

CURIOUS CAL

AND THE WISH MACHINE

Teacher Resources, Week 3

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 Activities:** Fiction Express for Schools provides a brilliant springboard into writing and some ideas and inspiration are provided in this section. An idea for a Speaking and Listening activity is also provided.
- **Research Activities:** This section provides extension activity ideas involving researching information on the Internet and in library books.
- **Art and Numeracy Activities:** This section provides ideas for extension activities in Art and Numeracy.
- **Templates:** This section provides printable templates for one, or some, of the exercises suggested in the 'Writing Activities' section.
- **Worksheets:** This section provides printable worksheets for student use. Answers are also provided where appropriate.
- **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.

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by Cavan Scott



Text Questions

Chapter 3 The Brilliant Machine

1. Did you enjoy reading the third chapter of *Curious Cal and the Wish Machine*? Think of three words that describe how you feel about this story.
2. What did you like best about chapter 3 of *Curious Cal and the Wish Machine*? Describe your favourite scene.
3. What do you think about Mr Patel? What sort of person do you think he is?
4. What did Mr Patel think was 'great fun' when his wife was alive? Go back to the story to find out. Does Cal think this would be fun for him?
5. Can you remember exactly what the Brilliant Machine looks like? Look back at the chapter and use the text to help you describe it to a friend.
6. What happens to Cal's body when he puts the Brilliant Machine on his head? What happens to his hands? Describe how Cal feels at this point in the story.
7. What does Mr Patel say to Cal that causes him to splutter? Go back to the chapter to find out. Do you think you would feel the same way as Cal if you were in his situation?
8. Where does Cal get the skateboard from? What is unusual about it?
9. Can you describe what happened to Cal the first time he tried skateboarding?
10. Who is Cyril Snerp? What is he like? Is he popular? Is he good at skateboarding?
11. Can you remember the name of the first skateboarding stunt that Cal is able to do once the Brilliant Machine starts to work? What sort of a stunt is this?
12. Does Cal enjoy being brilliant at skateboarding? What do you think he likes best about it?

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13. Could you picture Cal on his skateboard doing lots of impressive stunts in front of Cyril? How did this make you feel?
14. Can you imagine how Cyril felt when he saw Cal doing lots of amazing stunts? How does he respond? Do you think Cal enjoyed showing off? What words does the author use in this part of the story to suggest that Cal is really showing off? Go back to the story to find them.
15. How does Mr Patel get to the skate park? What does this tell us about Mr Patel?
16. Did you wonder what was going to happen when the 30 minutes were up? Did you guess that something dramatic was going to happen at this point in the story?
17. What causes the rockets on Mr Patel's skateboard to suddenly fire off? Go back to the story to find out.
18. How does Mr Patel save Cal and Cyril? Describe this scene.
19. '*...the rockets sputtered to a halt and they started to plummet down...*' What does the word plummet mean? Can you think of any other objects that would plummet? Can you think of objects that wouldn't plummet?
20. What unusual simile does the author use to describe the way Mr Patel, Cyril and Cal dropped from the sky? Go back to the story to find it. What did you like about this simile?
21. What do the onlookers do when Mr Patel, Cyril and Cal land safely? Who do you think they were cheering?
22. At the end of the story what is Cal worried about? Do you think he is right to be worried?
23. How does Mr Patel wake Cal early on Saturday morning? Can you think of any reasons why Mr Patel is so keen for Cal to try out the Shape Shifting Machine?

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Making the Choice and Voting



What does Mr Patel's Shape-Shifting Machine turn Cal into?

Option 1: A monster

Can you imagine what sort of monster Cal would turn into? Do you think Cal could be a scary monster? Do you think Cal would want to become a monster? Can you imagine exactly what he might look like? Who do you think Cal might like to scare? Do you think choosing this option would make chapter 4 funny, exciting or dull?

