



Chapter 3 · Save our School!

Tommy Plonk is not happy with Aunt Agatha's decision. But that is the least of her problems when another earthquake strikes the school and she detects another alien!

AUNT AGATHA, SPACE TRAVELLER

David MacPhail

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
- **Writing worksheet:** comic strip
- **Grammar worksheet:** linking sentences with and / or / but



TALK!

- **Voting options:** discussion points for each voting option
- **Discussion activity:** discuss the story and characters so far and consider how they have changed



EXPLORE!

- **Anagrams:** playing with spelling



Name: _____

1

Why did the children cheer?

- ☐ A. Aunt Agatha said she would save the school
- ☐ B. Aunt Agatha said she would go home
- ☐ C. Aunt Agatha said she would be their teacher

2

What did Tommy Plonk take out?

- ☐ A. A phone
- ☐ B. A tissue
- ☐ C. A flask

3

What did the police officers say?

- ☐ A. "Hand over the dangerous alien!"
- ☐ B. "What a lovely cuddly alien!"
- ☐ C. "Yikes! A scary alien!"

4

What do the police officers point at Aunt Agatha?

- ☐ A. Their fingers
- ☐ B. Their Tasers
- ☐ C. Their sticks

5

Why do the police officers want to take away Mr Jones?

- ☐ A. He has crashed a car
- ☐ B. He stole a hat
- ☐ C. He hit Tommy Plonk



Name: _____

6

What does Mr Jones do when the police officer wants to take him away?

- ☐ A. Goes quietly
- ☐ B. Starts singing
- ☐ C. Starts crying

7

What falls into the hole made by the earthquake?

- ☐ A. The shopping centre
- ☐ B. A TV news truck
- ☐ C. Tommy Plonk

8

How does Aunt Agatha know there is another alien nearby?

- ☐ A. Her Alien Tracker starts to flash
- ☐ B. She can smell it
- ☐ C. She can hear it talking alien

9

What does Aunt Agatha see down the first tunnel?

- ☐ A. A giant worm
- ☐ B. A giant snake
- ☐ C. A giant spider

10

Where does Aunt Agatha hear voices coming from?

- ☐ A. Her spaceship
- ☐ B. Her Alien Tracker
- ☐ C. The third tunnel



1

Together, recap on the events in the last chapter. (Aunt Agatha tries to capture the hat thief, meets Mitch and Annie, finds out about Mr Jones, goes to the shopping centre, arrives at the school.) Ask: Who is Tommy Plonk and what does he want? (He wants to build a hotel where the school is.) Who is trying to save the school? (The children and parents.) Discuss ways in which they could try and save the school. (Phone the papers, write to their local MP and so on.)

2

Read up until *A button on my arm flashed red*. Imagine the scene at the school. Ask the children to describe the noise and the sounds. (For example: the sounds of the helicopters, the police cars, flashing lights from the news reporters, crowds of people protesting or seeing what is happening.) Help the children to locate the vocabulary that creates the noise and movement. (For example: *'screeched to a halt', 'leapt out', 'shouldered', 'veered round the corner', 'sirens blaring'*)

3

Ask: Why does Mr Jones say, *'Oh boy, this is great publicity'*? How will the reporters coming to see Aunt Agatha help? (They might also write news articles about the school.) What do the police want? To protect people from Aunt Agatha who they think is dangerous. Ask: Is she dangerous? (Agree, not intentionally but she is a bit accident-prone.) Enjoy (and explain if necessary) the joke about Aunt Agatha having a Orion's Belt in kung fu.

4

Ask: What does the flashing light on her arm tell her? (That there is an alien nearby.) Ask the children to demonstrate what they think a Venusian guppy fish might look like. (Perhaps with their mouths open and looking vacant.) Ask: Why do they look like this? (They don't understand Aunt Agatha.) What happens to the news truck? (It falls inside the crack made by the earthquake.) Ask: What happens to Aunt Agatha? She falls into the ground and finds three tunnels.

5

Ask: Who do you think the other alien is? Speculate on different ideas, for example: is it the giant worm, is it the ghastly liquid, is it where the children are, or is it Tommy Plonk who drinks from a flask to keep his human form? Ask: What do you think has caused the earthquake? Do you think it is something to do with the tunnels? Discuss the different things in the tunnels. Ask: Which is the scariest? Encourage the children to explain their thoughts.

6

Ask the children to find noun phrases that describe what Aunt Agatha finds in the tunnels. (for example *'a horrible slithery sound', 'a gigantic worm'*) Ask the children to use their imaginations to describe the worm, and the ghastly liquid in more detail. Capture their ideas as further noun phrases. Ask: What do you think Aunt Agatha is going to find down the tunnels? Do you think she'll be scared? (Unlikely – nothing seems to scare Aunt Agatha!)



Name: _____

1

Why do the children need to save their school?

2

What noises would you hear if you were outside the school?

3

Why does Mr Jones say, 'Oh boy, this is great publicity'?



Name: _____

4

What happens to Aunt Agatha?

5

Who do you think the alien is? Give reasons for your answer.

