

Chapter 2 · The Hidden Castle

Shan is ready to explore the magical island. But which way will she go and who can she find to show her around? Her day certainly seems to be getting better ...

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:** ordering events
- **Grammar worksheet:** using commas



TALK!

- **Voting options:** discussion points for each voting option
- **Discussion activity:** discuss sequence of events



EXPLORE!

- **Research activity:** finding out about mythical creatures



Name: _____

1

Why does Shan walk to the silvery trees?

- ☐ A. To follow the hoof prints in the sand
- ☐ B. To find out where the music is coming from
- ☐ C. To get to the lagoon she can just see

2

What does Shan see in the lagoon?

- ☐ A. Diamonds
- ☐ B. A mermaid
- ☐ C. A merboy

3

What colour is Max's face?

- ☐ A. Blue
- ☐ B. Silver
- ☐ C. Pink

4

What surprises Shan when she swims in the lagoon?

- ☐ A. She can float easily
- ☐ B. She can swim brilliantly
- ☐ C. She can leap up like a dolphin

5

What does the air smell like under the waterfall?

- ☐ A. Raspberry bubblegum
- ☐ B. Strawberry bubblegum
- ☐ C. Strawberry ice cream



Name: _____

6

How do Max and Shan swim through the cave?

- ☐ A. They follow arrows
- ☐ B. They follow little lights
- ☐ C. They follow little fish

7

What can Shan see inside the waterfall?

- ☐ A. A castle
- ☐ B. A palace
- ☐ C. A tower

8

What do the children play on under the waterfall?

- ☐ A. A bouncy castle
- ☐ B. Ball pools
- ☐ C. Water slides

9

What is swimming in the little pool?

- ☐ A. Two mermaids
- ☐ B. Little golden fish
- ☐ C. A silver turtle

10

What does the gryphon like to do?

- ☐ A. Surf down sand dunes
- ☐ B. Swim in the blue lagoon
- ☐ C. Fly through the waterfall



1

Recap together on the story so far. Ask different children to remember different details, for example: Shan's bad day, the paperweight, the sea made of ribbons, flying/swimming through the air, landing on the glittering island. Remember the three things that Shan wanted to investigate at the end of the first chapter. (the hoof prints, the music, the shadow in the lagoon) Read the first section. Ask: What is the shadow in the water? (Agree that it sounds like a mermaid.) Which word tells you that Shan is surprised? ('gasped')

2

Read the next section up to "Come on then!" Challenge the children to find the simile that describes the lagoon. (*glittered like a million diamonds*) Together, come up with new similes to describe the water, for example 'sparkled like a thousand stars', 'flashed like a billion sequins' and so on. Ask the children to imagine how Shan feels as she watches the shadow coming towards her. Ask: How do we know she is frightened? (Her heart is thumping.)

3

Ask: What's a merboy? (a boy mermaid)
Ask: What does Max look like? (He has a blue face and body and a beautiful tail.)
How do you think he feels? How do you know? (We can guess that he is happy – Shan hears him laugh, he splashes happily in the water, he is friendly to Shan.)
Ask: How does Shan feel about the merboy? (*a tiny bit scared but excited too*)
How does Shan try to calm her nerves? (She takes a deep breath.)

4

Read to the end of the story. Ask: What is it like swimming in the lagoon? (It's warm; it makes Shan a good swimmer.) Discuss the joy of having swimming lessons in warm, magic water that makes them swim brilliantly. Ask: Where do Shan and Max go? Help the children to order the events: they swim underwater, they follow lights through a cave, they come up by a waterfall, they see a castle, they play on the water slides.

5

Challenge the children to find all the shiny items in the story: *silvery trees, water like a million diamonds, stunning, shining tail*, castle that looks like it's made of opal, *glittery underwater cave, little golden fish*. Gather together the synonyms for shiny: silvery, glittery, shining. Think of further words, for example shimmering, sparkly, twinkly, gleaming. Explain that opal is a precious stone that has lots of different colours inside it. Remember the shimmering sand from chapter one.

6

Ask: What does Max want to show Shan? (a unicorn or a gryphon) Explain that a gryphon is a mythical creature with the body of a lion and the head and wings of an eagle. Wonder together about the hoof prints in the sand on the beach. Could they be unicorn prints, perhaps? Ask: What would you like to see on the island? Discuss the different things that the children would like to happen next.

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Guided Reading Response Questions



Name: _____

1

Which word tells you that Shan is surprised?

2

What does the lagoon look like?

3

How do we know that Max is happy?

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Guided Reading Response Questions



Name: _____

4

Where do Max and Shan go?

5

Write down three things that are shiny in the story.

6

What would you like to see on the island?



Here is some of the challenging or potentially unfamiliar vocabulary used in Chapter 2 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.

darted

gasped

glimmered

incredible

popped

shallow



Name: _____

Sort these sentences into the correct order to recount what happens in this chapter. The first one has been done for you,

Shan and Max swam through the waterfall.

☐

They swam through a glittery underwater cave.

