

CURIOUS CAL AND THE WISH MACHINE

Teacher Resources, Week 2

This pdf contains:

- **Text Questions:** In this section, you will find questions about the chapter. These can be used orally in guided or shared reading discussions, as an independent comprehension exercise, or as part of a written homework or reading club activity.
- **Making the Choice and Voting:** Before choosing how to vote, students could discuss, as a group or a class, the wider context of the story and the consequences for the characters of each voting option at the end of the chapter. Students should be encouraged to use a variety of resources in their research, including books and the Internet.
- **Writing Art Activities:** Fiction Express for Schools provides a brilliant springboard into writing and some ideas and inspiration are provided in this section. Ideas for extension activities in Art are also provided.
- **Starter Vocabulary List:** Students might find this list useful for their writing exercises.
- **Key Words:** This section provides a selection of key words from the chapter for use in extension work.
- **Puzzles:** This section provides printable puzzles for students to complete. Answers are also provided.
- **Picture Resources:** This section provides images to inspire student discussion. These images can be displayed on a whiteboard or printed.
- **Resources:** Here you will find a list of relevant websites that students might find useful.

CURIOUS CAL AND THE WISH MACHINE

by Cavan Scott

Text Questions



Chapter 2 A Big Problem!

1. Why do you think the author gave this chapter the title 'A Big Problem!'? Do you think this is amusing?
2. Did you enjoy reading chapter 2 of *Curious Cal and the Wish Machine*? Do you think Cal is more curious than other people? Why?
3. Which parts of chapter 2 did you like best? Describe them.
4. Were there any phrases or sentences in chapter 2 that you thought were amusing? Go back to the story and find them.
5. What does Cal think is happening at the beginning of the story? Is he right?
6. What metaphor does the author use to describe how Cal feels when he realizes that he has shrunk? Go back to the story to find out.
TEACHER NOTE: blind panic
7. Who does Cal blame for making him shrink? Do you think Cal is being reasonable here? Why not?
8. How big is Cal once he stops shrinking?
9. Which items does Cal use to make his lasso? Go back to the story to find out.
10. How does the author show how Cal feels when he succeeds in bending the paperclip? Go back to the story to find out.
TEACHER NOTE: *holding up the twisted paperclip like a trophy*
11. Cal says, "If at first you don't succeed..." Write the ending to this saying.
12. What evidence can you find in chapter 2 to prove that Cal is a determined person? Go back to the story to find the evidence.

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13. Why does Chiman’s “Meeeow!” sound like a roar? Why do you think Cal is so frightened of the cat?
14. What adjectives does Cal use to describe Chiman? Go back to the story to find them. Can you think of any other adjectives Cal might have used?
15. Why does the toy helicopter suddenly take off?
16. Why doesn’t the toy helicopter smash into the ceiling? Go back to the story to find out.
17. How is Mr Patel able to bring the toy helicopter safely back down on to the workbench? Go back to the story to find out.
18. How does Mr Patel react when Cal explains what happened? Did you expect Mr Patel to react this way?
19. Can you remember what the green spray tasted and smelt like? Why was it important for Cal to be sprayed all over?
20. Does Cal ever answer Mr Patel’s question, “*How do you feel?*”? Why not?
21. Can you do an impression of Mr Patel when he *proudly puffed out his chest*? Have a try.
22. Can you name some of the *gadgets and gizmos* that Mr Patel has in his laboratory? Go back to the story to find them.
23. What does the ‘Brilliant Machine’ do, and what does it look like? Why do you think it looks like this?
24. How do we know that Cal is really impressed with the Brilliant Machine? Go back to the story to find out.

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Making the Choice and Voting

What will Cal choose?

Option 1: To be brilliant at drawing comic strips

Can you predict what might happen in chapter 3 if this is the winning option? Can you imagine how the author will make the chapter entertaining and exciting? What would you do if you could be brilliant at drawing cartoons and comic strips for 30 minutes? What sort of comic strip would you want to create, and who would you draw a cartoon of? Do you think that this is a fun option? Would you like to be brilliant at drawing comic strips? Do you like art?

