



Chapter 2 · We're Not Alone

Christian and Alfie decide to get their own back on Bolts and his cronies. But the forest is scary, and there is a huge shock in store for them!

THE LONGEST NIGHT

Christina Clover

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:** noun phrases
- **Grammar worksheet:** verb forms



TALK!

- **Voting options:** discussion points for each voting option
- **Discussion activity:** take part in a debate about the voting options



EXPLORE!

- **Activity:** the spooky wood



Name: _____

1

Why does Christian want the tent pegs to be secure?

- ☐ A. There is a storm coming
- ☐ B. Animals keep tripping over it
- ☐ C. In case Bolts comes back

2

Why does Alfie think that Christian is upset at the beginning of the story?

- ☐ A. Christian is very quiet
- ☐ B. Christian is crying
- ☐ C. Christian keeps shouting

3

How did Cathryn tease Alfie?

- ☐ A. She made chicken noises
- ☐ B. She made baby noises
- ☐ C. She made bear noises

4

Where are Bolts and his friends staying?

- ☐ A. In a hut in the woods
- ☐ B. In a cave near the beach
- ☐ C. In a tent in a field

5

Why do Alfie and Christian want to sneak up on Bolts and his friends?

- ☐ A. To get their bags back
- ☐ B. To scare them
- ☐ C. To listen to their plans



Name: _____

6

What does Christian's dad do for a living?

- ☐ A. He owns a zoo
- ☐ B. He runs a circus
- ☐ C. He is an explorer

7

Why does Christian turn off his torch when they reach the clearing?

- ☐ A. The sun has come up
- ☐ B. He wants to save the battery
- ☐ C. The moonlight is bright

8

What does Christian say the noise is that they can hear in the clearing?

- ☐ A. Bolts
- ☐ B. Rabbits
- ☐ C. A bear

9

Why can't the boys open the door of the hut?

- ☐ A. It's nailed shut
- ☐ B. Their hands are shaking
- ☐ C. It's locked

10

What does the bear do when it sees the man?

- ☐ A. It runs away
- ☐ B. It attacks
- ☐ C. It sits down



1

Recap on the events of Chapter 1. Ask: Why are Christian and Alfie in the woods? (Christian is camping for a dare; Alfie has come to check on him) Ask: What did Bolts say lived in the wood? (a bear) Ask: Do you think there really is a bear or is Bolts just being mean? Challenge the children to remember the spooky story that Bolts told. (After a bear went missing from the zoo, a local man went missing and only his hat was found.)

2

Read the first section up to, "*They can't have got that far.*" Ask: Why is Christian banging the pegs in hard? (To stop Bolts pulling his tent down again.) Ask: How do we know that Alfie is a good friend? Work together to list the ways: he has come to check on Christian, he notices and cares that Christian is quiet and he helps Christian with the tent.) Ask: What does the phrase *cheap trick* in the first paragraph mean? (A simple, silly trick.)

3

Ask: Why is Christian so cross? (He has been mocked and bullied by Bolts and his friends.) Ask: Why did Cathryn make chicken noises? (To suggest that Christian is frightened.) What are Alfie's two suggestions as to what he should do? (First, ignore them; secondly, take revenge.) Discuss with the group which option they think is better. Ask: What could go wrong? For example they could get lost in the wood, they could escalate the feud with Bolts, they become the bullies themselves.

4

Read the next section, up to *back into a standing position*. Challenge the children to find the phrases that make the wood sound scary at night, for example: *It was so dark now that they could hardly see, The trees towered above them, the river was louder than ever*. Ask: How does the reader know that Alfie is frightened? Locate the phrase *a quiver in his voice*. Ask: How else is Alfie having a bad time? (He gets out of breath; he falls over.)

5

Read the next section up to *Christian grabbed Alfie's arm*. Agree that everything is getting a bit scary now: first the forest gets darker and then it gets quieter. Ask the children to imagine how they would feel in the dark, quiet wood. Ask: Why are they whispering? (Because they are scared.) Ask: Why is Christian not scared of the rustling noises? (He's used to animals making strange noises at his dad's zoo.) Find the references to noises in this section, from *rustling sounds* to *quite a big rabbit* to a *deep rumbling sound*.

6

Finish reading the chapter, then revisit previous predictions about the bear. List the descriptions of the bear: *dark brown, lumbering, taller than a fully-grown man, a thousand sharp teeth, galloping*. Ask a volunteer to read the chase section, making it sound as dramatic as possible. Draw a story mountain and agree that not being able to open the locked door is probably at the top of the mountain. Speculate on who the man might be and why the bear sits down when it sees him.



Name: _____

1

What makes Alfie a good friend?

2

Why is Christian angry?

3

Find and copy one phrase that makes the wood seem scary.



Name: _____

4

What does the phrase *a quiver in his voice* tell you about Alfie?

5

Why is Christian not frightened of animal noises?

6

Why do you think the bear sits down when it sees the man?



