

CURIOUS CAL

AND THE WISH MACHINE

Teacher Resources, Week 4

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, Drama and Discussion Activities:** Fiction Express for Schools provides a brilliant springboard into writing, art, drama and discussion and some ideas and inspiration are provided in this section.
- **Writing Task:** This section provides a differentiated writing task related to ordering and improving instructions.
- **Numeracy Word Problems:** This section provides differentiated 1- and 2-step word problems related to time and money. Answers are also provided.
- **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.

CURIOUS CAL AND THE WISH MACHINE

by Cavan Scott

Text Questions



Chapter 4: The Yum-O-Tronic

1. What did you think of chapter 4 of *Curious Cal and the Wish Machine*? Did you find the story entertaining and amusing? Why.
2. Which scene in chapter 4 did you find the most amusing? Were there any scenes in chapter 4 where you felt sorry for Cal? Describe them.
3. Would you like to have a neighbour like Mr Patel? If you met Mr Patel what questions would you like to ask him?
4. If you were Cal, would you be happy to have Mr Patel's machines tested out on you? Do you think you would ask Mr Patel some important questions first? What questions would you ask?
5. Where does Mr Patel hide his front door key? Who is Albert Einstein? What would this gnome look like?
6. Why was Mr Patel 'wincing' when he got to his feet? Can you make a wince expression? Try.
7. What is Mr Patel's 'finest achievement'? Go back to the story and look carefully at what Mr Patel says.
8. Why doesn't Mr Patel want Cal to change into a monster? Go back to the story to find out.
9. Why does Cal ask, "*You what?*" when Mr Patel says that he gave up chasing monsters long ago?
10. Does Mr Patel know exactly how the Shape-Shifting Machine works? Go back to the story to find the evidence to prove your answer.

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11. *Cal glanced down. The cables were pulsing with power, the metal boxes sparking one by one.*
“Is it supposed to do that?” Cal asked, swallowing hard.
“Of course it is!” Mr Patel insisted. “Probably.”
Why is the use of ‘Probably’ important here? What does it tell us about Mr Patel’s machine? Were you expecting Mr Patel to add the word ‘Probably’ here? Is this amusing?
12. Why do you think Cal chose to be changed into the shape of Johnny Whizz? What do you think he hoped might also happen to him?
13. What does Cal notice about himself that makes him realize he has turned into Mr Patel? Go back to the story to find out.
14. How does Cal feel when he is being Mr Patel? Go back to the story to find out.
15. How does Cal find out the name of the inventor of the Yum-O-Tronic?
16. What society do both Gerald and Mr Patel belong to? Using your imagination, describe what the meetings of this society would be like.
17. Why doesn’t Gerald want to leave the Yum-O-Tronic with Mr Patel to look at later? Go back to the story to find out.
18. What happens when Cal puts the screwdriver inside the Yum-O-Tronic? Does this remind you of an old folk tale? What happens in the folk tale?
TEACHER NOTE: The Magic Porridge Pot
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=XW86VVniNHA>
19. What does Cal notice about himself once he’s turned back into his own body? Go back to the story to find out.
20. How does Mr Patel stop the Yum-O-Tronic from spewing jam?

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21. Mr Patel uses a *super-concentrated dose of shrinking potion*. If something is super-concentrated what is it like?

22. Is Cal looking forward to football training? Why not?

23. Does Cal try hard at football training? Does it make any difference to his performance?

24. Why does Cal wish he had stayed with Mr Patel instead of going to football training?

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Making the Choice and Voting



What does Cal see?

Option 1: His mum rushing on to the pitch!

Can you imagine why this might happen? Do you think Cal's mum has something important to tell him? Can you predict what this might be? Do you think Cal will be pleased to see his mum? Can you think how the story might end if you choose this option?

Option 2: Mr Patel cheering him on!

Do you think Cal would be pleased to see Mr Patel cheering him on? Do you think this will help him to play football better? Can you think of more than one reason why Mr Patel has come to the football ground? Can you predict what might happen in the final chapter if you vote for this option?

Option 3: A large black cloud of smoke over the street where he lives!

What do you think the smoke might mean? Think of more than one reason why there could be smoke over the street where Cal lives. What do you think Cal will do if you choose this option? What do you think he ought to do? Can you predict what might happen in the last chapter if you vote for this option?

Choose the option you think will make the best plotline for the final chapter.

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Writing, Art, Drama and Discussion Activities

Why do you think Mr Patel had a garden gnome that looked like Albert Einstein?

Using the Internet, find out who this famous person was. Then write a couple of sentences explaining why you think Mr Patel had a gnome like this. You can illustrate your writing too, if you want.

Write down three questions you would like to ask the author, Cavan Scott, about his story. If your teacher likes your questions you can post them on the Fiction Express blog for Cavan to answer.

