the characters learned a lesson? Have you, the reader, learnt a lesson?

STYLE and LANGUAGE Cheat Cards

1. Does the writer talk to the reader? How does this make the reader feel?
2. Are there mostly short or long sentences? Find some examples. Why does the writer use them?
3. Is there a lot of speech? Why does the writer use speech?
4. What tense has the writer used? (present/past/future)
   Why has he chosen this tense?
5. Has the writer used specific punctuation for effect?
6. Find a simile / metaphor / personification and explain why the writer has used it?
7. How does the writer create tension / humour in his writing?

SETTING and ATMOSPHERE Cheat Cards

1. When is the setting or time period? Find words that show this.
2. Where is the story set? Does the setting change? Why?
3. Describe the setting?
4. Find the nouns and adjectives that describe the setting.
5. What is the atmosphere (feeling) of the story? Is it tense/ mysterious/light-hearted/serious? Find the nouns, adjectives or verbs that describe the atmosphere.
6. How does the writer want the reader to feel at this point in the story?