



## Chapter 4 · Sweet Revenge?

When Rees steps in to stop Bolts hurting Christian, the bully is angry. Bolts goes after Alfie in the tent, but he doesn't expect to see what awaits inside...

### 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](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 to the author via the book forum
- **Grammar worksheet:** descriptive writing



### TALK!

- **Voting options:** discussion points for each voting option
- **Discussion activity:** expressing opinions about the characters



### EXPLORE!

- **Activity:** anagrams



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

1

**Why does Bolts call Rees a 'loser'?**

- ☐ A. Because he was last to reach the tent
- ☐ B. Because he is scared of getting into trouble
- ☐ C. Because he tells Bolts to leave Christian alone

2

**Why does Bolts let go of Christian?**

- ☐ A. He stumbles when Rees grabs his hand
- ☐ B. He realises that he has gone far enough
- ☐ C. He sees Bray coming out of the tent

3

**Why does Christian decide that he doesn't want Bray to frighten Bolts?**

- ☐ A. He doesn't want to make the situation with Bolts worse
- ☐ B. He realises that it will make him a bully like Bolts
- ☐ C. He thinks that it might teach Bray to be dangerous

4

**Why does Bolts open up the zip of the tent?**

- ☐ A. He hears Bray growl
- ☐ B. He wants to find Alfie
- ☐ C. He wants to ruin the tent

5

**Why does Bray lunge for Bolts?**

- ☐ A. He is excited
- ☐ B. He wants to protect Christian
- ☐ C. He wants to attack him



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

6

**What does Bolts do when he sees Bray?**

- ☐ A. Wets himself
- ☐ B. Faints
- ☐ C. Cries

7

**Why doesn't Rees leave with Bolts, Cathryn and Kieran?**

- ☐ A. He wants to protect Christian
- ☐ B. They have told him to stay
- ☐ C. He realises they are bullies

8

**Why do Rees and Christian run after Bolts?**

- ☐ A. To check he's okay after the shock
- ☐ B. To make sure he doesn't come back
- ☐ C. To check he doesn't call the police

9

**Why does Bolts fall in the river?**

- ☐ A. The riverbank gives way
- ☐ B. He isn't looking where he is going
- ☐ C. Bray accidentally knocks him in

10

**Why is it so dangerous for Bolts to be in the water?**

- ☐ A. The river is about to enter the sea
- ☐ B. It's cold and he can't swim
- ☐ C. The water is bashing him on some rocks



1

Recap on the events of Chapter 3. Ask a volunteer to explain the situation at the end of the chapter. (Bolts has caught hold of Christian; Frances, Bray and Alfie are in the tent.) Read up to “*How dare you?*” *Bolts seethed*. How does Christian feel at the beginning? (He is cross with himself, but surprised that Bolts will cause harm.) Ask the children to find words that capture how unpleasant Bolts is, for example: *sneered, loser, glared menacingly, seethed*.

2

Ask: How is Rees brave in this situation? Discuss how he might not want to stand up to Bolts in the middle of a forest, knowing how violent Bolts can be. Ask: What is the first indication that Rees might be turning against Bolts. (He doesn’t grin.) What impression does the word ‘barked’ give of Cathryn? (That she is cross, that she is a bit dangerous, too.) Read on to “*Bolts, don’t.*” Ask: Why has Christian decided that he doesn’t want to scare Bolts?

3

Read up to, “*Please don’t kill me,*” *he whispered*. How does Christian feel here? Agree that the surprise of the bear goes perfectly – Bolts cries and is terrified – but that Christian doesn’t enjoy it. Why is that? (He’s not a bully.) Find vocabulary that creates drama in this section: *grabbed, almighty roar, gasped, lunged, backed up against a tree, watching in horror, whimpered, quivering*. Ask the children to compare Bolts in this passage with the Bolts at the beginning of the chapter.

4

Read up to ...*the direction that Bolts had fled*. Ask: Why did Frances have to be asked so many times to tell Bray to stop? Discuss suggestions, for example, she felt that Bolts deserved to be taught a lesson, she knew Bray wasn’t dangerous. Ask: What impression does the phrase *lumbered amiably* give of Bray? (gentle, relaxed, large) Ask: Why does Christian decide to run after Bolts? (He is worried about Bolts; Bolts is in shock; he feels responsible; he is a kind person.)

5

Read to the end of the story. Ask: What do you think Bolts thought when he looked back over his shoulder and saw Christian running with Bray? Speculate that he probably thought that Christian was still trying to scare him. Ask: Why does Bolts fall in the river? (He is too busy looking back at the bear and steps off the path.) Find phrases that create the sense of Bolts’ desperate fall, for example: *slipped, tumbled, grasped, desperately, falling too fast*.

6

Together find all the different vocabulary used to describe Bolts in the water and the river itself, for example: *splashed, spinning around, black water*. Ask: what makes the river dangerous? (the current, the cold, Bolts can’t swim) Point out that added drama is created by the noise, the panic and the fact that Bolts disappears and reappears. Ask the children to speculate on what might happen in the last chapter. What might happen to Bray? Will Bolts change his ways?



