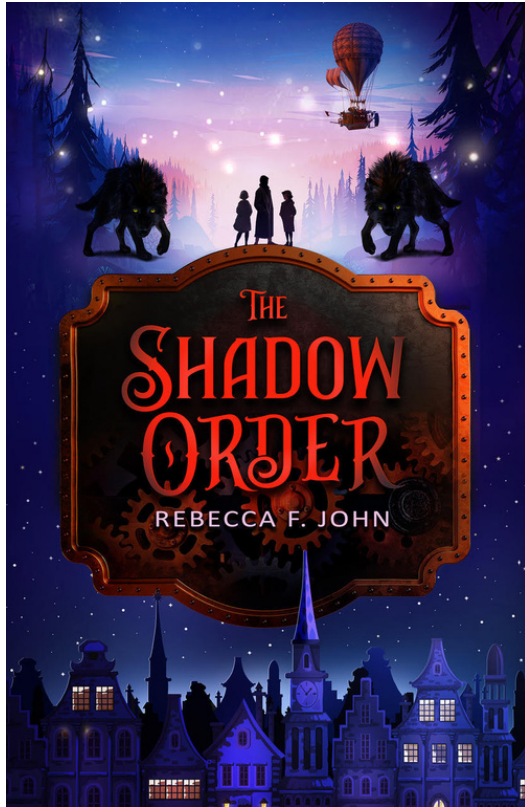


THE  
SHADOW  
ORDER

REBECCA F. JOHN

SCHOOL RESOURCES  
FOR KS3





*'A thrilling, richly imagined adventure!'*

Claire Fayers

# The Shadow Order

A stunning atmospheric fantasy by  
Costa and Sunday Times  
shortlisted author

**Rebecca F. John**

Perfect for KS3

## Summary

One year on from the day the shadows shifted and began to show not people's shapes but their truest selves, best friends Teddy, Betsy and Effie plan to risk all and watch the winter sun rise over Copperwell, in defiance of the Shadow Order.

But from their hidden vantage point the three shocked friends witness a mysterious woman shouting a dire warning, before being arrested, beaten and dragged away in handcuffs.

The event leads them on an extraordinary series of dangerous adventures as they discover more about the disturbance in the natural world surrounding Copperwell, battle to save their city and start to recognise their truest selves.

### Themes and cross-curricular topics include:

- Identity/ self-acceptance
- Friendship
- Environment/ embracing and living with nature
- Political awareness
- Power and who holds it
- Police brutality
- The rights of women
- Class
- Questioning existing systems

### Resources included in the school pack include:

- Creative writing
- Informative writing
- Reading comprehension
- Finding evidence and making inferences
- Links to real world contexts
- Analysis of setting
- Speaking and listening activities incl. empathy and role play and more



Rebecca F. John is also the author of four books for adults. Her short stories have been broadcast on BBC Radio 4 and BBC Radio 4Extra. The Haunting of Henry Twist was shortlisted for the Costa First Novel Award. She attended Swansea University and holds an MA in Creative Writing.

