

22.02.21 Reading – Using social and historical context to understand a text

We will be using the extract from *Cider with Rosie*, by Laurie Lee, on p.10 of the CGP Y6 Comprehension Targeted Question Book for this task.

Looking at **social and historical context** means looking carefully at what was going on in society and history **at the time a text was written**. This can help you to understand a book and its characters better.

Authors are often affected by what is going on **in the world around them** and what they write is shaped by the **events and ideas** of their time. Authors in the past did this, and modern authors do it too.

Looking at these details can really help you to get a better understanding of a book and why it was written.



Go to the BBC Bitesize Reading lesson on Social and Historical Context at <https://www.bbc.co.uk/bitesize/articles/zphstrd>

Watch the video where the teacher, Miss Williams, explains how thinking about the time a book was written or the time in which it is set (i.e. its *historical* context) and the kind of community it was written for or in which it is set (i.e. its *social* context) can help you understand a book more deeply. She talks about a well-known book called *Treasure Island* by Robert Louis Stephenson.

Task: After you have watched the teaching video and watched the *Treasure Island* animation, draw the table below out in your book and use it to research the social and historical context of *Cider with Rosie*, by Laurie Lee. **You will need to use the Internet to research the book.** Use some of the words you investigated yesterday for the *Unusual words*.

If you're unsure how to use the table, look back at how Miss Williams explains it at 02:00 mins.

BOOK DETAILS	CONTEXT	MY NOTES	WHAT MY NOTES SHOW ABOUT THE BOOK
Title:	Historical context		
	Unusual words		
Author:	Social context		
	Author's life		

You do not need to do Task 3 on the BBC Bitesize page.