Option 2: To be brilliant at dancing

Can you predict what might happen in chapter 3 if this is the winning option? Do you think it would be funny if Cal was suddenly brilliant at dancing? What type of dance do you think Cal might choose to perform? What would you do if you could be brilliant at dancing for 30 minutes? Where would you dance, and who would you want to impress?

Option 3: To be brilliant at skateboarding

Can you predict what might happen in chapter 3 if this is the winning option? Will this make for an exciting chapter? What would you do if you could be brilliant at skateboarding for 30 minutes? Where would you go? Can you foresee any problems for Cal if you choose this option? Would you like to be brilliant at skateboarding?

Which option do you think Cal would prefer?

Which option would you choose if YOU could try the brilliant machine?

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Writing and Art Activities

Imagine that you wake up one morning and find that you have shrunk down to the size of a squirrel. Imagine how you would feel, and how everything around you would look. How would you get out of bed? How would you wash and get dressed? How would you get downstairs? What obstacles would you come up against? Write your own story called '*The Day I Shrunk*'. Make your story as interesting and as entertaining as you can so that your classmates will enjoy reading it.

Can you remember how big some of the objects in the laboratory looked to Cal once he had shrunk? Go back to the story and make a list of the comparisons that Cal makes to describe the objects around him. Make a list of five other objects that you might find in Mr Patel's laboratory. Then describe each of these objects from Cal's perspective.

Draw a picture of Chimman the cat sitting at the top of the stairs. Then in an extended caption, describe your picture and explain what is about to happen next. You might want to add a thought bubble to your picture to show what Chimman is thinking. Don't forget to use the author's description of Chimman as inspiration for your picture.

TEACHER NOTE: Author's description: *Coarse ginger hair bristled over its gigantic body, and it stared down at Cal with fierce green eyes.*

Imagine you are Chimman. Now write your account of what happened on the day a small boy appeared in the laboratory.

Vocabulary list provided.

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Chiman is an Indian name meaning 'curious'. Write a few sentences explaining why you think this is, or is not, an appropriate name for Mr Patel's cat.

Go back to chapter 2 and find all the words the author uses to mean, very large. Then try to think of at least the same number of words that you could use to mean very small. List your words in alphabetical order.

Design an invention of your own that you think Cal would be curious enough to want to try. Draw a diagram of your invention, with labels pointing to the most important parts. Then write an extended caption explaining exactly what your invention can do and why Cal would not be able to resist trying it out.

If you were Cal, which of the options would you choose at the end of chapter 2? Writing in sentences, explain your choice.

Think of another option that could be added to the list at the end of the chapter. Explain why you think it's a good option. Write a brief description of what would happen in the story next week if your option won the vote.

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Vocabulary List

Peckish, starving, ravenous, laboratory, meal, morsel, snack, startled,
surprised, pounced, hurtled, plunged, squeaking, lurching, disappeared,
amazed, annoyed, frustrated, rotating, flying, hovering

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Fiction Express
by Boolino

Key Words

Below is a list of challenging or potentially unfamiliar vocabulary used in Chapter 2 of *Curious Cal and the Wish Machine*. You may wish to explore this vocabulary with your pupils, to aid their understanding of the chapter and enhance, or “up level”, the quality of their own writing.

scattered, terrified, workbench, glance, entire, glint, plummeted, frantic

You might like to use the boxed versions of the words below on your ‘Working Wall’ or Literacy display – we hope this saves you the time of making a vocabulary display of your own!

scattered

terrified

workbench

glance

entire

glint

plummeted

frantic

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Puzzle: Wordsearch

Complete this wordsearch containing words from Chapter 2 of *Curious Cal and the Wish Machine*?

