



Chapter 1 · A Dark and Stormy Night

When Frankie and her parents end up on holiday in a spooky old house, Frankie is very excited. But her parents are terrified of the house, and the storm that's raging outside!

FRANKIE STEIN'S MONSTER

Jan Burchett & Sara Vogler

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
- **"Spotlight!" word list** of the words highlighted and defined online
- **Writing worksheet:** draw and describe the setting using noun phrases
- **Punctuation worksheet:** using capital letters



TALK!

- **Voting options:** discussion points for each voting option
- **Discussion activity:** asking questions about the book's setting (link to writing)



EXPLORE!

- **Maze game:** find your way through the haunted house



Name: _____

1

Where is the house?

- A. In the dark woods
- B. On top of a cliff
- C. At the foot of a mountain

2

What is the weather like as they arrive?

- A. A thunderstorm
- B. Hot and sunny
- C. A very thick mist

3

Who opens the door?

- A. A butler with a tray of drinks
- B. An old man with a crooked back
- C. An old lady carrying a candle

4

Why is there no electricity?

- A. The house is too far from civilisation
- B. The owner likes the old ways
- C. The storm has knocked it out

5

What do Frankie's parents want to do?

- A. Drive back home
- B. Explore the gardens
- C. Dress up in costumes



Name: _____

6

What is the figure on the landing at the top of the tower?

- A. A suit of armour
- B. The caretaker
- C. Lord Chillingham

7

What else is there at the top of the tower?

- A. A cat with six kittens
- B. A coffin and a yeti
- C. A vampire and a wolf

8

What sort of bed does Frankie sleep in?

- A. A four-poster bed
- B. A round pink bed
- C. A coffin-shaped bed

9

What wakes up Frankie in the night?

- A. She needs the toilet
- B. Thunder and a banging window
- C. Someone walking around her room

10

What shoots past Frankie at the end of the chapter?

- A. A strange grey mist
- B. A large black cat
- C. A bolt of lightning



1

Ask: What happens in this chapter? Agree that a family arrive at a spooky house on holiday. Encourage each child to remember a detail from the story – for example, the weather, the fact that the parents are scared, the appearance of the house, the things inside it. Ask: Do you think this is a good story opener? What sort of story is this going to be? Ask: Do you think it will be an ordinary scary story or a funny one?

2

Ask: What is the house like? Ask each child to find a phrase in the text ('faces of gargoyles', 'cavernous hall', 'pikes and shields', 'spluttering candles', 'shadows dancing'). Explain the meaning of turrets, pikes and gargoyles, looking at pictures of each. Discuss the simile 'Its turrets reached to the sky like spiky fingernails'. Ask: How would the setting change if the electric lights came on?

3

Ask: How would you feel if you went to stay at Chillingham House on holiday? Prompt the children to talk further about why they would be scared, disappointed or excited. Ask: How does Frankie feel about the house? Agree that she is excited, finding evidence in the text: 'best holiday ever', 'Cool', 'Awesome'. Ask: What does this tell us about Frankie? (Perhaps she's brave, likes adventure and so on.)

4

Ask: What are Frankie's parents like? Together, draw up a list of adjectives and phrases to describe them, such as: 'wimps', 'scared of their own shadow', 'not risk takers' and so on. Ask: Are you more like Frankie or more like her parents – or somewhere in between? Point out that Frankie's parents are probably not going to enjoy this holiday – or perhaps it will change them. Ask: Is it good or bad to be cautious?

5

Ask: What clues does the author give us that something scary – or spooky – is going to happen? Discuss the typical spooky house setting and the weather. Ask: Why does the housekeeper want to leave the house so quickly? Explain that we don't know but we can guess it's not just to put her children to bed!

6

Ask: What's going to happen next? Explain that in a very old story, Victor Frankenstein uses electricity to bring a monster he had made back to life. Ask: Do you think something will come to life? (Remind the children of the title of the story.) What might happen? Will Frankie's parents wake up?



Name: _____

1 _____

What happens in this chapter?

2 _____

What does the house look like?

3 _____

How does Frankie feel about Chillingham House?



Name: _____

4 _____

What are Frankie's parents like?

