

## **CAL**, by Bernard McLaverty (Penguin, 1984)

### Chapter one            Questions for pair-work

1.     How does the author start his novel?  
How do the words 'in medias res' fit in with the beginning of **CAL**
2.     Why did Cal feel eyes (people) looking at him?
3.     Why does Cal swear at himself in French?
4.     Why does Cal think about security at the Post Office?
5.     Why is Cal so proud to see Northern Ireland mentioned in Time?
6.     Why does Cal repeatedly say 'Oh Jesus' when he discovers the woman's first name?
7.     List the verbs/adverbs used in the paragraph 'It took him three matches ... back to the library' [p.13 centre-§] What feelings or emotions do the ad/verbs express?
8.     What items of news do they listen to at suppertime (on both days see pages 15 and 17)?
9.     Why does Crilly want to see Cal? What is the relationship between Cal and Crilly?
10.    How does the author/narrator describe Crilly to us? What is your opinion of Crilly?
11.    When do we discover the reason Crilly wanted to see Ca(ha)l? Why **did** he want to see Cal?
12.    Recount the incident with the 'rent man'? Why does Skeffington think this story is funny?
13.    Why does Cal help Marcella with the groceries?
14.    How come Shamus (Shamie) McCluskey had a .38?
15.    How old was Cal when his Gracie died?