📖 *Bog Child* by Siobhan Dowd - Chapter 13 Revision Checklist

This assessment tests your ability to:

- Retrieve information from the text
- Explain vocabulary
- Make inferences about characters and themes
- Analyse language and structure
- Support your answers with evidence (quotations)

1. Learn the Key Events

You should be able to explain these events in order:

- Mel's exhumation is about to take place.
- Fergus helps prepare breakfast for the visitors.
- Felicity, Cora and Fergus discuss theories about Mel's life and death.
- Fergus admits that he has been dreaming about Mel.
- The group travel to the bog.
- A crowd gathers to watch the excavation begin.

Quick Check

Can you explain:

- Why the exhumation is important?
- Why Fergus is so interested in Mel?
- Why lots of people come to watch?

2. Know the Main Characters

Fergus

Learn that Fergus:

- Is fascinated by Mel's story.
- Feels a strong connection to her.
- Is tired and distracted after visiting his brother.
- Has recurring dreams about Mel.

Important Quote:

"It's as if she's trying to tell me all about herself."

What it shows: Fergus feels personally connected to Mel and wants to uncover the truth about her life.

Felicity

Learn that Felicity:

- Is knowledgeable about history.
- Leads the excavation.
- Is determined and confident.
- Believes history teaches important lessons.

Important Quote:

"That's what history is. A warning. For all of us."

What it shows: She believes studying the past helps people avoid repeating mistakes.

Cora

Learn that Cora:

- Is curious.
- Enjoys imagining Mel's life.
- Brings a personal perspective to discussions.

3. Important Themes

History and the Past

Think about:

- Why people study history.
- What the past can teach us.
- How Mel's story connects the past and present.

Death and Remembrance

Questions to consider:

- Why is Mel still important after so many years?
- Why do people want answers about her death?

Curiosity and Discovery

The chapter centres on solving a mystery.

Think about:

- Why Fergus wants answers.
- Why archaeologists excavate historical remains.
- Why readers become interested in Mel's story.

Sacrifice

Consider:

- What sacrifices may have been made by people in the past.
- How Mel's life may have been affected by the society she lived in.

4. Key Vocabulary

Learn these words:

Exhumation

The process of digging up and examining a buried body.

Jaunty

Cheerful, lively or light-hearted.

Excavation

The careful digging and investigation of a historical site.

Anticipation

Excitement or expectation about something that is about to happen.

Atmosphere

The mood created by a writer.

5. Learn These Quotations

Try to memorise at least three.

"Today is the day. Exhumation."

This creates excitement and anticipation.

"Sometimes it's like she's alive still."

Shows Fergus's emotional connection with Mel.

"It's as if she's trying to tell me all about herself."

Shows mystery and Fergus's desire to learn the truth.

"That's what history is. A warning. For all of us."

Highlights one of the novel's key themes.

"The peace of the place was gone."

Suggests a change in atmosphere before the excavation.

6. Revise Language Techniques

The test asks about language analysis.

Know how to identify and explain:

- Imagery
- Description
- Dialogue
- Symbolism
- Foreshadowing
- Atmosphere **Example**

"Two swans swooped down, setting off a trail of water disturbance."

Think:

- The verb **"swooped"** creates movement.
- It makes the scene feel alive and dramatic.
- It may hint that the calm atmosphere is about to change.

7. Practise Inference Skills

Be ready to answer questions like:

What do we learn about Fergus's feelings?

Explain:

- What he says.
- What he does.
- What this reveals about his thoughts.

What does Felicity mean when she says history is a warning?

Think about:

- Lessons from the past.

- Mistakes people repeat.
- Why understanding history matters.

8. Master the PEE Paragraph

For Question 10, use:

Point

Make a clear statement.

Evidence

Use a quotation.

Explain

Analyse the quotation and explain its effect.

Example

Point: Dowd creates anticipation about the exhumation.

Evidence: "Today is the day. Exhumation."

Explain: The short sentences create suspense and show how important the event is. Readers want to find out what will happen when Mel is uncovered.

Night Before the Test

Make sure you can:

✅ Explain the events of Chapter 13.

✅ Describe Fergus, Felicity and Cora.

✅ Explain the theme of history.

✅ Define *jaunty* and *exhumation*.

✅ Analyse the quotation about the swans.

✅ Explain how Dowd creates atmosphere and anticipation.

✅ Write a strong PEE paragraph using evidence.

✅ Memorise at least three key quotations.

⭐ Top Tip

The highest-mark answers don't just tell what happens. They explain **how** the writer presents ideas and **why** the reader is meant to find them important, mysterious, or interesting.