

The Tooth Fairy Murders

Teacher Resources, Week 2

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.
- **Art and ICT Activities:** This section provides examples of follow-up activities in the areas of art and ICT.
- **Worksheets:** This section provides printable worksheets for student use.
- **Puzzles:** This section contains puzzles for students to complete. Answers are also provided.
- **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.

Text Questions

Chapter 2 What The Gnomes Know

1. Did you enjoy the second chapter of *The Tooth Fairy Murders*? What did you like about it? Did it amuse you? Did it surprise you?
2. At the beginning of chapter 2, why can't Connor tell if all the creatures crowded around him are angry?
3. What is unusual about the character that cries out, *Don't let him get away*? What noise does the sneeze-thing make?
4. How does Connor describe the army of creatures that have surrounded him?
5. What happens after Connor thinks that the *night couldn't possibly get any worse*?
6. After Troy has put the magic balacava on Connor's head, Troy thinks that Connor has gone blind. What has really happened? Who does Troy blame for this mistake? Did you find this funny?
7. Describe the creature that *cracks its hairy knuckles*?
8. What is the difference between plan A and Plan B?
9. The creatures all stumble and fall over each other as Connor and Troy escape from the crowd. The author says they tripped *over one another as they flailed around trying to find the fleeing pair*. What do you think the words *flailed around* mean? Can you demonstrate this with your own arms and legs?
10. What phrase does Troy use to suggest to Connor that he is going in the black car? What simile does the author use here to describe what the car looks like? What do you like about this simile?
11. What do Troy and Connor actually climb onto to make their escape? Do you think that Troy was playing a trick here?

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12. What is a tandem? The creatures have spotted Troy and Connor by the rusty tandem. What words does the author use to describe the way the creatures chase after Troy and Connor?
13. What simile does the author use to describe the way Connor rides the tandem. Why is this such a good description? Have you ever seen the way a piston moves? Where are you most likely to find a piston? (Car)
14. Go back to the story and find the phrase the author uses to describe the way Troy knocks over the fairies as they speed by on the tandem? What do you like about this phrase? How does it sound? In what other sort of writing might you find a phrase like this? (Poetry) What does the word *phalanx* mean? Use a dictionary to find out.
15. Where do Troy and Connor cycle to? What are Connor's first thoughts when he finds himself back at his own house?
16. Go back to the story and find the three consecutive sentences that start with the words *Troy Thunder*? Why do you think the author wrote these three sentences like this? Were you surprised by the last sentence?
17. What sarcastic phrase does Troy use to encourage the gnomes to talk? Does it work? How does he manage to get one of the gnomes to talk? Do you think the gnomes all get on well with each other? What are the gnomes' names?
18. What did the gnomes hear that makes Troy think that a leprechaun might have something to do with the tooth fairy murders?
19. Who paid the gnomes a visit? What mood was she in? How is she related to the tooth fairy? Do you think the thumb fairy has lots of money? (Answer: Yes, because she doesn't have to give much away.)
20. What is the first clue Troy finds? Why do tooth fairies always leave windows open?
21. What does Troy see that makes him realize that Will o' the Wisp is in the garden?

Making the Choice and Voting

What should Troy and Connor do?

1. Should they make themselves known to the glittering light in the garden?

Why do you think that Will o' the Wisp is in the garden? Could he be a witness to the crime or even a suspect? What powers does he have? What sort of creature might he be – good or bad? We don't know much about him, so you might be taking a risk if you chose this option.

2. Should they sneak away and try to track down a Leprechaun?

What do we know about leprechauns? What weapon do they carry around with them? What would happen if you were hit on the head by a leprechaun? You would have to treat the leprechaun very carefully if you wanted to get any information out of him. If he is the murderer he could be very dangerous to deal with. However, a lot of the characters in this story could be dangerous if they got angry! If you catch a leprechaun he has to grant you three wishes, so that might be helpful.

3. Should they pay a visit to the tooth fairies' cousin, the thumb fairy?

How does the author describe the thumb fairy? Does she sound like an easy person to deal with? Is she angry because her cousin the tooth fairy has been killed or are there other reasons? Might she be jealous because the tooth fairies are so popular? Does she need to be interrogated to find out more about her feelings?

Writing Activities

Make a list of all the new characters we meet, or hear about, in Chapter 2 of *The Tooth Fairy Murders*. Write two or three sentences for each character. Describe how they look and what you think they are like. Make sure you make a note about whether or not they are a suspect for this crime.

Go back to the story and find ten interesting action verbs like *shuffled* and *lunged*. Put your list in alphabetical order. Choose five of your favourite verbs and write an interesting sentence of your own for each of the words you have chosen.

We use adjectives to make our descriptions of things more interesting. In Chapter 2 of *The Tooth Fairy Murders* the author writes a *mean-looking fairy*. The adjective *mean-looking* tells us quite a lot about the personality of the fairy. Adjectives can also describe objects as well as people. Go back to the story and find three sentences that include adjectives. Write them down and underline the adjectives. See you if you can find any sentences that have more than one adjective.

What do you think the gnomes would have said to each other after Troy and Connor dashed out of the shed? How are they going to be feeling and what predicament are they now in themselves? Write an extra bit of the story about the gnomes alone in the shed. Don't forget to use speech marks when the gnomes talk to each other. You can always go back to the story to see how this is done.