A	F	T	J	I	L	P	A	A	T	C	A	L	H	G
B	S	P	R	O	U	T	S	X	M	N	O	P	K	L
M	Z	Q	E	R	I	F	C	F	K	N	I	R	H	S
A	R	T	E	F	R	N	A	M	I	H	C	E	F	L
C	I	T	I	X	E	R	H	P	J	X	E	Y	O	E
H	T	W	O	R	K	B	E	N	C	H	X	S	F	D
I	G	T	I	Z	I	R	B	D	E	Q	O	Q	O	Q
N	I	E	B	I	C	I	B	T	R	R	T	U	E	B
E	Z	C	O	Q	B	L	T	X	E	F	L	I	F	O
S	M	Q	X	T	D	L	X	A	Y	E	N	R	O	T
C	O	Z	E	C	X	I	E	X	T	O	R	R	E	E
P	E	D	S	P	Q	A	C	A	Y	O	R	E	A	G
R	D	R	I	E	C	N	P	D	I	Z	P	L	U	D
C	Z	D	R	D	R	T	N	E	N	F	E	B	I	A
N	E	I	G	H	B	O	U	R	Z	B	U	R	N	G

AEROSOL
BOXES
BRILLIANT
CAL
CHIMAN
GADGET
GIZMO

MACHINES
NEIGHBOUR
PATEL
SHRINK
SPROUTS
SQUIRREL
WORKBENCH

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Puzzle ANSWERS

										C	A	L		
	S	P	R	O	U	T	S							
M									K	N	I	R	H	S
A						N	A	M	I	H	C			L
C													O	
H		W	O	R	K	B	E	N	C	H		S		
I	G					R					O	Q		
N	I		B			I				R		U		
E	Z		O			L			E		L	I		
S	M		X			L		A		E		R		T
	O		E			I			T			R		E
			S			A		A				E		G
						N	P					L		D
						T								A
N	E	I	G	H	B	O	U	R						G

AEROSOL
BOXES
BRILLIANT
CAL
CHIMAN
GADGET
GIZMO

MACHINES
NEIGHBOUR
PATEL
SHRINK
SPROUTS
SQUIRREL
WORKBENCH

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Picture Resources

In Chapter 2, Mr Patel sprays Cal with his secret growing spray, to return Cal to normal human size.

Imagine you were holding the can in this picture.