Here is some of the challenging or potentially unfamiliar vocabulary used in chapter 2 of *The Longest Night*.

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.

barely

budge

frowned

huddle

losing
patience

plunge

raucous

trudging



Name: _____

A noun phrase includes a noun (a person, place or thing) and tells us a little bit about the noun using describing words (adjectives). For example:

noun: bear

noun phrase: the big brown bear with sharp teeth

Write your own noun phrases to describe some of the characters in the story:

1. (the bear) _____

2. (Alfie) _____

3. (Bolts) _____

4. (Christian) _____

Choose some of these words and order them to make two different noun phrases that makes sense. You can use a word more than once.

big	boys	bear	after
the	two	hidden	to
on	running	behind	tree

1. _____

2. _____



Name: _____

Verb forms tell us whether an action took place in the present, past or future. Write the infinitive form of these verbs from chapter 2 of *The Longest Night*.

VERB	INFINITIVE FORM
tried, tries	
went, gone	
helps, helped	
following, followed	

Rewrite these sentences in the past tense.

1. "We won't do anything nasty. Just make them jump a bit."

2. Alfie notices that Christian is very quiet.

3. So high up, the forest is silent.

Are these sentences written in the present, past or future tense?

Suddenly, a loud rustle comes from the bush beside them.

Christian pulled out his phone and turned on the torch.

"It'll be better when we've prepared properly."



What does the mysterious figure do?

A

He tells the boys to get inside the hut quickly

Do you think Christian and Alfie should trust the strange figure? Give reasons for your answer. Does the author seem to paint the figure as trustworthy or not? What other choices do the boys have at this point in the story? What do you think will happen in chapter 3 if this is the winning option?

B

He stuns the bear from the doorway

How and why might the figure stun the bear? Do you think this is a good idea? What will the figure do with the bear when it wakes up and how might the bear feel? Predict what will happen in chapter 3 if this is the winning option.

C

He walks past the children towards the growling bear

The figure is very brave to walk towards the bear. What clue in the story suggests the bear won't attack the figure? Do you think the bear is a wild bear or tame? Where might it have come from? Reread chapters 1 and 2 to help you find some answers.

→ Which option do you think would be the most exciting one for the next chapter of *The Longest Night*?

Discussion Activity

In pairs or a small group, choose which option you would like to see take place in the next chapter. Present your reasons to the rest of your class. Then, as a whole class, debate each option and try to reach a final vote.

Discuss the characters you have met so far in the story. Which characters seem strong and which appear weak at this point? If someone is strong does it mean they are always good or could they be dangerous?

Use this discussion and debate to talk about different kinds of bullying – emotional, physical and online. Discuss the impact of bullying and where to seek help.



Name: _____

The *Longest Night* is set in a rather spooky wood! Use this eerie picture to write your own paragraph about the setting. Read the descriptions the author has included in this chapter to help you and don't forget to use some noun phrases in your own writing.



ANSWERS

READ! Comprehension

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Why does Christian want the tent pegs to be secure?
C. In case Bolts comes back | 6. What does Christian's dad do for a living?
A. He owns a zoo |
| 2. Why does Alfie think that Christian is upset at the beginning of the story?
A. Christian is very quiet | 7. Why does Christian turn off his torch when they reach the clearing?
C. The moonlight is bright |
| 3. How did Cathryn tease Alfie?
A. She made chicken noises | 8. What does Christian say the noise is that they can hear in the clearing?
B. Rabbits |
| 4. Where are Bolts and his friends staying?
B. In a cave near the beach | 9. Why can't the boys open the door of the hut?
C. It's locked |
| 5. Why do Alfie and Christian want to sneak up on Bolts and his friends?
B. To scare them | 10. What does the bear do when it sees the man?
C. It sits down |

READ! Written Response Worksheet

1. For example: He has come to check on his friend. He has not run away when Christian is being bullied. He notices that Christian is quiet. He wants to do something to make Christian feel better.
2. He is angry that Bolts and his friends have said that he is a chicken.
3. For example: It was so dark now that they could hardly see; the trees towered above them; the denser and darker the forest became.
4. He is frightened.
5. He is used to animal noises because his dad runs a zoo.
6. Perhaps the bear knows the man well and has been trained by him to obey.

WRITE! Worksheet: Noun phrases

For example:

1. the big brown bear staring out from behind the hut
2. the little freckled boy called Alfie
3. the big bully Bolts with the floppy hair
4. the new boy Christian

1. the two boys hidden behind the tree
2. the big bear running after the boys

WRITE! Worksheet: Verb forms

Infinitives:

to try
to go
to help
to follow

Sentences in the past tense:

1. "We didn't do anything nasty. Just made them jump a bit."
2. Alfie noticed that Christian was very quiet.
3. So high up, the forest was silent.

Choose a tense:

Present tense: Suddenly, a loud rustle comes from the bush beside them.
Past tense: Christian pulled out his phone and turned on the torch.
Future tense: "It'll be better when we've prepared properly."