



Chapter 3 · Friend or Foe?

With Christian and Alfie in a terrifying situation, help comes from an unlikely place. But who is this mysterious figure, and where has this bear come from?

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:** write your own story plan using a story mountain
- **Grammar worksheet:** possessive apostrophes



TALK!

- **Voting options:** discussion points for each voting option
- **Discussion activity:** improvise a scene for the upcoming chapter based on one of the voting options



EXPLORE!

- **Activity:** create a circus flyer



Name: _____

1 Why does Christian pause before dashing into the hut at the beginning?

- A. He knows he shouldn't go into houses of strangers
- B. He is worried about the bear attacking him
- C. He is no longer scared now the bear has sat down

2 How does Christian know that the person in the hut is a woman?

- A. From her voice
- B. From her face
- C. From her clothes

3 Where has the bear come from?

- A. He has escaped from the zoo
- B. He used to be in the circus
- C. He was abandoned in the wild

4 Why has Frances gone to live in the woods with Bray?

- A. She couldn't bear to be parted from Bray
- B. She wanted to live closer to nature
- C. She was worried that Bray would be killed

5 Why does Frances offer to help Christian frighten Bolts?

- A. She feels that the situation is partly her fault
- B. She used to be bullied herself when she was young
- C. She is bored of living alone and wants some excitement



Name: _____

6

What does Christian think Bray is like when he strokes him?

- A. A cosy blanket
- B. A big cat
- C. A teddy bear

7

Why does Frances walk to the river every day?

- A. To get food for Bray
- B. To get water to drink
- C. To have a good wash

8

Where do Frances, Alfie and Bray wait for Bolts and his friends?

- A. In the hut
- B. In the tent
- C. By the river

9

What sort of bear is Bray?

- A. Black bear
- B. Polar bear
- C. Grizzly bear

10

Why does the plan to frighten Bolts not work?

- A. Bray has gone to sleep and Alfie can't wake him up
- B. Bolts grabs Christian before anything else can happen
- C. Christian doesn't notice Bolts arriving in time



- 1** Recap on the events of Chapter 2. Read up to *The boys gasped*. Ask: How does Christian feel at the beginning of the story? (trapped between two dangers) Point out the use of *the figure* rather than *the lady* makes her sound mysterious. Ask the children to find descriptions of the lady in the hut. (*baggy jeans and a large brown jumper, a gruff voice, amused*) Ask: What impression do you get of her? (She is friendly, tough, organised and so on.)
- 2** Read the first section up to, “...*Bray would get to be with other bears.*” Ask a volunteer to explain how Frances and Bray ended up living in the forest. Clarify that in the past, circuses used animals for different acts but that this is now illegal. Ask: Do you think it is a good thing? Ask: Why does Frances not want to take Bray to the zoo? (She doesn't think Bray will be treated well.) Encourage the children to articulate their thoughts on animal welfare.
- 3** Read up to *...with a lot more teeth*. Ask: How is Bray made less frightening? Ask the children to find phrases that describe Bray in this section, for example: *as if he'd been listening, ambled, like a big dog, furry and warm, like a teddy bear*. Point out that he is described as a pet or a toy here – not the scary wild animal of the last chapter – and that he now seems soft and gentle. Point out that he is a tame bear rather than a wild bear. Discuss these differences as a group.
- 4** Look back at Frances' comment earlier: “*No, that's not exactly right.*” What does Frances mean here? (She could mean that the story isn't completely true and that Bray is not a danger or he could possibly still be dangerous. He is, after all, still an animal.) Ask: Do you think that Frances has acted responsibly in keeping Bray in the wild? Ask: Why does Frances decide to help Christian take revenge on Bolts? (She feels partly responsible for the rumours about a bear.)
- 5** Read the next section up to “*...until I undo the zip.*” Together, imagine the scene as the children, Frances and Bray wait in the tent. Why is the scene funny? (They're all squished in a tent with a bear.) Why is it tense? (They are waiting in the dark.) Ask: How does Alfie feel? (Point out that he's *trying to be brave*, and *managed a nervous but excited smile*.) Ask: What could go wrong? Speculate on different scenarios. Discuss how an excited bear might react to strangers.
- 6** Read to the end of the chapter. Ask: How does the author make the reader feel nervous? Point out *walked down the path* (he's no longer near the safety of the tent), *The water gushed past, black as the night* (he's looking down at the scary water in the dark), *hear footsteps* (he hears them creeping up on him). Ask: Why does the plan not work? (Christian is too far away from the tent and Bolts is too fast.)



Name: _____

1

Describe how Frances looks and sounds.

2

Why is Frances hiding in the woods with Bray?

3

What does Christian think that Bray looks like in this chapter?



Name: _____

4 _____

Is Bray dangerous? Explain your answer.

5 _____

How is Alfie feeling as he waits in the tent to frighten Bolts?

6 _____

What two sounds can Christian hear as he waits for Bolts?