In a group, choose your favourite voting option at the end of chapter 4 (you might have to take a delegate vote to decide on one). Then act out the opening scene of the next chapter. Think about the different characters that would be involved, and what sort of things they might say. Make your drama as exciting and entertaining as you can.

Do you know how jam is made, if you don't have a Yum-O-Tronic that is? Using books or the Internet, find out the best way to make jam. Then, in your own words, write a list of clear instructions that would help someone wanting to make jam at home. Make sure you include a list of ingredients and a list of the equipment you will need to be successful in your jam making.

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Illustrate the scene where Cal causes the Yum-O-Tronic to start

spewing jam all over Mr Patel's kitchen. Then, in an extended caption, explain what is happening in your picture and why.

When Cal changes into Mr Patel he gets some idea of what it is like to be old. In a small group, or with a partner, try to imagine what it's like to be very old. Think about the problems you might have and the help you might need. Make notes about your ideas. Then think of some useful ways that children and young adults could help the elderly people they meet. Write down each helpful tip as a sentence.

Imagine you are Gerald. What are you going to tell your wife when you get home after visiting Mr Patel? Write down the conversation you think Gerald and his wife will have. Don't forget to use speech marks when either Gerald or his wife are speaking.

Do you like playing football? Are you good at it? In a small group, discuss whether or not you can still enjoy playing football, or another sport, even if you aren't very good at it.

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Writing Tasks:

TEACHER NOTE: On the following pages you will find two different writing tasks. The second is more challenging than the first. Both tasks relate to the Learning Objective/WALT (We Are Learning To): Order and improve instructions.

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Writing Task: Ordering Instructions

In Chapter 2 Cal shrinks to the size of a squirrel. Cut out the instructions below and paste them into the correct order.

Dive into a remote controlled helicopter to escape the cat.

Spot an escape route up the stairs.

Get Mr Patel to spray you with a secret growing spray.

How to shrink and then return to normal

Twist a paper clip and attach a shoelace to help you escape.

Meet a giant cat.

Get rescued by Mr Patel.

Shrink quickly to the size of a squirrel.

Taste a magic purple liquid.

You will need:

An amazing scientist neighbour
A basement full of exciting inventions
Purple liquid
A paper clip
A shoelace
A cat
One remote control helicopter
A can of secret shrinking spray

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Writing Task: Ordering and Improving Instructions

In Chapter 2 Cal shrinks to the size of a squirrel. Below you will find a list of simple instructions for this scene.

Get Mr Patel to spray you with a secret growing spray.

How to shrink and then return to normal

Twist a paper clip and attach a shoelace to help you escape.

Meet a giant cat.

Get rescued by Mr Patel.

Shrink to the size of a squirrel.

Taste a magic purple liquid.

You will need:

scientist neighbour
basement full of exciting inventions
purple liquid
paper clip
shoelace
cat
helicopter
shrinking spray

Copy out the instructions in the correct order. Try to improve the instructions, too, using these tips:

- Add extra instructions, for example, 'Run around in a panic'.
- Add an amount, or quantity, and a description to each item in the 'You will need' box. For example: 1 stripy cat, 1 remote control helicopter.
- Add adverbs to explain how the actions are done, for example **carefully** twist a paper clip...

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Numeracy Word Problems

Learning Objective/ WALT (We Are Learning To):

Solve 1 and 2 step word problems on time and money

Difficulty *

1. Cal arrives at Mr Patel's house at 6 o'clock and leaves 2 hours later. What time does Cal leave?
2. Mr Patel feeds Chimman at half past 5 and the cat takes 30 minutes to eat the food. What time does Chimman finish?
3. Cyril can skateboard for half an hour without falling off. Cal falls off after 40 minutes. Who stays on the longest?
4. Mr Patel buys 3 tins of cat food at 25p each. How much money does he spend?
5. Mum gives Cal £3 pocket money. He buys a comic. He has £2 left. How much was the comic?
6. Cal buys some parts for the Shape-Shifter Machine: a cog for 20p, a nut for 10p and some oil for 8p. How much has he spent?

Difficulty **

1. Cal arrives at Mr Patel's house at 6 o'clock and leaves 3 hours later. What time does Cal leave?
2. Mr Patel feeds Chimman at half past 5 and the cat takes 60 minutes to eat the food. What time does Chimman finish?
3. Cyril can skateboard for 1 and a half hours without falling off. Cal falls off after 80 minutes. Who stays on the longest?
4. Mr Patel buys 3 tins of cat food at 25p each. How much money does he spend? How much change would he get from £1?
5. Mum gives Cal £3.50 pocket money. He buys a comic. He has £2 left. How much was the comic?
6. Cal buys some parts for the Shape-Shifter Machine: a cog for 22p, a nut for 13p and some oil for 8p. How much has he spent? How much change would he get from £1?

