This is a very exciting, thought-provoking thriller, well worth looking at for alternative GCSE texts. Gillian Cross's stylish novel is set in remote Derbyshire climbing country, where the lives of Jenny Slattery and Liam Shakespeare become twinned in gruelling, dangerous circumstances. She is struggling to live with the alternative lifestyle imposed on her by the choice of her parents; 'So that's what real life is like ... no money and a mountain of runner beans.' He is a hostage, barely holding on to reality as two terrorists brain-wash him into thinking they're his parents by threats and playing incessantly loud music. But then, they're out to prove a point. As one of them pronounces - 'All families are parasitic and destructive... The family is a prison.'