# Predictions

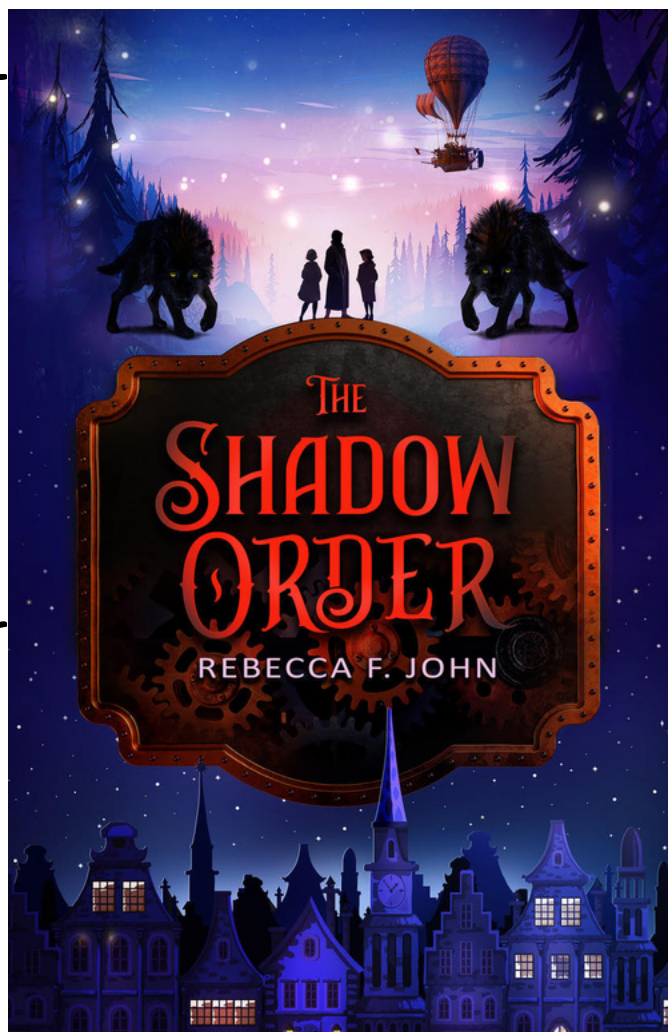
Look at the cover for *The Shadow Order*. What do you think the book will be about? Think about the colours, characters, objects and settings, and make some notes in the boxes below.

Colours

Characters

Objects

Settings



Now read the first chapter and answer the following question.

What do you predict is going to happen in the novel? Why do you think this?

Use examples from the first chapter and the cover in your answer.

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# Copperwell

If you were the illustrator of *The Shadow Order*, how would you illustrate the setting of Copperwell?

1. Read the opening paragraph of Chapter One
2. Create an illustration of Copperwell in the box below
3. Label the illustration with quotations from the first page of the novel



**Question: What do you imagine it's like living in the city of Copperwell?**

Use examples from the first page to support your answer (You could use a PEE Paragraph to help structure your answer)

## Sentence starters

- Copperwell seems to be...
- The appearance of '...' suggests
- The description also includes... which...



## Challenge:

What will the quotes you've chosen make a reader think about? Will they remind them of anything? Can you link this back to the question?





# Chapter Five Comprehension

- a) Using a dictionary, write down the meaning of the following words.
  - Exhalation
  - Orrery
  - Intonation
  - Manoeuvre
  - Colossallyb) Using a thesaurus, see if there is another word that means the same or similar.
2. How does the author set the scene at the very start of this chapter, and how do you think it will make a reader feel? Can you highlight any phrases that would make them feel this way?
3. At the beginning of the chapter, Effie cannot see what is happening. How has the author used other senses to describe the scene?
4. When venturing into the room containing the orrery, Betsy and Effie '*pad around like the cats*'. Why do you think the author has used this simile?
5. Can you find at least two other similes in this chapter? What impact will these have on the reader?
6. Why does Betsy start to doubt their plan?
7. Write two PEE Paragraphs exploring how the author has created tension in the last two pages of Chapter Five? You should discuss two different ways.



## Challenge:

If you are discussing a specific literary device or term, try including the name of it in your PEE Paragraphs.  
e.g. verbs, alliteration, short snappy sentences, onomatopoeia, cliffhangers and so on...

The use of short snappy sentences such as '...' creates ...

## Sentence starters

- The author has created tension by...
- The line '....' creates...
- Tension is also present when...
- A reader may feel...



# Exposing Lies

Over the last few chapters, Effie, Betsy and Teddy have discovered they have been lied to by the government.

*'I know what happened! If anyone can hear me, listen carefully. It's a game. It's the Unified Government's game. They're playing with our lives.'*

- The Shadow Order (p28)

## task 1:

Divide into three groups. **Group 1 will look at Chapter Two**, **Group 2 at Chapter Four**, and **Group 3 at Chapter Seven**.

- Reread your chapter and write down a list of any possible lies/deception from the Unified Government
- Also, write down any similarities you notice between the government in Copperwell and the real world news stories you have studied.
- Make a note of any supporting quotations you could use too

## task 2:

Present your findings to the rest of the class, so everyone has at least one example from each of the three chapters.

