**Year 8 ILT- Spring Term**

**Reading Comprehension 4- An extract from *Skulduggery Pleasant* by Derek Landy**

Read the extract below and then complete the comprehension questions that follow.

Gordon Edgley's sudden death came as a shock to everyone—not least himself. One moment he was in his study, seven words into the twenty-fifth sentence of the final chapter of his new book, *And the Darkness Rained upon Them*, and the next he was dead. *A tragic loss*, his mind echoed numbly as he slipped away.

The funeral was attended by family and acquaintances but not many friends. Gordon hadn't been a well-liked figure in the publishing world, for although the books he wrote—tales of horror and magic and wonder—regularly reared their heads in the bestseller lists, he had the disquieting habit of insulting people without realizing it, then laughing at their shock. It was at Gordon's funeral, however, that Stephanie Edgley first caught sight of the gentleman in the tan overcoat.

He was standing under the shade of a large tree, away from the crowd, the coat buttoned up all the way despite the warmth of the afternoon. A scarf was wrapped around the lower half of his face, and even from her position on the far side of the grave, Stephanie could make out the wild and frizzy hair that escaped from the wide-brimmed hat he wore low over his gigantic sunglasses. She watched him, intrigued by his appearance. And then, like he knew he was being observed, he turned and walked back through the rows of headstones and disappeared from sight.

Understanding Questions:

1. What has happened to Gordon Edgley?
2. How do we know that Edgley did not manage to finish his book?
3. What is Gordon Edgley’s final book called?
4. How can we tell that Gordon Edgley was not popular? Look at the first line of the second paragraph.
5. Explain why Gordon Edgley was not popular in the publishing world.
6. Why might we describe the figure in the tan coat as being mysterious?
7. Why can Stephanie not see the man’s eyes?
8. Describe the man’s appearance.
9. List two factors that suggest the man does not want to mix with others.
10. Explain what you think will happen next. Give reasons for your answer.