

## 2 Language Skills worksheet

### Reading

1 Read this article about Gabriel García Márquez. What book is he most famous for?

#### A Colombian storyteller

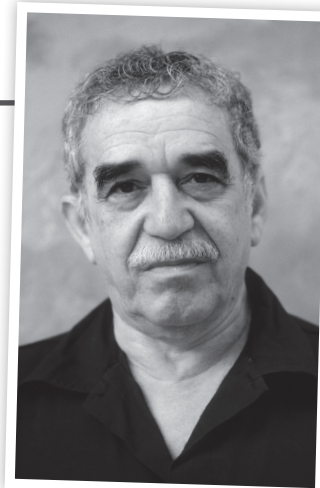
Gabriel García Márquez was a Colombian novelist, short story writer, screenwriter and journalist. He was born on 6th March 1928 in Aracataca, Colombia. His mother and father soon had to move away to find work, so his grandparents looked after him. His grandfather was a good storyteller and an important political figure of the time. The stories his grandfather told about his political career influenced Gabriel's writing heavily. Gabriel's grandmother was very superstitious, believing in ghosts and other forms of magic, themes which played a role in Márquez's writing.

Márquez left law school in Bogotá in 1950 to become a journalist and fiction writer. From early on in his career, he criticised Colombian and foreign politics. In 1958, he married Mercedes Barcha, the girl he had loved for many years.

He is best-known for his novels, such as *One Hundred Years of Solitude* (1967). This is his most famous story, but it took him many years to plan it and it took him 18

months to complete it. Fortunately, the novel was a huge and immediate success. His later novel, *Love in the Time of Cholera* (1985), is the story of his parents' romance, and it was also a huge success. In 1982 he won the Nobel Prize for Literature.

His works have been very successful and millions of his books sell around the world each year. García Márquez used a literary style known as magical realism. This style uses magical elements and events in ordinary and realistic situations. Some of his works featured a fictional village called Macondo, and most of them explored the theme of solitude. The first volume of his autobiography, *Living to Tell the Tale*, became the best-selling book ever published in the Spanish-speaking world. Sadly, he died in 2014. However, he is still considered one of the most important authors of the 20th century.



2 Answer the questions.

1 Who looked after Gabriel García Márquez when he was young?

\_\_\_\_\_

2 What did he do in 1950?

\_\_\_\_\_

3 What is *Love in the Time of Cholera* about?

\_\_\_\_\_

3 Complete the sentences with the correct information.

1 Gabriel García Márquez's grandfather was \_\_\_\_\_.

2 His grandmother believed in \_\_\_\_\_.

3 Márquez criticised \_\_\_\_\_.

4 Writing *One Hundred Years of Solitude* took \_\_\_\_\_.

5 In 1982 he won \_\_\_\_\_.

6 Some of his books feature \_\_\_\_\_.

7 His autobiography became the \_\_\_\_\_.

## 2 Language Skills worksheet

### Writing

- 4 Write a short article about the famous English novelist Virginia Woolf. Use the notes to help you write 80 to 100 words. Use the internet to research the missing facts.

Full name	Adeline Virginia Woolf
Born	??? in ???
Work in early life	Wrote novels, essays and short stories
Description	Very intelligent, from an important literary family
Character	Shy, quiet, ???
Books	<i>A Room of ???</i> , <i>Mrs Dalloway</i> , <i>To the Lighthouse</i>
Private life	Married to Leonard Woolf in ??? Children ???
Died	???



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#### Remember!

Regular verbs or irregular verbs?

*decide – decided; talk – talked*

*have – had; write – wrote*

Past simple or past continuous?

*She wrote 50 books.*

*She was working as a writer in 1925.*

### Listening

- 5  02 Listen to a radio programme about the Booker Prize and circle the correct answers.