## task 3:

Write a paragraph exploring a similarity between real world governments and the one presented in the novel (use a PEE paragraph to help structure your answer)

This paragraph should:

- Make a clear comparison between the real world and Copperwell
- Use examples/quotations from the text



**Challenge:** you could also think about how this adds to the appeal of the novel?

**Extension:** Try and make a second comparison, using a different example from the novel.



### Sentence starters:

The Unified Government in The Shadow Order is portrayed as...

In the novel, we discover...

These events feel similar to...

Readers may enjoy this if...

If you finish, try adding another example:

In addition, Copperwell's government is also similar to...

# Something Strange is Happening in Copperwell



## task 1

Find and label the following on a newspaper front cover:

- Masthead
- Headline
- Strapline
- Caption
- By-line
- Date
- Copy (another name for the main text in an article)



What else is featured on your newspaper front cover? Do you notice anything about the layout of the text?



**Challenge/Extension Task:** What is the difference between a broadsheet and a tabloid newspaper? Can you identify what kind of newspaper you have in front of you?

## task 2

Some strange things have been happening in Copperwell. Imagine you are a journalist, reporting on these events for a broadsheet newspaper. Using the Journalist Triangle on the next page, plan your story.



# The Journalist Triangle

Most important information: Who, what, where, when, why

Background information and quotes from eye witnesses (possibly showing different points of view)

Less important but interesting/ relevant info

Complete the Journalist's Triangle to help plan your news story.

Your story should start with the most important information e.g. who did what, when, where, and why

Followed by relevant background information, eye witness interviews, and any other details.

Read some of the stories from your example newspaper covers for inspiration.

## task 3

- Create the front cover of a broadsheet newspaper, including typical newspaper conventions (either on a computer, or by hand)
- Add your Copperwell news story to the front cover
- Don't forget to proofread:
  - Check your writing style is suitable for this type of newspaper
  - Double check your spelling, punctuation and grammar

### Example sentence starters:

- Last week, residents of Copperwell began noticing...
- Local resident (insert name) said, "....."
- It was only a year ago when...



**Challenge/Extension Activity:** use a couple of literary devices (such as alliteration, rule of three, repetition, or emotive language) in your article and/or headline to grab the reader's attention



# Role-Play

Betsy, Effie and Teddy have found themselves on the other side of the canal, in a forest.

In groups of three, act out a two-minute scene where the three friends begin their walk through the dark woods. Discuss what has happened, what's been discovered, and also try to empathise with how they must be feeling (in actions and/or words).

Use the points below to help you.

## Think about what they have experienced so far:

- The loss of Briny Erwin
- The discovery of the orrery and what it can do
- The strange things happening in Copperwell
- The family and friends they have left behind
- The woman who was attacked by the Unified Government
- The Shadows

## Think about what is happening right now:

- They have just come from the canal – their clothes will be wet
- They still have the orrery and double bass and will need to pull these with them
- It's snowing
- It's dark and they are in a place they don't know
- They don't know where they are going
- They don't want anyone to find them




Now read Chapter Fifteen, where Betsy, Effie and Teddy venture further into the forest...

# Shadows

Create your own character and draw their shadow in the box below. Like in *The Shadow Order*, create a shadow that reveals the character's personality/ likes/ fears in some way.

Give the character a name that reflects who they are, like the ones in the novel: Effie of Birdsong, Betsy of the Stars, Teddy of the Stallions, or Talon, Otter, Lupine etc...



*Extra character questions to think about:*

1. How old is your character?
2. Where do they live? What kind of building/ structure is it?
3. What are they good at?
4. What are they not so good at?
5. Do they have a best friend? Who is it? (animal or person?)
6. What's their favourite colour?
7. Where do they go for fun? Is it outside/ inside? Night/ day?
8. What does your character want/ need?

*Write:*

Put your character in one of the settings you've mentioned above. Writing from their point of view, write a short piece of creative writing introducing us to your character.

## Sentence Starters:

- The door creaked open...
- Inside the room were...



