**‘The Edge’ by Allan Gibbons**

A book about a mother and son who escape a violent home. They move to a community called ‘The Edge’ only to experience racist abuse from the small minded people who live there.

**Themes** of Racism (from Steve, Harry and to some extent the police) and Domestic Violence (Chris towards Cathy and Danny) but also of HOPE (For Danny and Cathy’s future e.g. remember quote about flower)

**Characters**- all forced to change

Cathy- makes decision to leave, changes when she faces Chris and confronts her fear. Changes her future

Danny- changes into a brave character, confronts Chris and Steve Parker, learns to have respect for his grandfather again.

Harry- Changes from racist (who drove away his daughter and grandson) to a caring person who puts his life on line to defend- GRADUAL CHANGE and TURNING POINT (chapter 7)

Joan- learns to love her husband again

Des- has to protect his family (Protects his family when Chris finds them)

**Characters**- do not change

Steve Parker- Uses racist language. Although he is beaten up by Chris, we know he will not change his views.

Chris Kane- evil, animal (Animal imagery), views on women (military jargon) and on violence do not change. Even when put in jail he still plans to go after Danny and Cathy.

**Setting**

The setting of Edgecliff Estate. Difficult to access- like community. A setting question in the exam would be quite tricky. Try to mention the setting in any essay you write as the community adds to theme of racism.

# Narrative Style and Structure

The novel is written in the **present tense.** This gives the reader the impression that things are happening as we read, and increases the **tension**.

Each chapter consists of several short sections, involving **different points of view.** We deal with each character in turn, and share their immediate experiences.

The novel uses the technique of **interior monologue.** This means that we get inside each character’s head, and read his or her thoughts and feelings, for example, p 2:Danny doesn’t actually SAY “Don’t do it, Mum” – but this is what he is thinking.

On P 102, the writer uses military jargon to show Chris’s feelings about Cathy.

# Chapter Sixteen

This chapter is the CLIMAX of the novel. All the tension which has been building up comes to a head. Revise what happens in the chapter to the main characters.

# Chapter Seventeen/Eighteen

These two chapters make up the **resolution** of the novel, in which all the threads of the plot are neatly tied up after the build up to the tense climax. Revise what happens to following:

* Justice for Steve Parker
* Justice for Chris Kane
* The relationship between Joan and Harry
* The relationship between Cathy and Des
* Danny and Harry

When revising this text, learn quotes that focus specifically on characters. Best ones would be Danny and Chris e.g. questions on characters you admire or dislike.

Learn quotes that show racist attitudes (theme)

Learn technical terms e.g. interior monologue, present tense, climax, resolution, theme, imagery, tension etc. and be able to refer to these.

Remember to be aware of the structure of the text. It flicks between Chris planning his revenge and Cathy and Danny in The Edge- this builds tension. Short, snappy chapters where Chris is closing in do this too.

The theme of hope at the end is important. After the resolution, where all loose ends are tied up, Cathy reflects on her future and uses an extended metaphor to describe her future as being like a bud yet to flower. She also includes Danny in this image. Make sure you can show what you have learned about the effects of the themes of racism and violence.