6

What does Aunt Agatha see down the tunnels?



Here is some of the challenging or potentially unfamiliar vocabulary used in Chapter 3 of *Aunt Agatha, Space Traveller*.

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.

blubbing

gigantic

gloopy

groggy

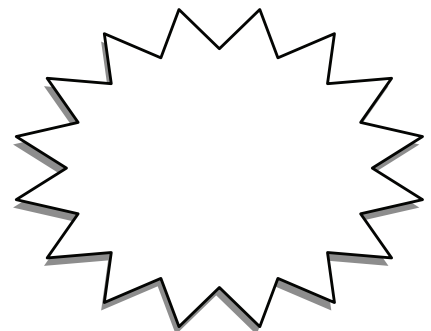
stomped

veered



Name: _____

Draw a cartoon strip of this chapter. Use captions, and sound effects, thought bubbles and speech bubbles like the ones at the bottom of the page to help you tell the story of what happened.

A large rectangular area divided into three panels for a comic strip. The top panel is a single large rectangle. The bottom section is divided into two smaller rectangles by a vertical line, creating a two-panel layout at the bottom.



Name: _____

We can use the words **and**, **or**, **but** to link sentences together. These words are called coordinating conjunctions.

Choose the correct conjunction to link the sentences below and write it in so that the sentences make sense.

and

or

but

1. Aunt Agatha promised to save the school _____ the children cheered.

2. Tommy Plonk had promised to make her a star _____ he was lying.

3. Tommy Plonk took out a flask _____ drank some gloopy tea.

4. The police officers wanted to arrest Aunt Agatha _____ the hat thief, Mr Jones.

5. Annie thought Aunt Agatha wasn't dangerous _____ she didn't know about the kung fu.

6. Mr Jones was not sure whether publicity was a good _____ bad thing.

7. The ground split open _____ swallowed the TV news truck.

8. Aunt Agatha had to choose between tunnels one, two _____ three.



Which tunnel should Aunt Agatha investigate?

A

The first tunnel, with the giant worm

Could this giant worm be the other alien? Or is it perhaps alien technology? Perhaps this tunneling is causing the earthquakes to happen. Do you think Aunt Agatha would win against a giant tunneling worm if this is the winning option?

B

The second tunnel, with the vat of horrible liquid

We saw Tommy Plonk with a flask of gloopy tea. Could this be the same liquid as the tea? Or perhaps this liquid is the alien or the alien technology that Aunt Agatha has detected. Perhaps this tunnel would help solve some mysteries and might even help defeat Tommy Plonk.

C

The third tunnel, with the children's voices

Are these the voices of Annie and Mitch that Aunt Agatha can hear? She has lots of ears, so it is hard to know how far away they might be. We also don't know how long Aunt Agatha has been underground, so these children might have found out some information to help save the school while she has been down there.

→ Which option do you think would be the most exciting one for the next chapter of *Aunt Agatha, Space Traveller*?

Discussion Activity

In pairs or a small group, discuss some of the characters we have met so far. Do we know much about any of them apart from Aunt Agatha? Why do you think that is? Why are the other characters behaving in the way they are, in your opinion? Then think about Aunt Agatha. Do you think she is changing her opinion of humans from the beginning of the book? Give reasons for your answer.



Name: _____

The letters in these words from chapter 3 have been mixed up.
Can you unscramble them?

N I E L A

--	--	--	--	--

A V E S

--	--	--	--

C O I R E F F

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

L O O C H S

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

L I D R E N C H

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

ANSWERS

READ! Comprehension Questions

1. Why did the children cheer?
A. Aunt Agatha said she would save the school
2. What did Tommy Plonk take out?
C. A flask
3. What did the police officers say?
A. "Hand over the dangerous alien!"
4. What do the police officers point at Aunt Agatha?
B. Their Tasers
5. Why do the police officers want to take away Mr Jones?
B. He stole a hat
6. What does Mr Jones do when the police officer wants to take him away?
C. Starts crying
7. What falls into the hole made by the earthquake?
B. A TV news truck
8. How does Aunt Agatha know there is another alien nearby?
A. Her Alien Tracker starts to flash
9. What does Aunt Agatha see down the first tunnel?
A. A giant worm
10. Where does Aunt Agatha hear voices coming from?
C. The third tunnel

WRITE! Worksheet: Linking sentences with **and** / **or** / **but**

1. Aunt Agatha promised to save the school **and** the children cheered.
2. Tommy Plonk had promised to make her a star **but** he was lying.
3. Tommy Plonk took out a flask **and** drank some gloopy tea.
4. The police officers wanted to arrest Aunt Agatha **and** the hat thief, Mr Jones.
5. Annie thought Aunt Agatha wasn't dangerous **but** she didn't know about the kung fu.
6. Mr Jones was not sure whether publicity was a good **or** bad thing.
7. The ground split open **and** swallowed the TV news truck.
8. Aunt Agatha had to choose between tunnels one, two **or** three.

EXPLORE! Anagrams

ALIEN / SAVE / OFFICER / SCHOOL / CHILDREN