## Challenge: Creative Writing Tips

- Rather than **telling us** things about the character, **show us** through the way they think, speak, act, and the decisions they make.
  - For example, instead of telling us 'I was sad' you could show it. Perhaps there is a tear running down your character's face, or their shoulders are slumped.
- Don't give us too much information all at once. Just one or two things about your character is fine here. Save some for later in your story!



# Chapter 22 Comprehension

1. a) Using a dictionary, look up the meaning of the following words:
- Meander
  - Tenfold
  - Concocted
  - Vociferously
  - Forlornly
- b) Using a thesaurus, find another word that means the same/ similar.
2. 'Effie had not realised the world could open up so wide.' What does this tell you about Effie's life up until this point?
3. Talon has told Betsy, Effie and Teddy to listen. Each of the characters notice different sounds on their journey. How does what they hear tell the reader something about each of the characters?
4. Talon wants to destroy all of the instruments in the orrery room. Betsy doesn't think this is a good idea. Who do you think is right, and why?
5. Betsy imagines the three of them going on great adventures, but after speaking to Teddy and Effie, she is left trailing 'forlornly behind, saying nothing.' Why do you think Betsy reacts in this way?
6. How does the forest and the world of the vagabonds compare to the world of Copperwell? Find quotes from the book to compare the two settings and complete the table below.

Copperwell	Page Number	The Forest	Page Number

# Worldbuilding

In *The Shadow Order*, we visit two very different places: Copperwell and The Forest.

All great stories are built around opposites just like this. Other examples of opposites might include: Old/Young, New/Old, Strong/Weak, Rich/Poor. Can you think of any others?

What other opposites are present in *The Shadow Order*?

**Challenge:** Think back to a book or film you have read or watched recently, what opposites did they include?

Plan a world where there are also two different settings, with groups of people living in each. Write some details about the different settings, and the people who live in them, in the table below. Make sure to use opposites.

Setting 1	Setting 2

## Worldbuilding questions:

1. Is this set in the past, present, or future?
2. Is it in the real world, or a fictional/ fantasy world?
3. Are there any rules/ laws in this world that are different to ours?
4. What are the consequences if these rules/laws are broken?
5. Are there any dangers/villains in this world?
6. Who is your main character? Which location do they live in? What is their role/ job in this world?

Now, write the opening to a story set here.

### Sentence Starters:

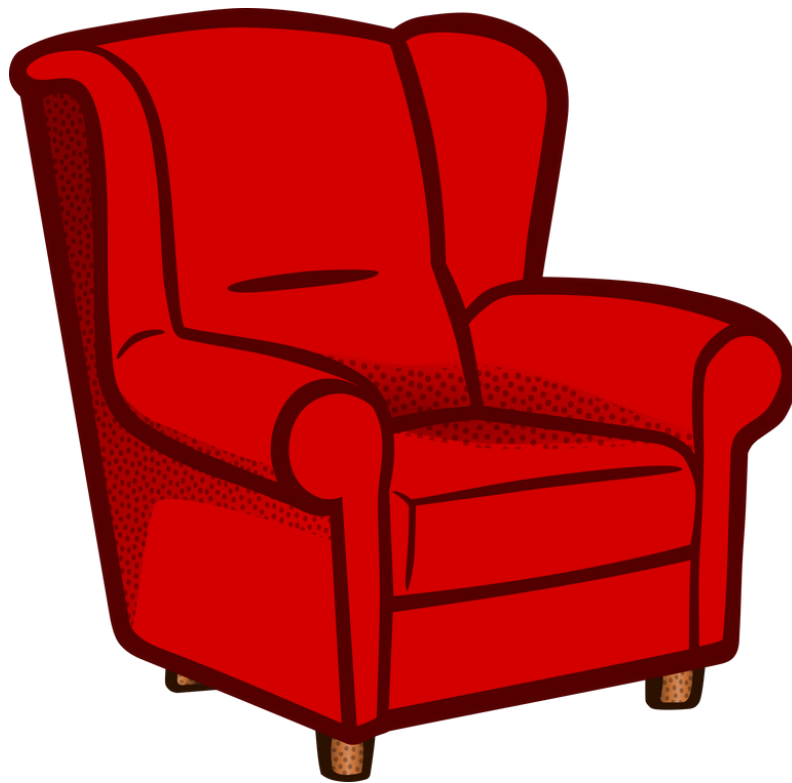
- I stepped out of my front door to the smell of...
- The sun crept through the gap in the curtains...
- It was twelve o'clock when...

