# BlackWords Short Story Lesson Plans

# ‘Waiting’ by Raymond Gates

The following questions are designed to support the reading and comprehension of ‘Waiting’ by Raymond Gates. The framework uses the [taxonomy of skills in reading and interpreting fiction](https://www.jstor.org/stable/1162351?seq=1#page_scan_tab_contents) designed by George Hillocks and Larry Ludlow (1984).

**Reader Advisory:** This story contains frequent, coarse language and adult themes.

## Literal Level

**1. Basic Stated Information**

What injuries has the narrator received?

**2. Key Detail**

1. In Mikey’s words, where is he?
2. Gates alternates lines of onomatopoeia and Mikey’s interior thoughts. What happens to the regularity of the onomatopoeia about two-thirds of the way through the story? Explain.

**3. Stated Relationship**

Who is Sarah?

## Inferential Level

**4. Simple Implied Relationship**

1. Why is Mikey not seen by the passing car?
2. How has the narrator, Mikey, sustained his injuries? How do you know?
3. How does Mikey feel early and late in the story? Justify your answer.

**5. Complex Implied Relationship**

1. How does Mikey’s situation change as the story unfolds?
2. Is the narrator’s mother alive or dead? Why is the last word in the story ‘mum’?

**6. Author’s Generalisation**

1. What does Gates seem to be suggesting about the importance of kinship relations and the role of Ancestors?
2. What advice does gates seem to be giving readers about the way we should live our lives?

**7. Structural Generalisation**

1. What is the effect of alternating between the use of onomatopoeia and Mikey’s internal monologue?
2. What role does coarse language play in this story?