Option 2 : A famous pop star

What pop star do you think Cal would like to be? Will Cal sing, play an instrument or both? Can you imagine how Cal will feel if he suddenly becomes a very famous person? Do you think he would enjoy being a pop star? Can you think of any reasons why he might not enjoy being a pop star? Can you imagine what might happen in chapter 4 if you choose this option?

Option 3 : Mr Patel

What might it feel like to be an older person? How do you think Mr Patel would react to this situation? Do you think Cal would turn into Mr Patel on purpose? What sort of adventures could Cal have as Mr Patel? Can you think of any disadvantages of being Mr Patel? What would happen if Cal and Mr Patel were both seen at the same time? Do you think this would be a fun option to choose? Would you like to see how the author, Cavan Scott, would handle this situation? Do you think this would give the author a challenge?

If you could shape-shift into anything, what would it be?

Which option would make the funniest plotline for chapter 4?

Which option would make the most exciting plotline for chapter 4?

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Writing Activities



Write the first two sentences of chapter 4 based on your favourite voting option. Make your opening sentences really dramatic. Then give your writing to another classmate to see if they can carry on with your story.

Go back to the story and find as many interesting words related to skateboarding as you can. Make two lists, one of verbs and one of nouns. Then use these words to describe your own skateboarding experience!

Do you have an old shed, garage or cupboard full of junk at your house? Write an interesting description of this place.

Find the metaphor the author uses to describe what happens when Mr Patel opens his shed door. Can you use it in another sentence? Chat to a partner and come up with a few ideas, then write them on a post-it-note. You could use these to make a “metaphor montage” on your Working Wall or Literacy display.

Illustrate your favourite scene in chapter 3. Then write an extended caption explaining what is happening in your picture.

Summarize chapter 3 in less than 100 words. Make sure you include the most important events of this chapter.

Imagine Cyril is having a conversation with a friend on the evening after his skateboarding drama with Cal and his rescue by Mr Patel. What do you think he would say? Do you think he would tell the truth? Do you think he might change or exaggerate some of the facts? Write the conversation you think Cyril will have.

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Extended/Big Writing Task – My Brilliant 30 Minutes

Imagine you have used Mr. Patel's Brilliant Machine. Write a diary entry all about your 30 minutes of being brilliant and the adventures that you had.

Before you start, think about the exciting words (for example gigantic instead of big), openers, connectives and punctuation you will use in your writing.

Also think about:

- what you would like to be brilliant at
- where you will go to try out your new skill
- other characters you could involve in your adventure
- what happens after 30 minutes when the power wears off?

Planning sheet and diary template on pages 8 and 9.

Are you interested or not interested in skateboarding? Write a few sentences explaining how you feel about this sport.

Can you imagine what Cal will tell his mother when she asks him how he got on with Mr Patel? Write this conversation as an extra scene in the story.

Go back to chapter 3 and find all the words that the author uses instead of 'said'. Then copy them down in alphabetical order. Then write a few interesting sentences of your own using some of these words.

If you were Cal, which of the options would you choose at the end of chapter 3? Writing in sentences, explain your choice.

Read the biography information on Tony Hawk a very famous Skateboarder Using the facts you have learnt write a quick quiz and swap with a classmate. How did you score?

Tony Hawk Biography provided on page 14

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Writing Activity: My Brilliant 30 Minutes

Imagine you have tried the cap on from Mr Patel's brilliant machine. Write a diary all about your 30 minutes of being brilliant.

Planning

Vocabulary (WOW words to describe your brilliant powers eg sprint instead of run)	Connectives (words that join your ideas together)
Openers (how will you start your sentences)	Punctuation

What have you chosen to be brilliant at?

Where will you go to try out your new skill?

Pick 2 more characters that will be involved in your adventure. Describe them below:

What happens after 30 minutes when the power wears off?

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Diary Template



Fiction Express
by Boolino



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Research Activities



Using the Internet, or books from your school library, find out exactly what skateboards are like. Then draw a diagram of a skateboard, labelling all its important parts.

