



## Chapter 4 · Big Surprises

Shan has to get away from the monster, but the unicorn is not happy about her escape plan. They will both need to be brave. And Shan is in for some big surprises!

### 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](http://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 the opening to the final chapter
- **Grammar worksheet:** turning statements into questions



### TALK!

- **Voting options:** discussion points for each voting option
- **Discussion activity:** alternative options to present to the class



### EXPLORE!

- **Activity:** other worlds



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

1

**Why doesn't the monster follow Shan and the unicorn?**

- ☐ A. It is scared of the hole
- ☐ B. It is bored of chasing them
- ☐ C. It's too big to go down the passageway

2

**What does the monster do when Shan and the unicorn leave?**

- ☐ A. Cry sadly
- ☐ B. Scream in fury
- ☐ C. Laugh loudly

3

**What is the Deep Hole like?**

- ☐ A. A dark hole without a bottom
- ☐ B. A wide cave filled with lights
- ☐ C. A sand tunnel that is falling apart

4

**What sound is coming from the Deep Hole?**

- ☐ A. The monster screaming
- ☐ B. Something dripping
- ☐ C. Grandma singing

5

**What is the throne made out of?**

- ☐ A. Branches and leaves
- ☐ B. Hundreds of lollipops
- ☐ C. Solid gold



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

6

**Who is sitting in the golden pool?**

- ☐ A. Grandma
- ☐ B. The monster
- ☐ C. Max

7

**What does Grandma smell of?**

- ☐ A. Mints
- ☐ B. Cake
- ☐ C. Strawberries

8

**Why haven't Grandma and Mum gone home?**

- ☐ A. They don't know how to
- ☐ B. They want to look after Max
- ☐ C. The monster won't let them

9

**How long have Grandma and Mum been on the island?**

- ☐ A. Years
- ☐ B. Months
- ☐ C. Days

10

**Why haven't Grandma and Mum found a way out?**

- ☐ A. They have forgotten all about Shan and Dad
- ☐ B. The monster is blocking the door
- ☐ C. They have been too busy having fun



1

Challenge the children to remember what happened in the last chapter. Work together to put the events in order: Max tells Shan about the unicorn, the unicorn takes Shan into the lollipop maze but they get lost, they meet the monster. Read up to *...very sure of herself*. Ask: Why can't the monster follow Shan and the unicorn down the passageway? (It's too narrow.) How does Shan feel? (*very sure of herself*) Remember together the other things that Shan can do in this world.

2

Read the next section up to *the deep, tangled darkness*. Ask: What do you think it was like for Shan when she was chased by the monster? Find the details together: *the ground rumbled*, (because the monster roared so loudly) *Shan trembled*, (even though she's brave) *swiped a hairy arm*, *The monster lunged*, *hot breath* (yuk), *screamed with fury*. Discuss the meaning of 'darted' and 'lunged'. Ask the children to imagine going deeper and deeper into the prickly, dark passageway.

3

Read up to *...down, down, down*. Ask: What noise do Shan and the unicorn hear? (*a drip, drip, dripping sound*) Ask the children to think up other sounds or movements to add into this section, such as 'clip, clip, clop' (of the unicorn's hooves), 'bang, bang, bang', 'round and round and round'. How does the unicorn feel about going down the hole? (scared) How is Shan a good friend? (She reassures the unicorn.) What noise do they make as they go down the hole? (*WHOOOSH*)

4

Read up to *"...I just didn't know how!"* Ask: Why is Grandma sitting on a throne? (She is the leader of the paperweight kingdom.) How long have Grandma Lulu and Mum been inside the paperweight? (months) Imagine together what the throne looks like. (The throne is made of leaves and branches and next to a golden pool.) Ask: Why has Grandma Lulu made the kingdom? (to keep her family safe) Ponder together what she is keeping them safe from.

5

Read to the end of the story. Ask: Do you think that Grandma Lulu is right to hide her family in the paperweight? Ask: Would you like to spend your whole life inside a magical kingdom? Agree that a day or so might be awesome but eventually you would want to get back to your friends and home. Do you think Grandma really doesn't know the way out? Remind the children that she created the paperweight so she must be quite magical.