☐

Shan saw a merboy in the lagoon.

☒

Shan and Max played on the water slides.

☐

They swam to a shallow pool.

☐

Tiny lights lit up the way.

☐

Shan stepped into the water.

☐

A castle appeared inside the waterfall.

☐



Name: _____

We use commas to separate items in a list.

Can you add commas to the sentences below, to separate out the lists?

The first one has been done for you.

1

Shan looked at the hoof prints, heard the music and made up her mind.

2

The merboy had dark hair a blue face and a stunning tail.

3

Shan held her breath dived under the water and swam towards Max.

4

The castle had shimmering walls water slides and turrets.

5

This island is magical magnificent and incredible.

6

Shan would like to meet a gryphon a mermaid and a unicorn.

**What will Shan do?****A****Go home and find out more about the magic in the paperweight**

Do we have any idea how Shan could get home? She does not understand how she got to the island, so she might find it difficult to work out how to leave without some help! Also, the island seems to be a lot of fun, so would you like her to explore more before leaving?

B**Go and meet the gryphon**

Gryphons are mythical creatures with the head and wings of an eagle and the body of a lion. Does this seem like a safe creature to meet? On the other hand, we are told that this gryphon likes to surf down sand dunes, so he seems like a lot of fun.

C**Go and meet the unicorn**

Unicorns are also mythical creatures, and we are told that this one likes to explore the amazing maze. Do you know what a maze is? Do you think that Shan might get lost inside the maze on this magical island?

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

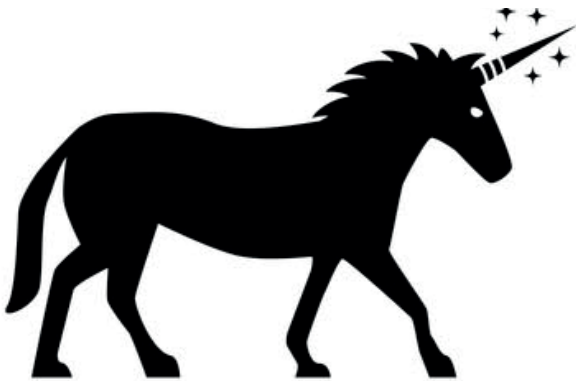
Discussion Activity

In pairs or a small group, discuss what has happened in the story so far. You should think back to the first chapter, then use the Write! worksheet to help you remember the sequence of events in this chapter.

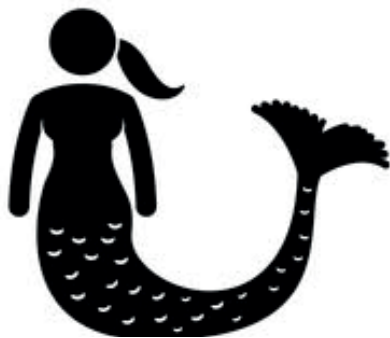


Name: _____

Using books, or the Internet, find out an interesting fact about these three different mythical creatures and write them in the boxes.



Unicorn



Mermaid



Gryphon

ANSWERS

READ! Comprehension Questions

1. Why does Shan walk to the silvery trees?
B. To find out where the music is coming from
2. What does Shan see in the lagoon?
C. A merboy
3. What colour is Max's face?
A. Blue
4. What surprises Shan when she swims in the lagoon?
B. She can swim brilliantly
5. What does the air smell like under the waterfall?
C. Strawberry ice cream
6. How do Max and Shan swim through the cave?
B. They follow little lights
7. What can Shan see inside the waterfall?
A. A castle
8. What do the children play on under the waterfall?
C. Water slides
9. What is swimming in the little pool?
B. Little golden fish
10. What does the gryphon like to do?
A. Surf down sand dunes

READ! Written Response Worksheet

1. gasped
2. glitters like a million diamonds
3. he laughs and splashes in the water happily
4. through the cave, to the castle, down the water slides, to the shallow pool
5. silvery trees, water like a million diamonds, stunning, shining tail, castle that looks like it's made of opal, glittery underwater cave, golden fish
6. (students' ideas)

WRITE! Worksheet: Sort them out

- | | |
|---|---|
| Shan and Max swam through the waterfall. | 6 |
| They swam through a glittery underwater cave. | 3 |
| Shan saw a merboy in the lagoon. | 1 |
| Shan and Max played on the water slides. | 7 |
| They swam to a shallow pool. | 8 |
| Tiny lights lit up the way. | 4 |
| Shan stepped into the water. | 2 |
| A castle appeared inside the waterfall. | 5 |

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mythical beasts:
leremy / fotolia

WRITE! Worksheet: Using commas

1. Shan looked at the hoof prints, heard the music and made up her mind.
2. The merboy had dark hair, a blue face and a stunning tail.
3. Shan held her breath, dived under the water and swam towards Max.
4. The castle had shimmering walls, water slides and turrets.
5. This island is magical, magnificent and incredible.
6. Shan would like to meet a gryphon, a mermaid and a unicorn.