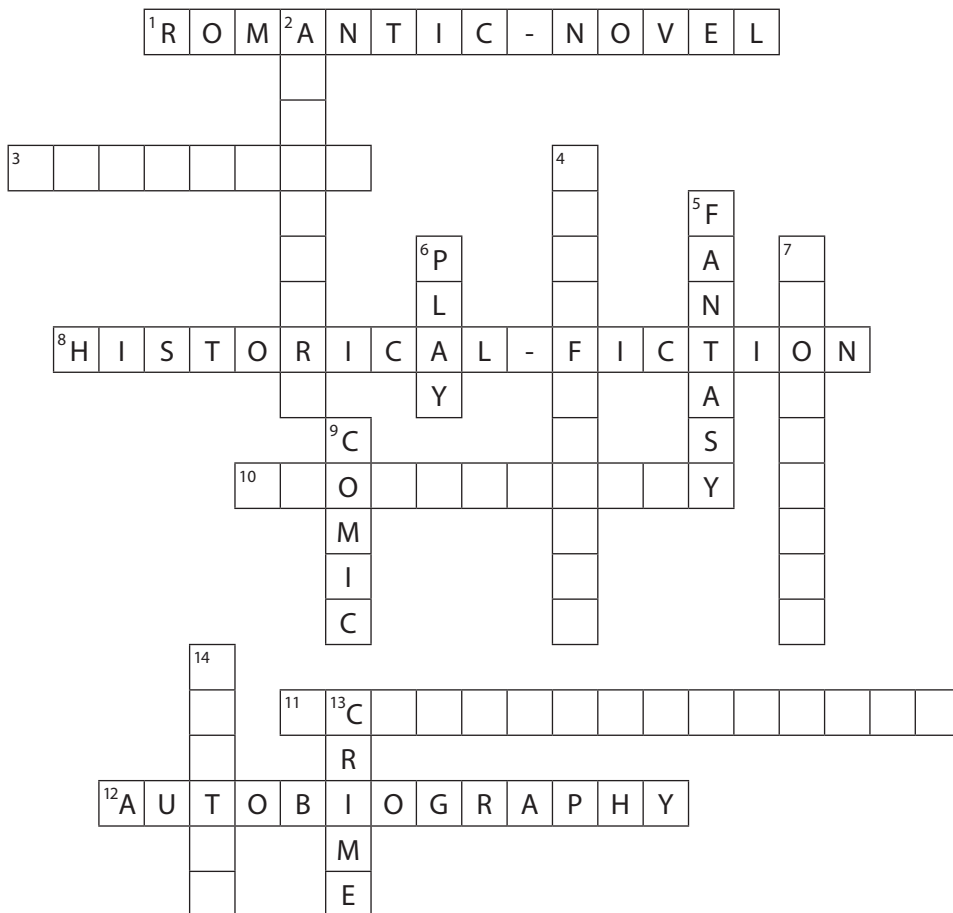
- How often is the Booker Prize awarded?
  - Every month.
  - Every year.
  - Every two years.
  - Every ten years.
- Which writers can win the Prize?
  - Writers from the United Kingdom and Republic of Ireland.
  - Writers whose work is translated into English.
  - Writers of any nationality.
  - Writers whose work is published anywhere in the world.
- What does the winner receive?
  - Money and a lot of publicity.
  - Lots of books.
  - £50,000.
  - £5,000.
- Who chooses the winner?
  - Other authors.
  - A panel of literary judges.
  - Booksellers and librarians.
  - The public.
- Which author has not won the Booker Prize?
  - Ian McEwan.
  - Iris Murdoch.
  - Beryl Bainbridge.
  - Salman Rushdie.
- What is different about the Man Booker International Prize?
  - There is more prize money.
  - It is awarded to two people.
  - It is only for books written originally in English.
  - It is only for writers in the USA.



## 2 Language Skills worksheet

### Speaking pairwork Student A

**1** Think of clues for the words in your crossword. Write the clues.



It's a book about ...

It's a ... book.

These books are usually ...

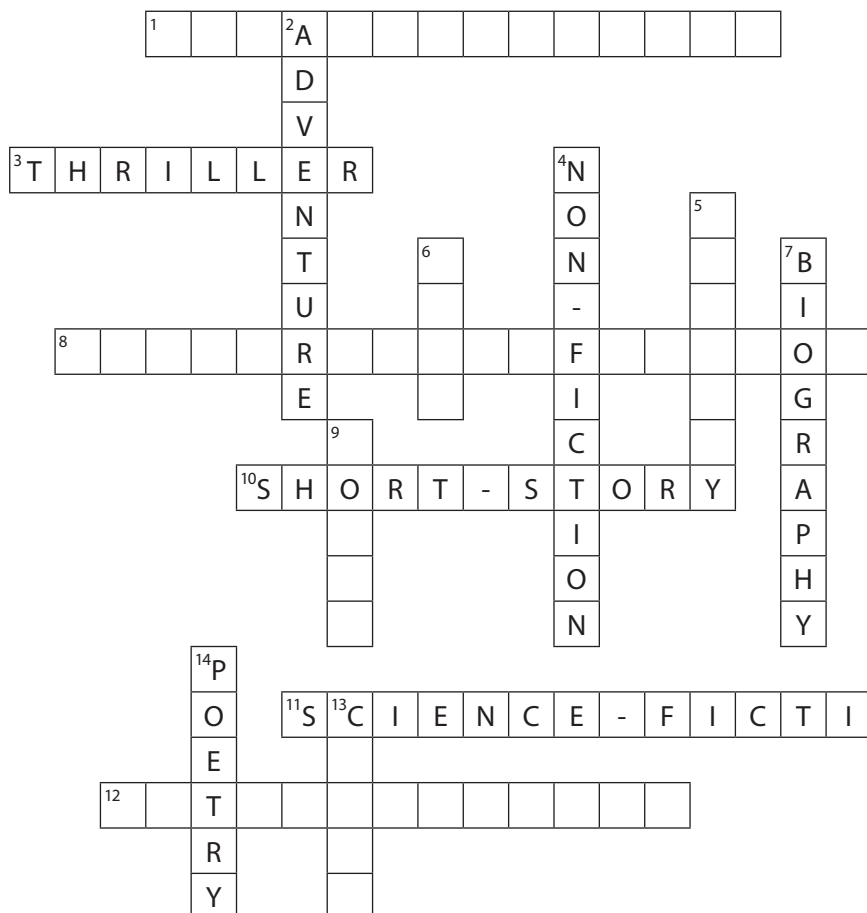
- 1 \_\_\_\_\_
- 5 \_\_\_\_\_
- 6 \_\_\_\_\_
- 8 \_\_\_\_\_
- 9 \_\_\_\_\_
- 12 \_\_\_\_\_
- 13 \_\_\_\_\_