Here is some of the challenging or potentially unfamiliar vocabulary used in chapter 3 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.

ambled

amused

black as
the night

chomping

growled

raised one
eyebrow

rumours

squeeze



Name: _____

Planning a story is a bit like climbing a mountain. You need a good start (the opening), a walk to the top (the build up), to reach the summit (the climax) and a satisfying finish (the ending). Use this story mountain to plan your own story – it could be about a trick that goes wrong and someone who is out for revenge, just like the plot of *The Longest Night*.

Main characters _____ _____ _____ _____ _____	Climax	Setting _____ _____ _____ _____ _____
Build up	Ending	
Opening		

Now have a go at writing the first paragraph of your story on a new piece of paper.



Name: _____

A possessive noun shows that a person, animal, object or place owns something.

To show possession of single nouns add **'s**.

To show possession of plural nouns not ending in s, add **'s**.

To show possession of plural nouns ending in s, add **'**.

Write the possessive form of these underlined words by adding an apostrophe or an apostrophe and an 's'.

1. As Christian focused on the person face, he could see it was a woman.

2. Christian slowly reached out his hand and touched Bray back.

3. The boys names were Alfie and Christian.

4. Bolts sneered, his face just inches from Christian.

5. The leaves green colour shone in the moonlight.

6. My friend tent is soaking wet.

7. The bear teeth were sharp and he had hundreds of them in his mouth.

8. Frances took the apples skins off.

9. Christian thought he heard the children groans deep within the forest.



What happens to Christian next?

A

Bolts pushes Christian into the rushing river

What will happen to Christian in the water? Look back at the previous chapters to find out clues about the river. Why might it be more dangerous than usual tonight? Discuss Bolts' actions and the dangerous implications they could have. What do you think will happen in chapter 4 if this is the winning option?

B

Rees pulls Bolts away, releasing Christian

Why do you think Rees wants to help Christian? Perhaps he thinks Bolts is being cruel? Are there any clues in the chapter that suggest Rees is having doubts about taunting Christian? Predict what will happen in chapter 4 if this is the winning option.

C

Alfie bursts out of the tent, rushing to help Christian

Christian has already warned his friend about not intervening. Why do you think Christian did this? Does he want to protect Alfie, Frances and the bear? Do you think he will be angry or relieved that Alfie wants to help? What do you think will happen in chapter 4 if this is the winning option?

→ 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 in the next chapter of the story. Improvise a scene from this option. Remember to think about the basic elements of any story – where the scene is set, which characters appear in the scene, the problem the characters are facing and what solution they come up with to solve it. Look back at your story mountain to consider the various elements of a story and decide which moment in the story you wish to improvise as a group – the beginning, the build up, the climax or the ending.



Name: _____

A trip to the circus is a popular event for families today. Use your persuasive writing skills to create a flyer on a separate piece of paper that includes the following:

1. Information about the place, date and time of the circus show.
2. Information about the food and drink you can purchase during the show - any special offers available etc.
3. Describe the acts you can see, such as a trapeze artist, a clown and a magician.
4. Research and describe what each act wears, the equipment they need and how they train for a performance.
5. Include some colourful pictures and think of a fun name for your circus.

Design the front cover of your circus flyer in the space below.

Large dashed box for designing the front cover of the circus flyer.

READ! Comprehension

1. Why does Christian pause before dashing into the hut at the beginning?
A. He knows he shouldn't go into houses of strangers
2. How does Christian know that the person in the hut is a woman?
B. From her face
3. Where has the bear come from?
B. He used to be in the circus
4. Why has Frances gone to live in the woods with Bray?
C. She was worried that Bray would be killed
5. Why does Frances offer to help Christian frighten Bolts?
A. She feels that the situation is partly her fault
6. What does Christian think Bray is like when he strokes him?
C. A teddy bear
7. Why does Frances walk to the river every day?
A. To get food for Bray
8. Where do Frances, Alfie and Bray wait for Bolts and his friends?
B. In the tent
9. What sort of bear is Bray?
C. Grizzly bear
10. Why does the plan to frighten Bolts not work?
B. Bolts grabs Christian before anything else can happen

READ! Written Response Worksheet

1. She wears old baggy clothes and has a deep, rough voice.
2. She has rescued him from a circus and thinks he will be treated badly if he is taken to a zoo.
3. A big dog or a teddy bear.
4. Yes. He is tame but he is still a grizzly bear with lots of teeth and Frances says the story is *not exactly true* so it could mean that he is still dangerous.
5. He is frightened but he is trying to be brave and to look excited.
6. The rushing river and the sounds of Bolts and his friends creeping up on him.

WRITE! Worksheet: Possessive apostrophes

1. As Christian focused on the person's face, he could see it was a woman.
2. Christian slowly reached out his hand and touched Bray's back.
3. The boys' names were Alfie and Christian.
4. Bolts sneered, his face just centimetres from Christian's.
5. The leaves' green colour shone in the moonlight.
6. My friend's tent is soaking wet.
7. The bear's teeth were sharp and he had hundreds of them in his mouth.
8. Frances took the apples' skins off.
9. Christian thought he heard the children's groans deep within the forest.