



Chapter 1 · The Shimmering Island

Shan was having a bad day. She didn't think it could get any worse – then Dad catches her throwing away her supper. She is sent to her room, but is her day about to improve?

THE ISLAND AT THE END OF THE BED

Alice Kuipers

CONTENT



READ!

- **Reading comprehension questions:** 10 multiple choice questions to test text retrieval and reading comprehension. These questions may also be completed online at www.fictionexpress.co.uk
- **Guided reading:** teacher's notes and a written response worksheet comprising 6 questions which allow for deeper response to the story, looking at personal response, inference and prediction



WRITE!

- **"Inspire!" words** to encourage children to include them in their own writing
- **Writing worksheet:** write descriptive sentences about the setting
- **Grammar worksheet:** linking sentences with subordinating conjunctions



TALK!

- **Voting options:** discussion points for each voting option
- **Discussion activity:** discuss alternative settings for the book



EXPLORE!

- **Design activity:** design and describe your own world



Name: _____

1

Why doesn't Shan want to eat her fish pie?

- ☐ A. It's too cold
- ☐ B. She doesn't like it
- ☐ C. It's too hot

2

Why does Shan's father leave the room?

- ☐ A. He is cross with Shan
- ☐ B. He goes to the kitchen
- ☐ C. His phone rings

3

Why does Shan's father go bright red?

- ☐ A. He is embarrassed that Shan can't eat her dinner
- ☐ B. He is cross that Shan has thrown her dinner in the bin
- ☐ C. He is angry with the person for calling during dinnertime

4

What makes the blue pattern in the paperweight?

- ☐ A. Blue ribbons
- ☐ B. Blue water
- ☐ C. Blue pebbles

5

Who used to own the paperweight?

- ☐ A. Shan's father
- ☐ B. Shan's mother
- ☐ C. Shan's grandmother



Name: _____

6

Why can't Shan sleep?

- ☐ A. She's worried
- ☐ B. She's excited
- ☐ C. It's too noisy

7

What happens to the paperweight that night?

- ☐ A. It begins to glow
- ☐ B. It gets larger
- ☐ C. Music comes out of it

8

When does Shan start to float above the island?

- ☐ A. When she undoes the ribbon
- ☐ B. When she holds the paperweight
- ☐ C. When she reads some magic words

9

What does Shan see in the sea?

- ☐ A. Dolphins swimming
- ☐ B. Mermaids laughing
- ☐ C. Fish leaping

10

What does Shan see behind her?

- ☐ A. A strange hut
- ☐ B. A turquoise lagoon
- ☐ C. A tall mountain



1

Read the first paragraph together. Ask: Which words help you to imagine the fish pie? ('steaming', 'rose up her nose', 'super gross') Talk about the food that the children dislike eating. Read to the end of the section. Ask: Do you think Shan was right to throw away her food? Why is her father so cross? How do we know he's cross? ('bright red', shouts at her, 'angry face') Ask: Do you think he would be so cross if he knew she'd had a bad day?

2

Read the next two paragraphs up to *her fish pie*. Ask: Why can't Shan sleep? (She is worried.) Speculate on what might be worrying Shan. (Perhaps there is trouble at school, a test, or because she can't do her homework.) Ask: What do you think she should do? (Tell her father she is worried, ask for help with her homework.) Ask: Why do you think Shan finds the paperweight soothing? (It was her grandmother's, it's smooth, it's interesting to look at.)

3

Read up to *was in the sky!* Ask: What is the first clue that something magical is happening? (The paperweight begins to glow.) Clarify what a paperweight is and ask a volunteer to describe it. Ask: What do you think has happened to Shan? (Perhaps she has gone inside the paperweight.) Ask the children to look at the word 'Swoosh'. Ask: What do you think goes 'swoosh' here? (Shan, or perhaps the world around her) Agree that the word 'swoosh' also makes a 'swoosh' sound.

4

Read the next paragraph up to *seemed to shine with light*. Ask the children to find all the adjectives that describe the island. ('green', 'glittered', 'shimmered', 'soft', 'warm') Ask the children to describe what is happening to Shan. (She floats / flies above the island then gently lands.) Ask: How does Shan move in the sky? ('falling / swimming', 'half-swam / half-tumbled') Ask: What sort of setting is this? (a tropical island) What makes it seem magical? (Everything is shiny.)

5

Read to the end of the story. Ask the children to locate noun phrases describing the things on the island: 'tiny fish', 'lapping waves', 'silvery trees', 'soft music', 'sparkling water', 'shimmering beach', agreeing which is the adjective and which the noun in each phrase. Ask the children to create further noun phrases to describe things they'd like to see on the island, for example 'bright birds', 'leaping dolphins', 'baby turtles', 'colourful coral'.