Difficulty ***

1. Cal arrives at Mr Patel's house at 4 pm and leaves 4 hours later. What time does he leave? Give your answers in 12-hour and 24-hour clock format.
2. Mr Patel feeds Chiman at half past 5 in the morning and the cat takes 70 minutes to eat the food. What time does Chiman finish? Give your answer as digital time and analogue.
3. Cyril can skateboard for 3 minutes without falling off. Cal falls off after 130 seconds. Who stays on the longest?
4. Mr Patel buys 3 tins of cat food at 80p each. How much does he spend? How much change would he get from £5?
5. Mum gives Cal £3.50 pocket money. He buys a comic. He has £1.35 left. How much was the comic?
6. Cal buys some parts for the Shape-Shifter Machine: a cog for £2.20, a nut for £1.30 and some oil for 80p. How much has he spent? How much change would he get from £10?

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Numeracy Word Problem ANSWERS

Difficulty *

1. 8 o'clock
2. 6 o'clock
3. Cal
4. 75p
5. £1
6. 38p

Difficulty **

1. 9 o'clock
2. Half past six
3. Cyril
4. He spends 75p. He would get 25p change.
5. £1.50
6. He has spent 43p. He would get 57p change.

Difficulty ***

1. 8 o'clock, 20:00
2. Half past six
3. Cyril
4. He spends £2.40. He would get £2.60 change.
5. £2.15
6. He has spent £4.30. He would get £5.70 change.

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Worksheet (1 of 3)



The following words were used in chapter 4. Can you read them?

Doze, achievement, transform, universe, malfunction, gnome, gnarled, distracted.

Try to match each word to the correct definition in the table below.

Definition	Word
A type of garden ornament.	
To have a little sleep.	
When something goes wrong or does not work properly.	
Space and everything in it, including planets, galaxies and stars.	
Unable to concentrate.	
To change into something else.	
Knobbly, twisted and rough.	
Something that has been done as a result of hard work.	

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Worksheet (2 of 3)



Now have a go at writing your own interesting sentences using each of these words.

doze _____

achievement _____

transform _____

universe _____

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Worksheet (3 of 3)



malfunction _____

gnome _____

gnarled _____

distracted _____

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Worksheet ANSWERS

Definition	Word
A type of garden ornament.	gnome
To have a little sleep.	doze
When something goes wrong or does not work properly.	malfunction
Space and everything in it, including planets, galaxies and stars.	universe
Unable to concentrate.	distracted
To change into something else.	transform
Knobbly, twisted and rough.	gnarled
Something that has been done as a result of hard work.	achievement

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Picture Resources



Think of 3 adjectives to describe how Cal felt when he realized that he had turned in to Mr Patel's double.

How do you think the two men in the picture above are feeling? Look at the expressions on their faces.

Why do you think Cal jumps and down with glee when Mr Patel turns him back into himself? How different do you think his body feels compared to Mr Patel's?

If you could become someone else for 5 minutes, who would it be?

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Picture Resources

Draw a picture of Cal or Mr Patel in the picture below.



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Picture Resources

Look the pictures below of famous inventors. Find out about their inventions and think about the effect they have on the world today.



GALILEO



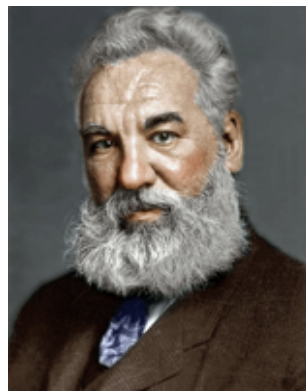
ADA LOVELACE



MARK DEAN



STEPHANIE KWOLEK



ALEXANDER BELL



THE WRIGHT BROTHERS



TIM BERNERS-LEE



HEDY LAMARR



THOMAS EDISON

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Resources



Websites

Biography Online: Top 10 Inventors of All Time

<http://www.biographyonline.net/scientists/top-10-inventors.html>

Primary Treasure Chest: Inventors and Inventions Resources

<http://www.primarytreasurechest.com/topics-ks2/history/inventions-and-inventors.html>

Science Facts: Famous Scientists

<http://www.sciencekids.co.nz/sciencefacts/scientists.html>

BBC Bitseize KS2 Scientists and Inventors Resources

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/education/topics/zm3bkqt>

Fact Monster: Children of Invention – A brain child is an original idea. Here are some kids who had great ideas which they turned into inventions.

<http://www.factmonster.com/ipka/A0768091.html>

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:

Know It All: Inventions by James Nixon. Franklin Watts, 2014

Weird True Facts: Inventions by Moira Butterfield. Franklin Watts, 2014

Technology Timelines series by Tom Jackson. Franklin Watts, 2014

The Young Entrepreneurs' Club: Gadgets and Gizmos by Mike Hobbs. Franklin Watts, March 2015