5 _____

Write down one thing that makes you think that something scary is going to happen.

6 _____

What do you think is going to happen next?



Here is some of the challenging or potentially unfamiliar vocabulary used in Chapter 1 of *Frankie Stein's Monster*.

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.

blazing

cavernous

declared

dismal

forbidding

petrified



Find these words in chapter 1. Use the definition to check that you understand the meaning of the sentences you find them in.

ancient – very old

battering – hitting something hard

blazing – burning with fire

brochure – a magazine to sell something

cavernous – like a cavern or large cave, so seeming to be very dark and deep

coffin – a box for a dead body

dismal – gloomy and miserable

Egyptian mummy – a body from ancient Egypt preserved in long strips of cloth

forbidding – looking unfriendly or threatening

four-poster bed – an old-fashioned bed with a post at each corner

gargoyles – stone statues with scary faces carved onto buildings

gibbering – speaking very quickly because you are afraid or in shock

loomed – appeared out of the darkness

peered – looked with difficulty

petrified – so scared that you cannot move

pikes – (here) weapons with pointed heads and long wooden shafts

portrait – a picture of a person, usually just of the head and shoulders

snakes and ladders – a board game

spluttering – making choking noises

turrets – small towers on top of larger towers at the corners of a building

wimps – weak or cowardly people

winding – (here) twisting round and round

yeti – a large creature looking like a human or bear, said to live in the Himalayas



Name: _____

Draw a picture of a room inside the spooky Chillingham House where Frankie is staying. Write four noun phrases that you could use as labels below your picture to describe this setting.



Name: _____

Here are some sentences from chapter 1 of *Frankie Stein's Monster*.
Write them out again, and include the correct punctuation – using capital letters
where necessary.

1

“welcome to chillingham house.”

2

“i’m mrs carey, the caretaker.”

3

mum and dad were such wimps.

4

“it’s a suit of armour,” said frankie.

5

“an egyptian mummy,” exclaimed frankie.

6

“where’s your room?” asked mum.



What does the bolt of lightning hit?

A

The suit of armour

What do you think will happen if the lightning bolt hits the suit of armour? Will it come to life? Would a living suit of armour make the book funny or scary in your opinion?

B

The yeti

Do you think the bolt of lightning could make the model yeti come to life? Look up pictures of a yeti on the Internet. What would Frankie's parents think of this? Predict what might happen in the next chapter if this is the winning option.

C

The mummy

If the lightning hits the Egyptian mummy, will it come back to life? Do you think this would be frightening, or would it be fun to have a living ancient Egyptian mummy on holiday with Frankie and her family?

→ Which option do you think would be the most exciting one for the next chapter of *Frankie Stein's Monster*?

Discussion Activity

In pairs or a small group, discuss the book's setting. Have you ever been to a spooky place like Chillingham House? Would you like to visit somewhere like this? Do you think it would be scarier in the daytime or at night?



Name: _____

Can you find your way through the haunted house? You could add your own scary details to the picture.



ANSWERS

READ! Comprehension Questions

1. Where is the house?
B. On top of a cliff
2. What is the weather like as they arrive?
A. A thunderstorm
3. Who opens the door?
C. An old lady carrying a candle
4. Why is there no electricity?
C. The storm has knocked it out
5. What do Frankie's parents want to do?
A. Drive back home
6. What is the figure on the landing at the top of the tower?
A. A suit of armour
7. What else is there at the top of the tower?
B. A coffin and a yeti
8. What sort of bed does Frankie sleep in?
A. A four-poster bed
9. What wakes up Frankie in the night?
B. Thunder and a banging window
10. What shoots past Frankie at the end of the chapter?
C. A bolt of lightning

WRITE! Worksheet: Capital letters

1. "Welcome to Chillingham House."
2. "I'm Mrs Carey, the caretaker."
3. Mum and Dad were such wimps.
4. "It's a suit of armour," said Frankie.
5. "An Egyptian mummy," exclaimed Frankie.
6. "Where's your room?" asked Mum.

EXPLORE! Maze Game



Picture credit: haunted hause game: nahhan / Bigstock