Como agua para chocolate Laura Esquivel

Como Agua para chocolate belongs to the genre of magic realism and was first published in 1989 by Mexican novelist, Laura Esquival. Set around the time of the Mexican revolution, it tells the story of the De La Garza family, and particularly the youngest daughter Tita, who is forbidden to marry in order to comply with the family tradition of caring for her mother until she dies. Tita falls in love with Pedro who, when denied the chance to be with his true love, agrees to marry her sister so that he can remain close. Divided into twelve monthly instalments, each containing a recipe to reflect Tita's love of cooking, we witness her emotional struggle and longing for independence from her tyrannical mother.

	Description of activity and suggested uses:	Skills covered:
Activity 1	Students read an extract from the novel and with the help of a mind map, write a newspaper article summarising the events. A class discussion of the historical context should be encouraged before students attempt the newspaper article. Students should write in the third person using a journalistic style.	This is a creative activity where reading, writing and summary skills can be developed. Students need to focus on the context.
Activity 2	This is a summative exercise to check comprehension of the plot. Students read three sentences linked to context only one of which is correct, and for each correct answer, they score 10 points. 10 consecutive correct answers will take them to 100 points. Follow up activities could be for students to correct the false sentences.	Reading skills are developed and students are encouraged to note down useful vocabulary/phrases. An understanding of the context is developed.
Activity 3	Students have to put the sentences in the order they occur in the novel. All of the sentences relate to important contextual details.	Reading and comprehension skills are developed here as well as further detailed understanding of the context.