### Top Tips:

- Try to show, rather than tell.
- Hint at things to come, but don't tell the reader too much, too quickly. Save some worldbuilding details for later.
- Make sure to proofread your work at the end.

# Hot Seat

- Write down a question you'd like to ask each of the characters (Betsy, Effie and Teddy).
- Select three volunteers to play Betsy, Effie and Teddy, and put them in the hot seat.
- Take it in turns to ask your questions to the characters



## Question ideas:

- You could ask them how they feel about their job/ hobbies
- Or about their friends/ family
- Do they have any dreams?
- Is there anything they enjoy/ hate?
- How do they feel about the Unified Government?
- How do they feel about the rules in Copperwell/ The Shadow Order?
- What do they wish would happen?
- You could also ask about specific things that have happened to them in the book so far, or anything they have witnessed.
- How did they feel at certain moments in the book?
- Or any other questions you'd like to ask...



# Letter Writing

Betsy, Effie and Teddy are now on their separate adventures, but they have promised to stay friends.

**'I don't want to be without either of you'**

– Effie

## task:

Using the final chapter to help you, write an informal letter from Effie to either Betsy or Teddy, imagining what life would be like after the book has ended.

Plan your letter in the table below (at least 3-4 paragraphs). Things to possibly think about:

- Why Effie is writing a letter to them
  - For example, she might miss them/ want to arrange a visit/ need their help/ want to wish them a happy birthday or something completely different.
- Who Effie is writing to (where are they and what are they doing?) – she may want to ask about them.
- Update on how Effie is, and what's going on in her life at the moment
- Update on Copperwell
- Any emotions she may be feeling (e.g. about her friends/ Copperwell)
- And any other information you think you could mention.

Paragraph	Topic
One: Intro paragraph – make clear why you are writing	
Two	
Three	
Four/ Final: Round off letter – link back to Paragraph 1	

**Now, write your letter. Take care with the layout, and make sure to separate your letter into your planned paragraphs.**

### Layout:

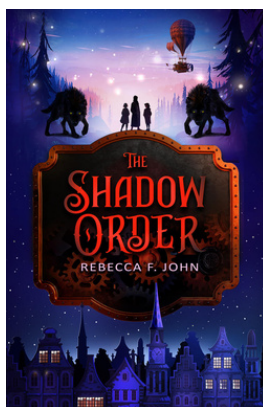
Remember to present your letter correctly and include:

- Your address (Effie's)
- Date
- A greeting
- Sign off (remember this is an informal letter to a friend)

### Sentence starters:

How are things in....  
 I can't believe it's been...  
 Everything here is...  
 I do hope we can...

# Book Review Writing a



**The Shadow Order by Rebecca F. John**

Using the table below to help, plan your book review

Planning	Notes
What is the book about? (Keep this to just a couple of points and, remember, don't give away any spoilers)	
Who are the characters? Did you have a favourite? Why?	
Were there any exciting or memorable moments that stuck in your mind? (Again, try to tell us without any spoilers)	
Three words you would use to describe the book	
Who would you recommend this book to and why?	

Now, write your review

### Sentence starters:

- *The Shadow Order* follows...
- Some of the most memorable moments include...
- This book would be perfect for...

### Challenge:

Try to think of another book to compare *The Shadow Order* to...

If you liked ..., you'll love *The Shadow Order*.

# Quiz/ Entry Activity

How many different words can you create from the letters below?

Rules:

- The words must be four letters or more
- You can only use each letter once, unless they appear more than once below (e.g. you can use E twice, but S only once)
- Aim: to create the longest word you can!