**2 Listen to your partner's descriptions and ask questions to find out the missing words in your crossword.**

## 2 Language Skills worksheet

### Speaking pairwork Student B

1 Think of clues for the words in your crossword. Write the clues.



It's a book about ...

It's a ... book.

These books are usually ...

2 \_\_\_\_\_

3 \_\_\_\_\_

4 \_\_\_\_\_

7 \_\_\_\_\_

10 \_\_\_\_\_

11 \_\_\_\_\_

14 \_\_\_\_\_

2 Listen to your partner's descriptions and ask questions to find out the missing words in your crossword.

## 2 Language Skills worksheet

### Speaking: Teacher's notes

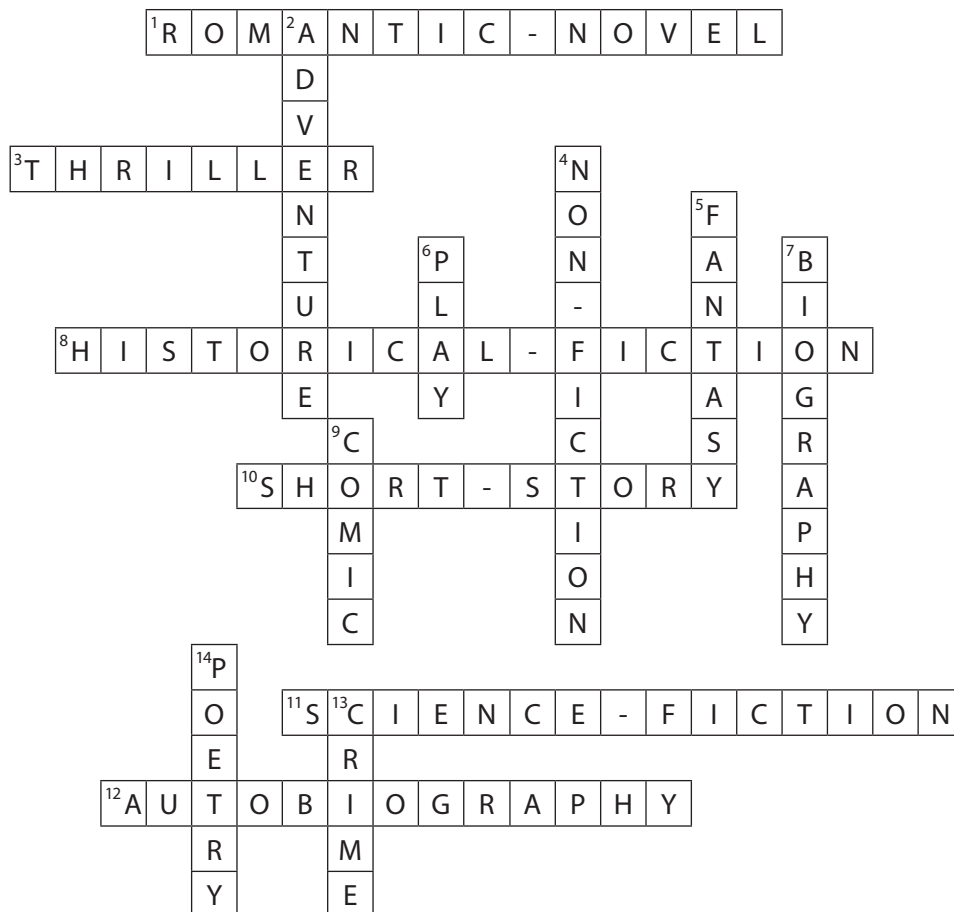
#### Language

Literary genres

#### Instructions

- 1 Divide the class into pairs and decide who is Student A and B in each pair. Hand out one Student A worksheet and one Student B worksheet to each pair. Tell them they must not look at each other's sheets.
- 2 Students look at the words in their crossword and work out how to write a clue for each one.
- 3 In pairs, students take turns asking and answering each other's clues in order to find the missing words.
- 4 Students compare their answers.

#### Answers



#### Optional activity

- Ask students to tell each other about the last book they read. Tell them to describe the plot, without saying the title or the genre. Their partner must try and guess the genre of the book.