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

**1** What impression do the words 'sneered' and 'seethed' give of Bolts?

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**2** Do you think Rees is brave? Explain your answer.

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**3** Find and copy three words that show how scared Bolts is when Bray lunges at him.

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

**4**

**Why does Christian run after Bolts?**

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**5**

**How do you think Bolts felt when he saw Christian and Bray running after him?**

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**6**

**What makes the river dangerous?**

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

amiably

barked

emerged

grinning

large frame

pursuit

watching  
in horror

wimpy



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

Post a message to Christina Clover on the book forum for *The Longest Night*. Use these questions to help you decide what to say. Fill in the boxes then choose the elements you are most interested in to write your message.

1. What is your favourite part of the story so far?

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2. Who is your favourite character? \_\_\_\_\_

Explain why: \_\_\_\_\_

Write down a question to ask Christina Clover about this character.

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3. What two questions would you like to ask the author about what might happen to your favourite character in the upcoming final chapter?

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_





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

Can you use your knowledge of the woodland setting we've read about so far to answer these questions? Use your answers to write a descriptive paragraph. Try to include plenty of different adjectives, adverbs and similes.

1. List three characteristics of the woods and its river: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

2. What does the river sound like? \_\_\_\_\_

3. What does the river feel like? \_\_\_\_\_

Cut out these sentence openers and stick them onto a separate piece of paper. Use them to help you write a descriptive paragraph about the moment Bolts falls into the river.

The river has ...

Bolts struggles in ...

The bear growls at ...

Christian wants to help ...

Bolts is being ...

The river is a wild ...

Frances wants to ...



How can Bolts survive the river?

**A**

### **Bolts' gang make a chain to pull him out**

How could Bolts' friends make a human chain and reach him in the water? Do you think they will be brave enough to try? Look back at the previous chapters to read clues about the characters of Cathryn, Kieran and Rees. What do you think will happen in chapter 5 if this is the winning option?

**B**

### **Christian and Alfie dive into the water after him**

Why does Christian want to help Bolts? Reread the chapter for clues. Why might Alfie want to help too? Do you think these two boys will be brave enough to try? Predict what will happen in chapter 5 if this is the winning option.

**C**

### **Bray and Frances use their circus skills to help**

Do you think Frances will want to help Bolts? What kind of skills could she and Bray use to rescue him? What dangers will there be to consider when attempting circus tricks over, or in, rushing water? What do you think will happen in the final chapter if this is the winning option?

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

## **Discussion Activity**

In pairs or a small group, mind map your ideas, feelings and opinions about two very different characters, such as Christian and Bolts or Alfie and the bear. Think about their appearance and speech, their body language and their actions as well as any links to other characters in the story that we know about so far.

Which of these elements help you decide which character is good and which is not? Both Christian and Bolts are leaders in one way or another, yet we trust one and not the other. Why is that?



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

The letters in these words or names from chapter 4 have been mixed up. Can you unscramble them?

H R N A C I T I S

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R B A Y

--	--	--	--

I V R R E

--	--	--	--	--

D N O W M E A T R S

--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--	--

W M S I

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## ANSWERS

### READ! Comprehension

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| 1. Why does Bolts call Rees a 'loser'?                                    | 6. What does Bolts do when he sees Bray?                  |
| C. Because he tells Bolts to leave Christian alone                        | C. Cries  |
| 2. Why does Bolts let go of Christian?                                    | 7. Why doesn't Rees leave with Bolts, Cathryn and Kieran? |
| A. He stumbles when Rees grabs his hand                                   | C. He realises they are bullies                           |
| 3. Why does Christian decide that he doesn't want Bray to frighten Bolts? | 8. Why do Rees and Christian run after Bolts?             |
| B. He realises that it will make him a bully like Bolts                   | A. To check he's okay after the shock                     |
| 4. Why does Bolts open up the zip of the tent?                            | 9. Why does Bolts fall in the river?                      |
| B. He wants to find Alfie   | B. He isn't looking where he is going.                    |
| 5. Why does Bray lunge for Bolts?   | 10. Why is it so dangerous for Bolts to be in the water?  |
| A. He is excited  | B. It's cold and he can't swim.                           |

### READ! Written Response Worksheet

1. That he is mean and cross. He looks down on people and doesn't want anyone to go against him.
2. Yes: He knows that Bolts is a bully and can be violent but he stands up to him, siding with Christian against his friends even though it might make life difficult for him in the future.
3. For example: gasped, whimpered, cry, quivering, whispered
4. He is worried about Bolts; he feels responsible for upsetting Bolts; he is kind.
5. He probably felt that Christian was still trying to frighten him.
6. The current; the cold; Bolts can't swim.

### EXPLORE! Anagrams

CHRISTIAN  
BRAY  
RIVER  
DOWNSTREAM  
SWIM