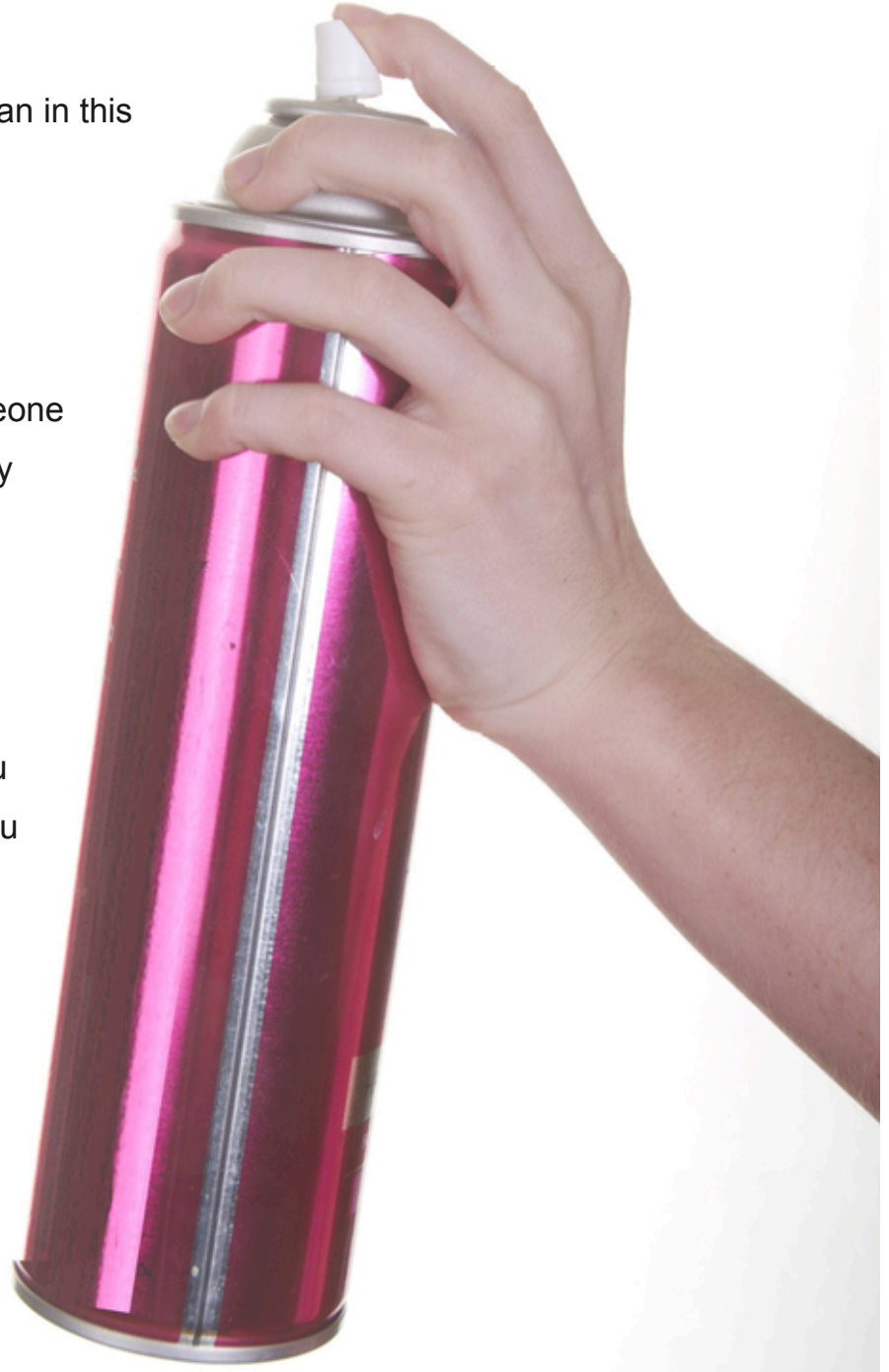
What might the spray do?

Would it reverse the effects of something, for example, if someone talked too much would the spray make them quiet?

Could the spray have other magical powers?

Who would you use it on? If you sprayed yourself what would you like to happen?

What might go wrong after you have sprayed someone with your magical spray?



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Picture Resources

This is a picture of a remote controlled helicopter.



How do you think Cal felt when the toy helicopter took off, and he was inside? How would you have felt if you were Cal? Think of five words to describe your feelings.

What do you think it would be like to fly in real helicopter?

Do you have any remote controlled toys at home?

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Picture Resources

This is an illustration by John Tenniel of a scene from the famous book called *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

Who wrote this book and when was it written?

How does the story begin?

What happens when Alice drinks from the bottle labelled 'Drink Me'?

Remember that the readers voted for Cal to shrink to the size of a squirrel at the end of chapter 1. What were the other options that the author offered the readers?



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Resources:



Websites

Cal sees a *tool box as big a bus* – explore other similes using the websites below:

English Club Similie Spinner game

<http://www.english-online.org.uk/games/similiframe.htm>

English Club matching simlies game

<https://www.englishclub.com/esl-games/vocabulary/matching-similes.htm>

Do you know the difference between a similie and a metaphor? Use this game on the Super Teacher Tools website to find out!

<http://www.superteachertools.com/jeopardy/usergames/Feb201106/game1297119259.php>

If you like *Curious Cal and the Wish Machine* you may also like:

George's Marvellous Medicine by Roald Dahl

The Borrowers by Mary Norton

Alice in Wonderland by Lewis Carroll