Do you know any names of Skateboard tricks?

Use the Internet to research real stunts, and create some names or tricks of your own.

Write your own description of some of your favourite stunts.

Here is a Skateboard Dictionary website to get you started:

<http://www.exploratorium.edu/skateboarding/largeglossary.html>

Music Activity

Create the sound effects for a machine that Mr Patel has in the basement – think carefully what sort of instruments you are going to use (bells, wood blocks, drums). Or could you make the sound effects using only your voice – clanking of cogs, whirring of wheels, hissing of pistons?

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Art Activity: Design your own skateboard

Here are some examples of skateboard art.



Use the outline skateboard outlines on the next page to design your own skateboards.

Think about the colour scheme – will you have lots of different colours or a few carefully chosen ones?

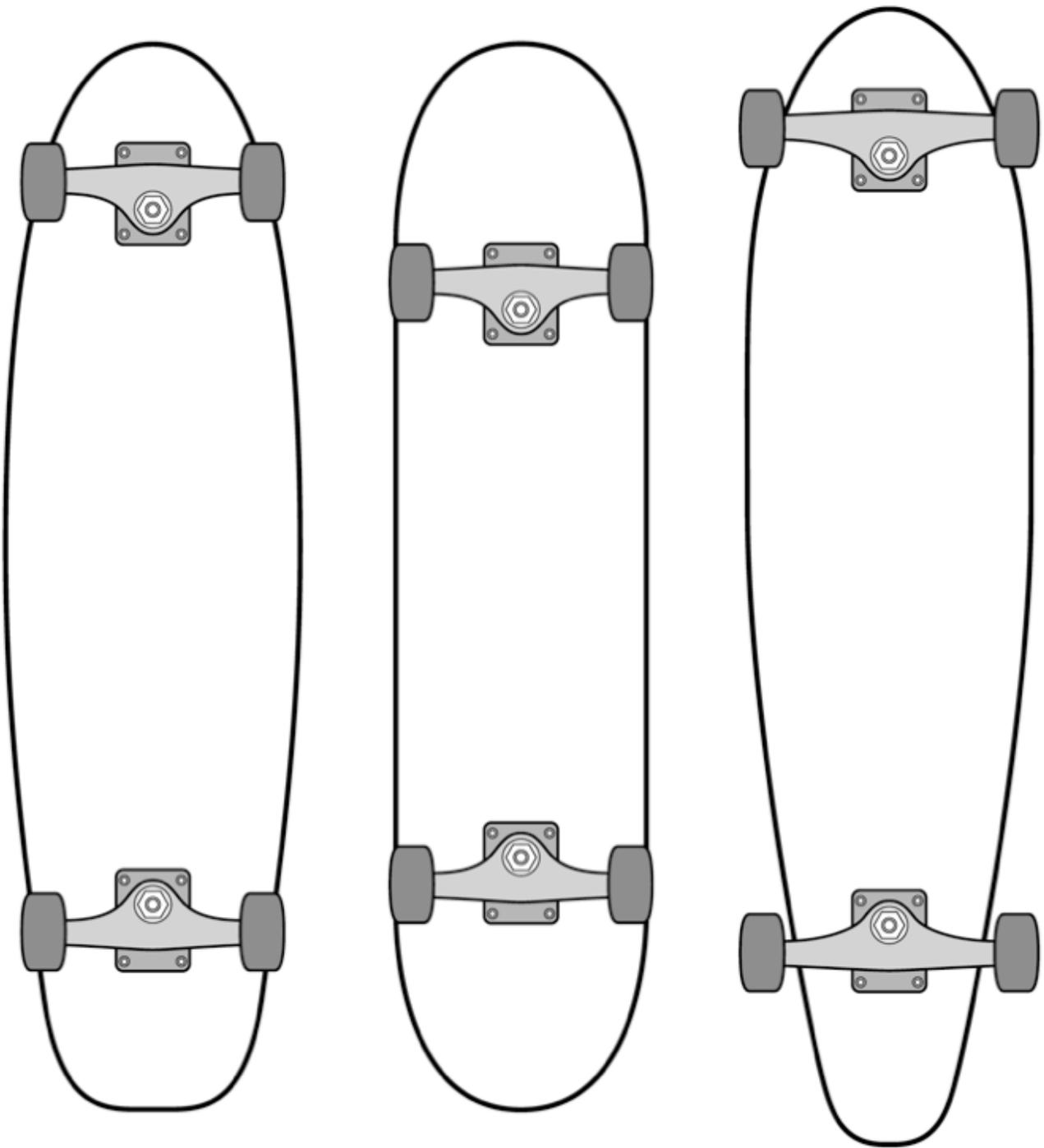
Think how to use the space and plan your design – you don't want it to become over-crowded.