6

Explain to the children that the next chapter is the last one in the story. Discuss how the children would like the story to end. Would they like her to lead Mum and Grandma back home? Or would they like her to stay in the paperweight with Grandma and Mum? Ask: If Shan does go home, how do you think she will have changed? Speculate together on whether she will still be brave. Will she be better able to sort out her problems?



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**1**

**Why can't the monster follow Shan and the unicorn down the passageway?**

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**2**

**What is the monster like?**

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**3**

**Why does Shan put her hand on the unicorn?**

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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

**4**

**Why did Grandma make the kingdom in the paperweight?**

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**5**

**Would you like to live inside the paperweight?**

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**6**

**How does Shan feel inside the paperweight?**

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Here is some of the challenging or potentially unfamiliar vocabulary used in Chapter 4 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.

crowded

fury

lunged

rumbled

swirling

tangled



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

At the end of this chapter...

Which option did you vote for? Write the opening paragraph of chapter 5, based on the option you chose.

Handwriting practice area with 10 horizontal lines and dashed blue borders.





Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Turn each statement into a question and write it on the line below.  
Don't forget the punctuation you will need at the end of your question.

1

The passageway is too narrow for the monster.

\_\_\_\_\_

2

The unicorn said that the passageway led to the Deep Hole.

\_\_\_\_\_

3

There was a throne in the cave beneath the Deep Hole.

\_\_\_\_\_

4

Shan was surprised to find her grandmother sat on the throne.

\_\_\_\_\_

5

We know how to get back from the island.

\_\_\_\_\_

6

There is danger in the glowing cave wall.

\_\_\_\_\_

**What should Shan do?****A****Go with Max and play with the dragon**

Playing with Max and a dragon certainly sounds like a lot of fun, but do you think this is the best option for Shan? She also seems keen to find a way home from the island, and being distracted by having fun might not be the best way to do this.

**B****Spend time catching up with Mum and Grandma**

We now know that Shan hasn't seen her mum and grandma for months. Is spending time with them the most important thing? We also know that Mum and Grandma have not looked too hard for a way home, so perhaps the longer you stay on the island the less you want to escape?

**C****Explore the glowing gap in the cave wall**

Max says that this is dangerous, but he also told Shan not to go near the Deep Hole. Can we trust what Max says? There is a glow coming from this gap – could it be like the glow of the paperweight and show Shan a way to go home?

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

**Discussion Activity**

In pairs, think up alternative options for the final chapter of *The Island at the End of the Bed*. Present your favourite option to the rest of the class and write it on the whiteboard. When each pair has presented their option, take a vote to see which is most popular.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Imagine what might be beyond the glowing cave wall. Perhaps it could be another world? Write a description of the other worlds shown below.



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## ANSWERS

### READ! Comprehension Questions

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|--|---|
| 1. Why doesn't the monster follow Shan and the unicorn?<br>C. It's too big to go down the passageway | 6. Who is sitting in the golden pool?<br>C. Max   |
| 2. What does the monster do when Shan and the unicorn leave?<br>B. Scream in fury                    | 7. What does Grandma smell of?<br>B. Cake   |
| 3. What is the Deep Hole like?<br>A. A dark hole without a bottom                                    | 8. Why haven't Grandma and Mum gone home?<br>A. They don't know how to                    |
| 4. What sound is coming from the Deep Hole?<br>B. Something dripping                                 | 9. How long have Grandma and Mum been on the island?<br>B. Months                         |
| 5. What is the throne made out of?<br>A. Branches and leaves   | 10. Why haven't Grandma and Mum found a way out?<br>C. They have been too busy having fun |

### READ! Written Response Worksheet

For example:

1. The monster is too large to go down the passageway.
2. The monster roars so loudly the ground shakes, it has hairy arms and hot breath.
3. She is reassuring the unicorn. To make the unicorn feel braver.
4. To keep her family safe.
5. (Child's own answer)
6. She feels brave and strong.

### WRITE! Statements and questions

1. Is the passageway too narrow for the monster?
2. Did the unicorn say that the passageway led to the Deep Hole?
3. Was there a throne in the cave beneath the Deep Hole?
4. Was Shan surprised to find her grandmother sat on the throne?
5. Do we know how to get back from the island?
6. Is there danger in the glowing cave wall?

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