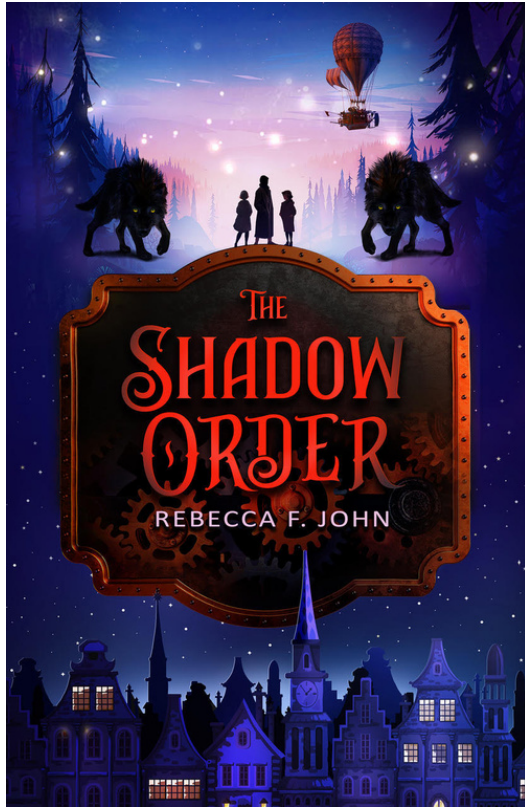


# THE SHADOW ORDER

REBECCA F. JOHN

SCHOOL RESOURCES  
FOR YEAR 6





*'A thrilling, richly imagined adventure!'*

Claire Fayers

# The Shadow Order

A stunning atmospheric middle-grade fantasy debut by Costa and Sunday Times shortlisted author

**Rebecca F. John**

**Perfect for Year 6**

## 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
- The rights of women
- Class
- Questioning existing systems

### Resources included in the school pack include:

Creative writing  
Letter writing  
Reading comprehension  
Finding evidence and making inferences  
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 think is going to happen in the novel?**

What made you think this? Copy down the sentences that helped you:

# 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. Draw Copperwell in the box below

**Challenge:** Try and label your drawing with words from the first page of the book



**Question:** Write a paragraph explaining what you think it might be like living in the city of Copperwell? Use the sentence starters below to help.

## Sentence starters

- Copperwell seems to be...
- The description of the city includes...
- This could suggest that....



## Challenge:

Use some of the words you've picked out from the first page to help you answer the question.



# Chapter Five Comprehension

1.a) Using a dictionary, write down the meaning of the following words:

- Exhalations
- Orrery
- Illusion
- Decipher
- Colossally

b) Using a thesaurus, find another word that means the same/ similar.

2. How does the author set the scene at the very start of this chapter, and how does it make you feel? Can you highlight any phrases that make you 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?

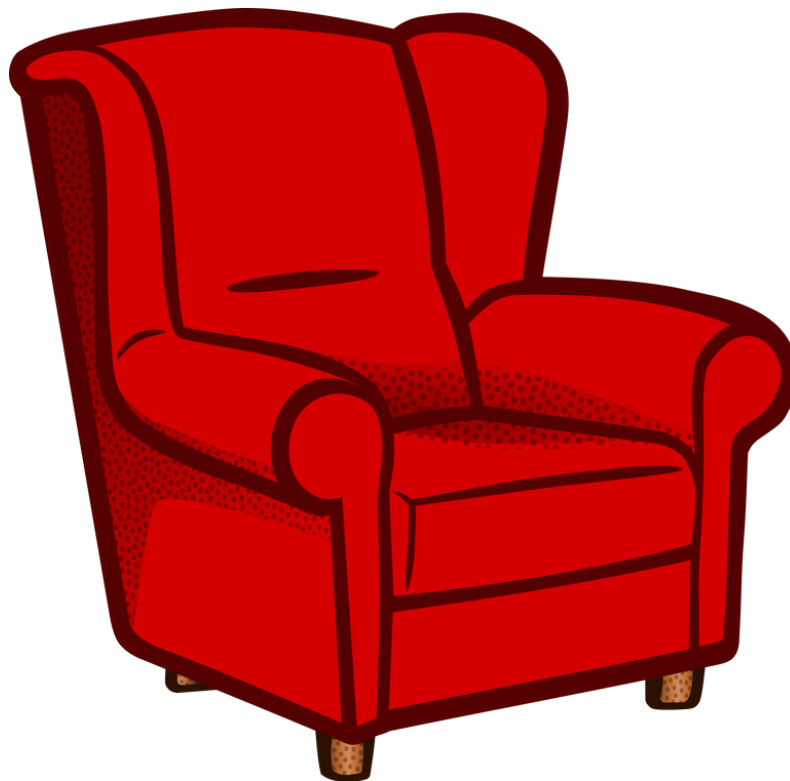
6. Why does Betsy start to doubt their plan?