Will you include a character (like the monsters on the skateboards above)?

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Art Activity Template



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Worksheet: Full stops and capital letters

What would happen if the author forgot to put full stops and capital letters into his writing? Do you think you would be able to read his story in the same way?

Try reading an extract from chapter 3 below.

at the skate park, only one person was performing stunts on the half-pipes – cyril
snerp all the other children were sitting snivelling on the sidelines after cyril had
chased them off it was fair to say that cyril was a big lad in fact, some said that
he looked like a hairless gorilla they'd never dare say that to his face, of course

Discuss with your partner what you found when reading this.

Re-write the excerpt, putting back the full stops and capital letters.

Why do you think it is important to always use capital letters for people's names?

Which of the words below would always be written with a capital letter?

glanced, clock, saturday, mr patel, machine, cyril, shopping bags, october,

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Worksheet ANSWERS

Learning objective/ WALT (We Are Learning To) :

Add in full stops and capital letters

Re-write the excerpt, putting back the full stops and capital letters.

At the skate park, only one person was performing stunts on the half-pipes – **C**yril **S**nerp. **A**ll the other children were sitting snivelling on the sidelines, after **C**yril had chased them off. **I**t was fair to say that **C**yril was a big lad. **I**n fact, some said that he looked like a hairless gorilla. **T**hey'd never dare say that to his face, of course.

Which of the words below would always be written with a capital letter?

Saturday

Mr

Patel

Cyril

October

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Tony Hawk Biography

Tony Hawk was one of the top skateboarders in the world by the time he was 16. He was a professional skateboarder for 17 years and won more than 70 skateboarding contests.

Tony Hawk started his own skateboarding company, BirdHouse and also has a successful line of video games and skateboarding videos. He set up a charity called the Tony Hawk Foundation, which donates money for building Skateparks in poor areas.

Tony was born on May 12 1968, in San Diego, California, USA. As a child, he was intelligent and hyperactive. When he was nine, he received a skateboard from his older brother. That gift changed his life and gave him an outlet for all of his energy.

By the age of 12, Tony got his first sponsor, Dogtown skateboards. Two years later, he became a professional skateboarder.

Tony Hawk's ability to perform impressive stunts has made him very popular.

At the 1999 X Games, he became the first skater ever to land a "900 – one of the hardest skateboarding tricks ever. After this he retired from competition.

Tony Hawk still skates, gives skateboarding demonstrations, and makes up new tricks. Besides his skateboarding business, he has a successful line of video games and skateboarding videos.



