



Chapter 5 · Quite a Stretch!

It looks like no escape for Aunt Agatha and the children, but this alien never gives up! Can she save them and the school, and capture Tommy Plonk, too?

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:** write your own book review
- **Grammar worksheet:** using suffixes



TALK!

- **Discussion activity:** discuss the story before writing your book review, and consider possible sequels



EXPLORE!

- **Wordsearch:** fun reinforcement of new vocabulary



Name: _____

1

What did Aunt Agatha use to press the button?

- A. Her arm
- B. Her foot
- C. Her nose

2

What did the big red button on the controller do?

- A. Made the tunneller go backwards
- B. Released Aunt Agatha
- C. Made the tunneller explode

3

What does the tunneller belch out into the hole?

- A. The children
- B. Slime and goo
- C. Rocks and boulders

4

What does Mitch yell?

- A. "We're trapped!"
- B. "Let's get out of here!"
- C. "It's got Aunt Agatha!"

5

What makes the tunnels start to fall down?

- A. There is another earth tremor
- B. Plonk's digger starts to go crazy
- C. The shopping centre falls down



Name: _____

6

Why is Tommy Plonk upset when the shopping centre falls down?

- A. He wanted to do some shopping
- B. He owns the shopping centre
- C. He has left his car near the shopping centre

7

How does Aunt Agatha stop Tommy Plonk?

- A. She hits him with a karate chop
- B. She trips him up with her telescopic nose
- C. She blasts him with her laser beam

8

Why does Aunt Agatha not enjoy the hug from the children?

- A. They smell horrible to her
- B. They are standing on her toes
- C. They are squeezing her too tight

9

What do Annie and Mitch want Aunt Agatha to do?

- A. Give them a ride in her spaceship
- B. Let them take a selfie with her
- C. Stay on Earth with them

10

What does Aunt Agatha think she could do to Ziggy Widdle the Third?

- A. Take him to his home planet
- B. Teach him a lesson
- C. Mend his tunneller



- 1** Together, recap on the situation at the end of the last chapter. Agree that: Aunt Agatha and the children have discovered Tommy Plonk in the tunnels; Tommy Plonk has turned out to be an alien in the shape of a huge chicken and is trying to knock down a foundation pillar using a nasty-looking machine called Sam. Challenge the children to remember the voting options: throw a flask, ask for help or use a button on her arm panel.
- 2** Ask the children to read the first three lines of the chapter. Ask: What advice did her nephew give? (To press a button on her arm panel.) Ask: How do we know that? (Because that's what she does.) Read up to 'CLICK'. Ask: What makes the sound 'CLICK'? (the button) Ask the children to find all the verbs in this short section, for example: 'tried', 'reach', 'remembered', 'stretch', 'stretched', 'heaved'. Ask: Was it easy or hard for Aunt Agatha to press the button?
- 3** Read up to "*Let's get out of here!*" yelled Mitch. Ask a volunteer to explain what happens here. (The button on Aunt Agatha's arm jams the signal to the tunneller, which makes it stop. She grabs the controller and uses it to make the tunneller go backwards.) Find the words 'spewed' and 'belched'. Ask: What impression do these two words give of the tunneller? (As if it were a rather unpleasant monster being sick; as if it were alive.)
- 4** Read up to "*You're under arrest!*" Ask: What was Tommy's plan? (To knock down the pillar to make the school fall down.) Ask: What happens instead? (An earth tremor knocks down his shopping centre.) Ask: How do you think Tommy feels? Ask: Why does Tommy look like a huge dusty chicken? (He naturally looks like a chicken; he is covered in dust from the shopping centre.) Locate the word 'billowed'. Ask: How does the dust move? (It pours out like a cloud.)
- 5** Read to up to the end. Ask: What do you think Tommy planned to do with the second controller? Speculate together – but agree that it would be something dastardly. Ask: How does Aunt Agatha save the day? (She knocks Tommy down with a karate chop.) Ask: Do you think this is a good ending for Tommy/Ziggy? What should happen to him? Discuss whether he should go to prison or if it's better for the planet if Aunt Agatha takes him home.
- 6** Ask the children to imagine new adventures that Aunt Agatha might have on her way home. Remind them that her spaceship isn't in the best condition – perhaps it might break down on the moon or on another planet where she creates chaos/solves a problem. Encourage the children to give their opinion on the story as a whole. Ask them to describe their favourite character and part. Use this to move on to discussing the story in groups, and writing their book review in the WRITE! and TALK! activities.