7. Read the last two pages of this chapter again, and find two examples where the author has created tension.



# 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...

# 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. Create a shadow that shows off a part of their personality, like a fear or talent.

**Challenge:** Give the character a name that also links to their personality, 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:*

Imagine you are your character in one of the settings you've described above. Write creatively about what happens there.

## Sentence Starters:

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

## Challenge: showing rather than telling

- Rather than telling us things about the character, show us through their actions, body language and the way they think.
- 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.





# Opposites

Can you name three things that make the two settings in The Shadow Order different?

Copperwell	The Forest

Many stories use opposites to create an exciting and engaging world. Here are some examples:

**Young/Old**

**Rich/Poor**

**Hot/ Cold**

**Good/ Bad**

**Happy/Sad**

**City/ Forest**

**High/ Low**

**Big/Small**

**Strong/Weak**

**Night/ Day**

Other than the settings, can you think of any other opposites in The Shadow Order?



**Challenge:** Think back to another book or film you have recently read or watched. What kind of opposites were included?

**Creative Writing Task:** Create your own two settings. Make them different in three ways. This could be different temperatures/ weather, different types of characters living there, different buildings, jobs, anything you like – use your imagination.

Setting One	Setting Two

**Write:** Imagine you are a character, exploring one of these settings for the first time.

**Top Tip:** Remember, try to show rather than tell. For example, instead of telling us it's cold, show your character shivering.

**Sentence Starters:**

*The street was...*

*It was twelve o'clock when I...*

*All around me there were...*

# Chapter Twenty-Five and Twenty-Six Comprehension

1.a) Using a dictionary, look up the meaning of the following words:

- Strewn
- Persists
- Frenzy
- Imitate
- Ambushes

b) Using a thesaurus, find another word that means the same/ similar.

2. In Chapter 25, what is it that makes Betsy, Effie and Teddy suspicious of entering Copperwell? Name at least two things they notice.

3. The Vagabonds and The Constabulary are presented in very different ways. Find 2-3 comparisons from Chapter 26.

4. When Talon takes the three of them to one side and asks them to listen, Betsy hears different things to Effie and Teddy. What do you think this tells us about Betsy and her future?

5. *'Danger may await us,' Talon agrees. 'But is that good enough reason not to try?'* What do you think Talon meant when she said this?



# 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:

Write a 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 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.
- She may want to ask about their lives/ adventures
- Effie may want to let them know how she is
- She may want to update them on things happening in Copperwell

Paragraph	Topic
One: Intro paragraph – Why are you writing to them?	
Two	
Three	
Optional Paragraph	

**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 a 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? (1-2 sentences - NO SPOILERS!)	
Who are the characters? Did you have a favourite? Why?	
What was your favourite moment? Can you tell us how it made you feel? (Again, try to tell us without any spoilers)	
Three words you would use to describe the book	
Who else would love this book? Why?	

Now, write your review

### Sentence starters:

- *The Shadow Order* is about...
- One of the best moment in the book is...
- 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 and can overlap each other. Use the word bank below.

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

## Word Bank

Mantises  
Wellian  
Observatory

The Orrery  
Talon  
Briny Erwin

Teddy  
Black Fox  
Copperwell

Effie  
Betsy

# Answers

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

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://www.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