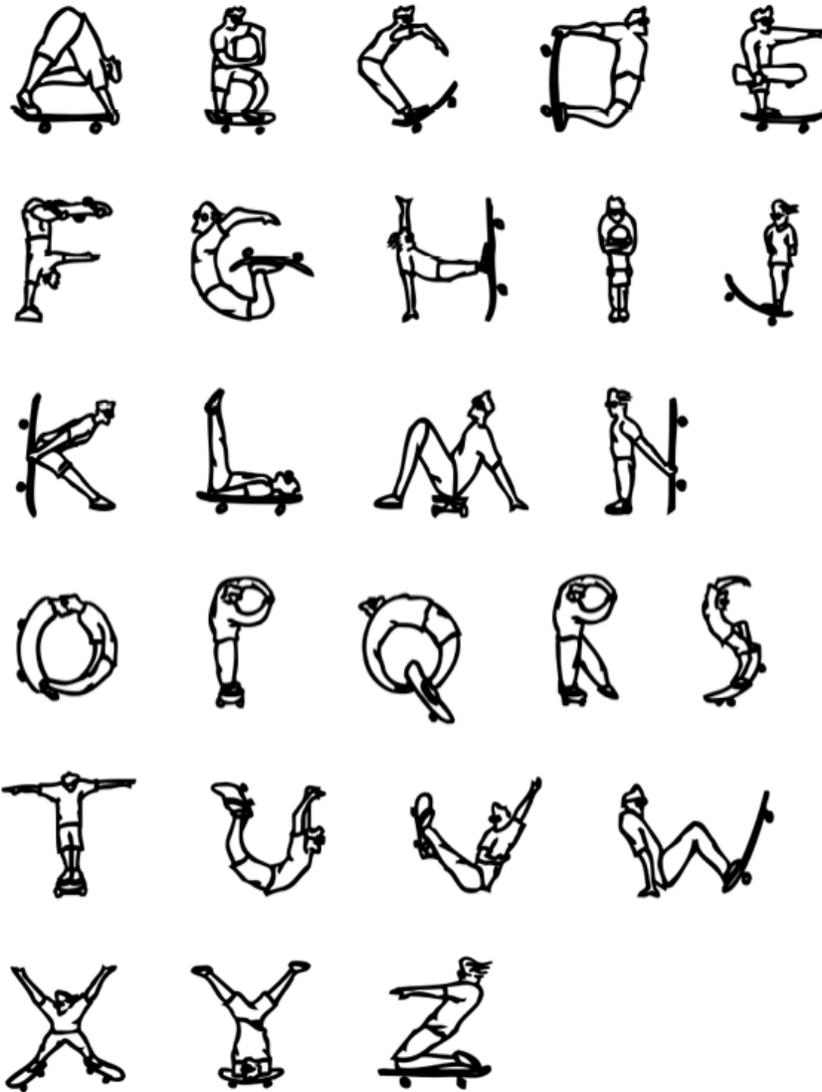
(Information taken from <http://www.biography.com/people/tony-hawk-40989#profile>)

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Picture Resources

Here is a fun alphabet made up from skateboarders.



Draw your name, copying the pictures for each letter above or cut and stick them.

Create an alphabet for another sport or hobby of yours.

In the playground or in a PE lesson see if you and your friends can make these shapes out of your body and spell short words – email your photos to the Fiction Express Team at info@fictionexpress.co.uk and we will post them on the blog!

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Resources



Websites

If the readers had voted a different way this week, Cal might have been brilliant at drawing comic strips. Use this website, from the British Council to make your own comic strip.

<http://learnenglishkids.britishcouncil.org/en/make-your-own/comic-strip-maker>

Skateboard Dictionary

<http://www.exploratorium.edu/skateboarding/largeglossary.html>

BBC Inside Out: Skateboarding

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/insideout/west/series4/skateboarding.shtml>

Healthy Kids: Skateboarding

<http://www.healthykids.nsw.gov.au/kids-teens/kids-activities/kids-sport-and-physical-activity-ideas/kids-skateboarding.aspx>

Note to teachers: Every effort has been made by the Publishers to ensure that these websites are suitable for children, that they are of the highest educational value, and that they contain no inappropriate or offensive material. However, because of the nature of the Internet, it is impossible to guarantee that the content of these sites will not be altered. We strongly advise that Internet access is supervised by a responsible adult.

Books:

First Sport: Skateboarding by James Nixon. Franklin Watts, 2014