

## Character Grid

<b>Novel and author:</b>	'Bog Child' by Siobhán Dowd		
<b>Name and age of character:</b>	Fergus McCann, 18		
<b>Personality traits</b>	<b>Personality trait</b>	<b>explanation/detail</b>	<b>quotation/chapter</b>
	1. Selfless	A majority of the things Fergus does in the novel is for other people. He smuggles packages for the IRA, something he hates doing, but continues in the faint hope that Micheal Rafters will keep his end of the bargain and find some way to contact Joe in prison. Later on, he does it to stop the IRA from targeting Owain Jenkins when Rafters threatens to have him killed. He is willing to do something he hates for his brother and friend's sake. He's also very aware of his mother, and how difficult she's finding it to deal with Joe's hunger strike. He tries to study harder, partly to make his parents proud, but also to get good enough grades to become a doctor and leave Drumleash.	"Joe, it's a brave thing you're doing." Pg 80, paragraph 1 (Chapter 11)
	2. Realistic	Fergus is a very realistic person by nature. This could partly be due to the society he grew up in, seeing as the Troubles in Northern Ireland were taking place at the time. But we see it in the way he talks	"Fergus had stopped believing in God when he was eight, after he'd seen his da come in with a Christmas stocking and realized Santa didn't exist. If Santa didn't exist, then

		about his future; he desperately wants to get out of NI and away from the conflict, but he knows he needs to get good grades in his A-levels to do this, so he works hard to get the results he wants. He's also very aware of Joe's condition, and seems almost resigned to Joe not surviving. This realism can be useful sometimes, but can also make Fergus feel very low at times.	God didn't either."  Pg 66, paragraph 2 (Chapter 10)
	3. Curious		
	4. Respectful	Fergus is very open to other people's thoughts and opinions, and he is respectful towards everyone. We see him arguing with his brother, Joe, over the hunger strike, but despite the fact that he clearly disagrees with Joe, he calls him 'brave'. This shows that he respects Joe's opinion and political views. Fergus also shows his ability to sympathize with people who are meant to be his enemy when he meets Owain Jenkins, a British soldier. He listens to the other boy and doesn't discriminate against him, despite the fact that they are on opposite sides.	"You don't sound homesick." "No." "You were glad to leave?" "Telling me." Pg 128-129, paragraphs 16-1 (Fergus, Owain)
<b>Events that shape and change character</b>	<b>Event</b>	<b>description/detail</b>	<b>quotation/chapter</b>
	1. Joe going on hunger strike		

<p>Events that help him mature and develop</p>	<p>2. Meeting Owain and Cora</p>	<p>I put these two points together because I think they both contribute to the same change in Fergus' character. At the beginning of the novel, Fergus has only ever known the Troubles from his family and communities perspective, but when he meets Owain Jenkins (a British soldier from a similar background to Fergus') and later on Cora O'Brien (a girl from the south/the Republic who Fergus quickly takes a liking to), he learns about how others see it. From Owain, Fergus learns that not all British are bad, and some of them were just as much forced into the conflict as he himself was. From Cora, he learnt that despite everything he hears, the Southern Republic isn't as happy and wonderful as he thought, and that really it's just as bad as the North, but in a different way. Both of these perspectives contribute to Fergus' growth as an individual and helps him to develop empathy and understanding for others.</p>	<p>"I'm Owain, if you must know." Pg 41, paragraph 2 (Chapter 6)</p> <p>"...This is Cora, my daughter." Pg 56, paragraph 12 (Chapter 8)</p>
	<p>3.</p>		

Character at the <b>beginning</b> at the novel  Ch1-14			
Character at the <b>end</b> at the novel  Ch30-47			
Symbols/motifs we associate with the character	<b>motif/symbol</b>	<b>Quote</b>	
	Scots pine tree	<p>“But this time we’ll be grouped around the McCann’s family plot, under the great Scots pine.” Pg 207, paragraph 3 (Chapter 30)</p> <p>In this novel, Fergus seemed to associate death with the Scots pine tree with death, which is understandable as it grew right over his family’s plot in the graveyard in Drumleash. Like many evergreen trees there is a lot of mythology associated with the Scots Pine, it was used for the Yuletide log and for burning during winter solstice and was a symbol of rebirth and hope of the new spring and seasons ahead. It is also associated with protection and immortality. I think this tree held great meaning to Fergus, as it reminds him of how fragile life is, and how Joe’s is hanging in the balance.</p>	
<b>Character as narrator</b>  Positives, negatives,	<b>Positives</b>  - We see what life is like for the families of the hunger strikers. - We can see flashes of Mel’s life	<b>Quotes</b>  - “They approached the border checkpoint and the van slowed. The soldier by the hut stood with a rifle but did not	<b>Negative</b>  - We only get to see one side of the Troubles. - We can’t see/know what the other characters are

	<p>when Fergus is dreaming about her.</p>	<p>move.” Pg 3, paragraph 5 (Chapter 1)</p> <p>- “...in his imagination the soldier was taking aim at the spot between his shoulder blades... the lad was lounged against the shed, his pale face lit in the sun, the gun nowhere in sight.” Pg 41, paragraph 13 (Chapter 6)</p>	<p>thinking or feeling, or how they feel about the Troubles.</p>
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