# THE SHADOW ORDER

**Possible Answers:**

**11 LETTERS:**

HORSETRADED

**10 LETTERS:**

SHOWERHEAD

**9 LETTERS:**

HOTHEADED

HEARTSORE

THREADERS

**8 LETTERS**

REWASHED

HEADSHOT

THRASHED

ARRESTED

**7 LETTERS:**

WHETHER

HEATHER

SWEATED

**6 LETTERS**

THROWS

WASHER

**5 LETTERS**

WHERE

THREW

**4 LETTERS**

WASH

DRAW

# The Shadow Order

Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals) and can overlap each other. Use the word bank below.

T Y D I J R V H E D E N V Z O E Q P A T  
H Y C M G I F R C M X C Z S Z G F B S H  
R G K N K V P C T K U B E X R Z N R S E  
A E F F I E C S A E L R C O T N N E D U  
Z X Z C P L N C W A O G U O H O W X M N  
W E J Q O T T Y C J R O C G E C P M M I  
D Q U W N P J K F J J Y E C O R W A T F  
T Y D B L Y F X M N M D O N R F Z N O I  
D E S E L O C G M Z V K K L R I J T B E  
E D K B X C X F W S G P H L E V V I S D  
N P U L Y D D E T M Y D G E R R J S E G  
U Y U I N V L H B N W S D W Y M C E R O  
M L O O L L A N U A I H T R C Z V S V V  
U K L J I P G N C C F O B E H I X W A E  
A A X A I Q A E E Y X Z F P B P Q N T R  
T J N H G Y N H G A I H G P U Z H Z O N  
D X Z X V F H I X G M B F O W Y B U R M  
N U A W H Z X B R K G B Q C T J Z W Y E  
U N I W R E Y N I R B G B G G A P T S N  
X W R M I L L I C E N T S H A W X Z Q T

## Word Bank

teddy  
effie  
black fox  
the orrery  
observatory  
mantises  
the unified government

wellian  
talon  
brinyerwin  
betsy  
copperwell  
millicent shaw

# Answers

## THE SHADOW ORDER

Words can be found in any direction (including diagonals) and can overlap each other. Use the word bank below.

T Y D I J R V H E D E N V Z O E Q P A T  
H Y C M G I F R C M X C Z S Z G F B S H  
R G K N K V P C T K U **B** E X R Z N R S **E**  
A **E F F I E** C S A E **L** R C O **T** N N E D **U**  
Z X Z C P L N C W **A** O G U O **H** O W X M **N**  
W E J Q O T T Y **C** J R O C G **E** C P **M** M **I**  
D Q U W N P J **K** F J J Y E C **O** R W **A** T **F**  
T Y D B L Y **F** X M N M D O N **R** F Z **N** O **I**  
D E S E L **O** C G M Z V K K **L** R I J **T** B **E**  
E D K B **X** C X F **W** S G P H **L** E V V **I** S **D**  
N P U L **Y** **D** **D** E T M **Y** D G **E** R R J **S** E **G**  
U Y U I **N** V **L** H B N W **S** D **W** Y M C **E** R **O**  
M L O **O** L **L** A N U A I H **T** **R** C Z V **S** V **V**  
U K **L** J **I** P G N C C F O B **E** H I X W **A** **E**  
A **A** X **A** I Q A E E Y X Z F **P** **B** P Q N **T** **R**  
**T** J **N** H G Y N H G A I H G **P** U Z H Z **O** **N**  
D X Z X V F H I X G M B F **O** W Y B U **R** **M**  
N U A W H Z X B R K G B Q **C** T J Z W **Y** **E**  
U **N** **I** **W** **R** **E** **Y** **N** **I** **R** **B** G B G G A P T S **N**  
X W R **M** **I** **L** **L** **I** **C** **E** **N** **T** **S** **H** **A** **W** X Z Q **T**



You can find other resources, including listening to author Rebecca F. John reading from *The Shadow Order*, on our YouTube channel: @fireflypress.

We also have a wide range of resources for many of our titles, and for a variety of ages, available on our website: [fireflypress.co.uk/resources](https://fireflypress.co.uk/resources)

These resources can also be found by scanning the QR codes below.

For more information on booking author visits/ Zoom calls, or purchasing class sets, please contact [hello@fireflypress.co.uk](mailto:hello@fireflypress.co.uk).



YouTube



More Resources

