Year 7: Coraline Key Information Sheet

1. **Context:**

- Written by Neil Gaiman, a popular writer of child and adult fiction
- Published in 2002
- A fantasy novel
- Tells the story of a young girl called Coraline who discovers a parallel universe
- Includes themes such as adventure, bravery, family, magic, childhood, growing up, loneliness

2. **Key Events:**

- Coraline and her parents move house. The house is old, mysterious, and has different people living in it.
- Coraline discovers a door in the drawing room. This door leads to a parallel universe.
- In the parallel universe Coraline finds her other parents. At first they seem kind and welcoming, but she quickly realises that they mean her harm.
- Coraline's parents disappear and she plays a game with the other mother to try and release them.
- Coraline escapes and saves her parents. She defeats her other mother.

3. **Key Literary Features:**

Term	Definition	Example From The Text
Genre	The type or category of writing.	*Coraline* is of the fantasy genre.
Fantasy	A type of writing that features supernatural and/or magical elements that do not exist in the real world.	*Coraline* is a fantasy because it includes magical elements such as a talking cat.
Convention	A feature or 'ingredient' of a genre.	One convention of the fantasy genre is a heroic adventure.
Setting	The location or type of place in which the events of a text take place.	*Coraline* is set in an old house.
Characterisation	The way in which a fictional character is created and presented.	Coraline is characterised as a brave and adventurous character,
Protagonist	The main, usually 'good' character in a text.	Coraline is the protagonist of *Coraline*.

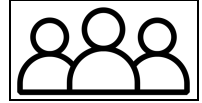| Antagonist	The villain of a text, or a character who is in opposition to the protagonist.	The other mother is the antagonist of *Coraline*.
Pathetic Fallacy	When non-human or inanimate objects are described using human emotions.	The writer uses pathetic fallacy when he sets the opening of *Coraline* in mist and fog.
Foreshadowing	A hint or clue about something that will happen later in the narrative.	The writer uses foreshadowing to suggest that Coraline is in danger.
Symbolism	The use of words or images to represent bigger ideas.	The buttons are a symbol of secrecy and mystery.
Colour Connotation	The use or colours to represent or symbolise bigger ideas.	The colour yellow connotes happiness and hope.
Perspective	A person's point of view. A person's opinion.	*Coraline* is written from a third-person perspective. From my perspective, *Coraline* is an interesting and exciting read!
Sensory Language	Language that describes the five senses.	The writer uses sensory language to convey Coraline's fear.
Motif	An idea that recurs throughout a text,	The writer uses the motif of food to illustrate Coraline's relationship with her parents.
Personification	When non-human or inanimate things are described using human characteristics,	The writer personifies the weather in the other world to create imagery of an evil and threatening force.
Metaphor	When something is described as if it was something else.	The writer uses the metaphor of a spider to convey the sense that the other mother is a predator that is trying to capture Coraline.

4. **Key Vocabulary:**

Word	**Definition**	**Example**
Haughty	Adjective. To be arrogantly proud and superior.	'The haughty black cat'
Distorted	Adjective. To be twisted or	'A huge and distorted shadow'.

	pulled out of shape,	
Drawing room	Noun. Like a living room. A room that was traditionally used for entertaining guests.	"Can I go into the drawing room?".
Well	Noun. A structure or hole in the ground used to access water.	'There was also a well'.
Frenzied	Adjective. To do something wildly or out of control.	Coraline could hear a frenzied woofing.
Mantlepiece	A structure of wood or stone above a fireplace.	'There were no knick-knacks on the mantelpiece'
Inherit	Verb. To be given money or items after the death of another person.	'They had inherited the furniture from Coraline's grandmother'
Musty	Adjective. A stale or mouldy smell.	'She could smell dust and damp and mustiness'
Gleaming	Adjective/verb. Bright and shiny from being cleaned.	'Her black button eyes gleaming'
Remarkable	Adjective. Worthy or being noticed or uncommon.	'There were all sorts of remarkable things in there'
Self-centred	Adjective. A word to describe someone who is only interested in themselves.	'There was something irritatingly self-centred about the cat, Coraline decided.
Abrupt	Adjective. Sudden and unexpected.	'Abruptly, it turned tail'.
Fortunate	Adjective. Lucky or well off.	'She felt fortunate to be home'.
Rigid	Adjective. Stiff or fixed.	'She stood there, rigid and trembling'.
Overrated	Adjective. Considered to be better than it actually is.	"Calling cats", it confided, "tends to be a rather overrated activity.

5. Key Characters:

Name	Description
Coraline	The stubborn and adventurous protagonist. She finds another world behind the door in the drawing room, and fights to save herself and her family.
Coraline's Parents	Busy and hard working parents who don't always have time for Coraline.
The Other Mother	A frightening and dangerous version of Coraline's real mother. At first, she seems welcoming and kind, but we later find out that she has a far more sinister intention.
The Other Father	A peculiar version of Coraline's real father. He does what the other mother tells him to do.
Misses Forcible and Spink	Two old women who live in the flat below Coraline. They have pet dogs and talk about their days as actresses.
The Black Cat	A 'haughty' cat who follows Coraline into the other world.
The Mad Old Man	A peculiar man who has pet mice and lives in the flat above Coraline.

6. Paired Quotations:

1. 'Both of her parents worked, doing things on computers'. + 'She crept over and kissed him on his balding head'.

2. 'The door didn't go anywhere. It opened on to a brick wall'. + 'The bricks had gone, as if they'd never been there. There was a cold, musty smell'.

3. 'Coraline was disgusted. "Daddy," she said, "you've made a *recipe* again," + 'It was the best chicken that Coraline had ever eaten'.

4. 'It was a sunny, cold day'. + 'the wind whipped about her one more time, petulantly'.

5. "I don't want to do those things. I want to explore,". + "I'm an explorer," said Coraline out loud, but her words sounded muffled and dead,".