6

Ask: How do you think Shan feels at the end of the story, compared to how she feels at the beginning of the story? Agree that she seems to feel happy and relaxed. Does she feel scared? (No, she seems amazed and happy.) Ask: What sort of adventure do you think Shan is going to have? Do you think it will be magical or scary? (probably magical) Do you think Shan will have help with her worries?

The Island at the End of the Bed · Chapter 1 · The Shimmering Island
Guided Reading Response Questions



Name: _____

1

Why is Shan's father cross with her?

2

Why can't Shan sleep?

3

What lights up Shan's room?



Name: _____

4

Write down four adjectives used to describe the island and the beach.

5

Find and copy two noun phrases that describe things on the island.

6

How do you think Shan feels on the island?



Here is some of the challenging or potentially unfamiliar vocabulary used in Chapter 1 of *The Island at the End of the Bed*.

You may wish to explore this vocabulary, to improve children's understanding of the chapter, and inspire and enhance the quality of their own writing. You might like to display the words in the classroom, and encourage children to use new vocabulary as part of the Write! worksheet tasks.

awful

glittered

lapping

shimmered

snapped

sparkling



Name: _____

Write three sentences describing each of the settings of the magical island: the beach, the trees and the lagoon. You could use some of the vocabulary from the Inspire! word sheet.





Name: _____

We can use the words **when**, **if**, **that** or **because** to link sentences together.

These words are called subordinating conjunctions.

Choose the correct conjunction to link the sentences below and write it in so that the sentences make sense.

when

if

that

because

1. Shan did not want to eat her supper _____ it was fish pie.

2. Shan did not know _____ her dad was watching her throw away her supper.

3. She wondered _____ she would understand her homework tomorrow.

4. Shan looked closely at the paperweight _____ it started to glow.

5. The sand on the beach felt warm _____ Shan landed on it.

6. Shan wanted to know _____ it was music playing in the trees.



Which way should Shan go?

A

Along the shimmering beach to follow the path

What could have made this path? It seems like there might be animals living on the island. As this island appears to be magical, do you think there will be magical animals living on it? Is it a good idea to follow an unknown animal?

B

Towards the silvery trees to find out what is making the sound

Shan does not think that this soft music is being made by birds, so what else might it be? Silvery trees sound like they may be magical, so what do you think could live in these trees?

C

Around the sparkling lagoon to investigate the shadow

The shadow passes underneath the water of the turquoise lagoon. Will Shan be able to find out what this is? As she has been able to swim through the air, do you think she will be able to perhaps walk through the water?

→ Which option do you think would be the most exciting one for the next chapter of *The Island at the End of the Bed*?

Discussion Activity

In pairs or a small group, discuss the book's setting. Think up some different worlds that could be inside Shan's grandmother's paperweight. Perhaps it could be a desert or a space station! Can you think what difference the setting would make to the story?



Name: _____

Can you imagine a world inside a paperweight? What would your world look like and who would live there? Would it be a city, or a rainforest, would it even be in space? Draw your world, and describe what it is like below.



My world is:

If you visited, you would find:

ANSWERS

READ! Comprehension Questions

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1. Why doesn't Shan want to eat her fish pie?
B. She doesn't like it | 6. Why can't Shan sleep?
A. She's worried |
| 2. Why does Shan's father leave the room?
C. His phone rings | 7. What happens to the paperweight that night?
A. It begins to glow |
| 3. Why does Shan's father go bright red?
B. He is cross that Shan has thrown her dinner in the bin | 8. When does Shan start to float above the island?
B. When she holds the paperweight |
| 4. What makes the blue pattern in the paperweight?
A. Blue ribbons | 9. What does Shan see in the sea?
C. Fish leaping |
| 5. Who used to own the paperweight?
C. Shan's grandmother | 10. What does Shan see behind her?
B. A turquoise lagoon |

READ! Written Response Worksheet

For example:

1. She has thrown the food he made in the bin.
2. She is worried and hungry. Something has happened during the day to upset her.
3. Her grandmother's paperweight.
4. Four from: green, glittered, shimmered, soft, warm
5. Two from: 'tiny fish', 'lapping waves', 'silvery trees', 'soft music', 'sparkling water', 'shimmering beach', 'sparkling lagoon'
6. She seems relaxed, happy and amazed.

WRITE! Linking sentences with when, if, that, because

1. Shan did not want to eat her supper **because** it was fish pie.
2. Shan did not know **that** her dad was watching her throw away her supper.
3. She wondered **if** she would understand her homework tomorrow.
4. Shan looked closely at the paperweight **because** it started to glow.
5. The sand on the beach felt warm **when** Shan landed on it.
6. Shan wanted to know **if** it was music playing in the trees

Picture credits: tropical beach: David / fotolia; paperweight: irmoske / fotolia