Name: _____

1

What advice has Aunt Agatha's nephew given her?

2

What goes CLICK and what happens because of this click?

3

Find and copy two words that make the tunneller sound as if it is alive.



Name: _____

4 _____

Why is Tommy Plonk sad when the shopping centre falls down?

5 _____

**Do you think Tommy Plonk should go to prison or back to his home planet?
Explain your answer.**

6 _____

What was your favourite part of the story?



Here is some of the challenging or potentially unfamiliar vocabulary used in Chapter 5 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.

belched

collapse

flickered

heaved

sneered

tempted



Name: _____

Now that the story *Aunt Agatha, Space Traveller* has come to an end, write your own review of the book. Don't forget to give it a star rating!

Book title: _____

Author: _____

Plot (What was the story about? Was it interesting?)

Characters (What were their names? Did you like them?)

Your opinion (What did you think of the book? Would you recommend it to others?)

Star rating (colour in how many stars you would give the story)





Name: _____

We can add the suffix -ly to make a word to describe an action. If your word ends in a 'y', we change this letter to an 'i' before adding the suffix, for example happy / happily. Choose a word from the boxes below and add the suffix -ly to make a word that describes an action. Write the correct word into the gaps to complete the sentences.

hopeful

careful

angry

quiet

sad

merry

1. "I order you to stop this machine!" Aunt Agatha shouted _____.

2. Aunt Agatha _____ stretched her nose towards the buttons on her arm.

3. "Shh! There could be another alien here," whispered Mitch _____.

4. "If we walk towards the daylight we will _____ get out of this tunnel!" said Annie.

5. Aunt Agatha laughed _____ after she knocked Tommy Plonk to the ground with her karate chop.

6. "We don't want you to go!" the children cried _____ when Aunt Agatha was preparing to leave.



In pairs or a small group, discuss the story before you write your book reviews. What star rating would you give the story? Which characters do you like and why? Would all of you recommend this book to others or do you have different opinions about it?

Talk about the main character of the book, Aunt Agatha. How do you think she has changed over the course of the story? Do you think she has grown to like humans? Remember, she described them as 'angry apes' in the first chapter!

What do you think she will do next? If you were going to write about her next adventures, would you set your story on Earth with her discovering more things about the planet, or would you send her off somewhere else in her spaceship? Would she be travelling on her own, or perhaps with Tommy Plonk, the children or her nephew?



Name: _____

Complete the wordsearch below containing words from *Aunt Agatha, Space Traveller*.

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

AGATHA

ADVENTURE

ALIEN

HOTEL

OFFICER

PLANET

SCHOOL

SPACESHIP

TUNNEL

ANSWERS

READ! Comprehension Questions

1. What did Aunt Agatha use to press the button?
C. Her nose
2. What did the big red button on the controller do?
A. Made the tunneller go backwards
3. What does the tunneller belch out into the hole?
C. Rocks and boulders
4. What does Mitch yell?
B. "Let's get out of here!"
5. What makes the tunnels start to fall down?
A. There is another earth tremor
6. Why is Tommy Plonk upset when the shopping centre falls down?
B. He owns the shopping centre
7. How does Aunt Agatha stop Tommy Plonk?
A. She hits him with a karate chop
8. Why does Aunt Agatha not enjoy the hug from the children?
B. They are standing on her toes
9. What do Annie and Mitch want Aunt Agatha to do?
C. Stay on Earth with them
10. What does Aunt Agatha she could do to Ziggy Widdle the Third?
A. Take him to his home planet

WRITE! Using pronouns

1. "I order you to stop this machine!" Aunt Agatha shouted **angrily**.
2. Aunt Agatha **carefully** stretched her nose towards the buttons on her arm.
3. "Shh! There could be another alien here," whispered Mitch **quietly**.
4. "If we walk towards the daylight we will **hopefully** get out of this tunnel!" said Annie.
5. Aunt Agatha laughed **merrily** after she knocked Tommy Plonk to the ground with her karate chop.
6. "We don't want you to go!" the children cried **sadly** when Aunt Agatha was preparing to leave.

EXPLORE! Wordsearch

T	U	N	N	E	L				
	S	P	A	C	E	S	H	I	P
		L				C			
O		A	G	A	T	H	A		
F		N		L		O			
F		E		I	H	O	T	E	L
I		T		E		L			
C				N					
E	A	D	V	E	N	T	U	R	E
R									