

Knowledge Organiser: Storm Catcher			What the exam will look like?
Literary Heritage: Modern Literature	Human Experience: Kidnapping, revenge, and family relationships	Genre: Teen drama	How is the character the character of The kidnapper presented in the novel Storm Catchers? AO1- Knowledge and understanding AO2- Language analysis AO3- Context

Context – Storm Catchers was written by Tim Bowler and was published in 2001.

Tim Bowler – Bowler was born November 14, 1953 in Leigh-on-Sea, and educated at Westcliff High School for Boys, and at the University of East Anglia where he studied Swedish and Scandinavian studies. Tim Bowler is an English author of books for children, teenagers and young adults. His first book published was *Midget* (1994). He won the 1997 Carnegie Medal from the Library Association, recognising the year's best children's book by a British subject, for the novel *River Boy*. *Storm Catchers* is a book filled with mystery, drama, and adventure, based on a kidnap in the middle of a storm. It was first published in 2001 and set in Cornwall.

Cornwall – *Storm Catchers* is set in the fictional town of ... in Cornwall, England. Cornwall is noted for its geology and coastal scenery. The north coast has many cliffs where exposed geological formations are studied. This is reflected in the dangerous cliffs Sammy continues to visit and Ella is held inside. The area is noted for its wild moorland landscapes, its long and varied coastline, its attractive villages, its many place-names derived from the Cornish language, and its very mild climate.



Characters:

Ella Parnell: Ella is a shy and nervous 13-year-old girl who cares a lot for her young brother- she will do anything to protect him. After being kidnapped, she finds the courage to fight and stand up for what she believes in. #

Fin Parnell: Fin was a carefree 15-year-old until his sister is kidnapped and he blames himself. Determined to find her, he even turns to mysterious.

Sammy Parnell: Sammy is an imaginative 3-year-old that follows his imaginary friend to the point of near death.

Ricky Prescott: Ricky is a misunderstood kidnapper that is stuck in a revenge cycle after the death of his little sister.

Mum- Parnell: Mum is a calm and caring woman whose first priority is her children and keeping them safe.

Dad Parnell: Dad is an aloof and secretive man that is carrying a lot of guilt and this affects his relationship with his family.

Plot Summary

Set over the course of a four-day rainstorm in a coastal English town, the story follows Ella Parnell, a thirteen-year-old girl who is kidnapped by an unknown intruder. With a ransom note left by her captor, Ella's fifteen-year-old brother, Fin is determined to find his sister, as he feels responsible for leaving Ella alone with their three-year-old brother, Sammy, at the time she was kidnapped. Narrated in alternating perspectives between siblings Ella, Fin, and Sammy Parnell, the story begins on a stormy night in the coastal English village of Polvellan. Thirteen-year-old Ella Parnell has been afraid of her haunting abode ever since she was a toddler. Fin, Ella's fifteen-year-old brother, leaves Ella alone with their three-year-old brother, Sammy, to see his friend Billy Meade's new computer. While left alone, a stranger break into the Parnell home. Ella hears the intruder and acting quickly, hides Sammy in a cupboard. Ella is kidnapped and taken to a seaside cave. Ella's parents, Peter, and Susan are terrified when they return home to find their children missing. Ella's kidnapper leaves a ransom note that reads: "Tell a soul and she'll be dead. We'll be in touch." Sammy is found in the cupboard. Shortly after, the kidnapper telephones the Parnell family, telling them to have Fin bring \$200,000 to the old Pengrig Lighthouse, an abandoned lookout structure on the verge of collapsing into the sea. The kidnap stuns Ella's family, in particular, Fin, who feels guilty for leaving Ella unsupervised at the time she was abducted. Susan tries to remain calm so as not to upset Sammy, but she is secretly distraught. Meanwhile, Sammy has the ability to see and communicate with invisible beings. Throughout the story, Sammy talks to himself and his ghostly imaginary friend, and constantly runs off to the bluffs to "catch the storm." Desperate to find his sister, Fin uses a dowsing book to build a pendulum. He does this by holding a gold ring and a lock of Ella's golden hair over a map. Strangely, the pendulum only responds to Sam's touch, again leading the family to the ominous Pengrig lighthouse on the edge of the cliffs. When the Parnell's realize Ella is being held near the lighthouse, they row their boat to the largest of the Fury islands. The storm intensifies. The Parnell's dock hear a gunshot, and rush into the cave where the sound came from. When they enter the cave, they find both Ella and a boy lying against a rock. They discover Ella is the one remaining alive. Ella explains that her kidnapper was so guilty over what he had done that he decided to end his own life and shot himself. The kidnapper was Ricky Prescott, the illegitimate lovechild of Peter Parnell and his mistress, Lindy. In a lengthy admission, Peter admits that he had an affair long ago with one of his young grocery store employees, which yielded a secret child. After Ricky was born, Lindy had a second child, Imogen, from a different father. Years before the kidnapping of Ella, Peter accidentally frightened Imogen while sketching a portrait by the bluffs near the lighthouse, accidentally prompting her towards the edge. Moments later, Imogen fell off the cliff and died. Ricky blamed Peter for his sister's death his entire life, and as an act of vengeance, decided to kidnap Ella ten years later and hold her for ransom. The ghostly voice that Sammy hears throughout the story is that of Imogen; Sammy's desire to "catch the storm" is the exact phrase used by Imogen before falling off the cliff. When Ricky heard Sam use the same words as Imogen, Ricky took it as an instruction to kill Ella as a means of exacting revenge on Peter. When this dark family secret comes to light, Peter confesses to being blackmailed for years. Not by Ricky, but by a local vagrant named Kelman, who retrieved photographic evidence of Peter's affair with Lindy. Kelman threatened to expose Peter's secret if he did not continue to pay him off. Susan is devastated by this news, as are Ella and Fin when they find out about Peter's terrible secret. Although Ella survives, her family is changed forever. In the end, Ricky survives his self-inflicted gunshot wound, incurring severe brain damage as a result. Sammy stops hearing the voice of Imogen and begins hearing a peaceful voice instead. As the novel ends, the old Pengrig lighthouse collapses into the sea. Ella kisses Fin on the cheek and they walk back home towards Polvellan.

Themes – A theme is an idea or message that runs throughout a text.

Secrets – From the mysterious opening of the novel, to the twists and turns the plot takes until secrets are revealed.

Family– Family is a key theme to the novel as the story follows the story from the POV of the three siblings all caring for each other. Ella is sharing her experience of being kidnapped; Fin's determined efforts to find her and Sammy's adventures all leading to the same end point.

Bowler's Language Devices		Sub-Plot of Sammy's Imaginary Friend		
Verbs	<i>'Cutting through the night'</i>	She encouraged him to disobey his parents Sam goes out of the house even when he has been told not to.	He keeps secrets from his family S	K She
Similes	<i>'A huge bear built like a bear'</i>			
Metaphor	<i>'Goliath froze her into stillness'</i>			
Pathetic fallacy	<i>'It's just a storm is coming.'</i>			