



Oide

Tacú leis an bhFoghlaim
Ghairmiúil i measc Ceannairí
Scoile agus Múinteoirí

Supporting the Professional
Learning of School Leaders
and Teachers



Exploring Senior Cycle Texts 'Elena Knows' by Claudia Pineiro

Please note: *Elena Knows* by Claudia Pineiro is a novel included as part of the Prescribed Material for Comparative Study, for the Leaving Certificate English Examination in 2026, 2027 and 2028.

The accompanying activities may be used to explore **General Vision & Viewpoint** at Higher Level.

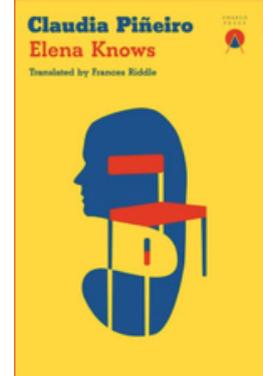


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Please note:

- The following tasks might be completed over a series of lessons or as part of a unit of learning
- Students may wish to complete some tasks individually or in pairs/groups
- Tasks might be completed orally and/or in written format
- Students may also wish to engage in a think, pair, share activity for some tasks.



Learning Outcomes:

- Identify and analyse the narrative perspective adopted in the novel.
- Explain how the narrative perspective shapes the reader's understanding of Elena's world.
- Evaluate the impact of Elena's illness and grief on her perception of events.
- Discuss how the novel's general vision and viewpoint contribute to its overall meaning and impact.



General Vision and Viewpoint

The general vision and viewpoint in *Elena Knows* are significantly shaped by the protagonist, Elena, and her unique perspective. The novel is written from a close third-person perspective, closely aligned with Elena's thoughts and feelings.

This narrative choice allows readers to deeply empathise with Elena and experience the world through her eyes, including the challenges she faces due to Parkinson's disease and the overwhelming grief of losing her daughter.

Narrative Perspective:

1. Begin by discussing the concept of narrative perspective, explaining the different types (e.g., first-person, third-person limited, third-person omniscient).
2. Read Chapter 1 of *Elena Knows*. Guide students to identify the narrative perspective used in the novel.
3. Discuss how this perspective shapes the reader's understanding of the story.

For example:

- How does the close proximity to Elena's thoughts and feelings affect the way we experience the world of the novel?
- Does the narrative perspective create empathy for Elena? Why or why not?

Elena's Vision and Viewpoint:

1. *Elena Knows* is largely filtered through Elena's subjective experience. Discuss how her illness and grief impact her perception of the world and the people around her.

For example:

- How does Parkinson's disease affect Elena's physical movements and her ability to interact with her surroundings?
- How does her grief over Rita's death cloud her judgment or motivate her actions?

2. Use textual evidence to support the analysis of Elena's unique viewpoint and how it shapes the narrative.



General Vision and Viewpoint:

- Consider the broader perspective presented in the novel.
- Elena Knows offers a glimpse into the lives of individuals often marginalised by society, those living with disabilities and those seeking justice for their loved ones.

Discuss:

1. How does the novel challenge societal perceptions of illness and disability?
2. Does the story offer a message of hope or despair?
3. What insights does the novel provide into the human condition?

Creative Response:

Ask students to choose a scene from the novel where Elena interacts with another character.

Rewrite the scene from the other character's perspective. This activity encourages students to consider alternative viewpoints and understand the limitations of a single perspective.