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Art and ICT Activities

Add to your class gallery of portraits of the main characters in *The Tooth Fairy Murders*. Your teacher can give you a picture frame template for your portraits. This week we need portraits of the gnomes, a leprechaun, a Will o'the Wisp and the thumb fairy. Use the Internet to get ideas about what a leprechaun and a Will o' the Wisp might look like. Of course these are imaginary creatures, so you can add your own ideas about how they look. Under your portrait add a title or sentence to explain your picture, for example:

This is a portrait of a Will o' the Wisp hovering among the plants in Connor's garden.

(Picture frame templates are provided in TR1 on pages 8, 9 and 10)

Using the Internet, find out about the myth of leprechauns. In which country did people believe leprechauns lived? Where did they think leprechauns made their homes. How did people think they dressed? What magical powers did they believe leprechauns had, and what things did they think leprechauns liked to do? Did people believe that leprechauns could bring good luck or bad? Write a short report that can answer all these questions. Illustrate your writing with pictures.

Using the Internet, find out about the mythical man with the head of a bull. What were these creatures called? Where did they come from? Where did the beast live? Draw a picture of one of these beasts. Label your picture to give extra information.

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Worksheet

Fill in the gaps with the correct word.

1. Troy put a _____ on Connor's head to make him disappear.
2. Troy Thunder is an agent of _____.
3. Troy and Connor interrogate the three gnomes in Connor's dad's _____.
4. One of the gnomes is carrying a _____.
5. Troy claims he once caught a big fish and a _____.
6. The thumb fairy puts money under children's pillows when their thumbs _____.
7. The gnomes heard the sound of a musical instrument called an _____.
8. Troy loves to find _____.

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Answers

**balacava, KARMA, shed, fishing rod, giant octopus, drop off, accordion,
clues**

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Puzzles

Below is a list of words from chapter 2 of *The Tooth Fairy Murders*. Find them in this word search.

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

BALACLAVA

CONNOR

FAIRIES

GNOME

HAT

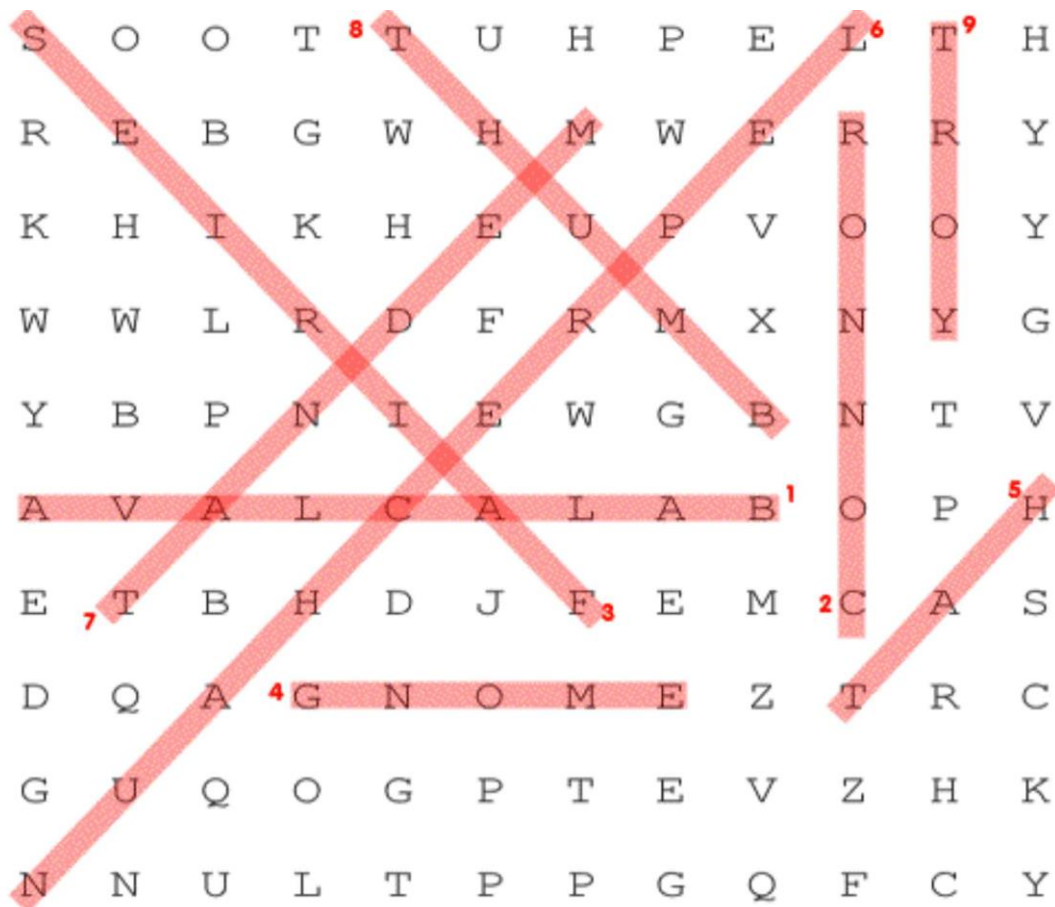
LEPRECHAUN

TANDEM

THUMB

TROY

Puzzle Answers (for teachers only)



1. BALACLAVA
2. CONNOR
3. FAIRIES
4. GNOME
5. HAT
6. LEPRECHAUN
7. TANDEM
8. THUMB
9. TROY

Picture Resources

This picture shows a gnome like the ones in Connor's garden.

1. Have you got gnomes in your garden?
2. Is this how you imagined the gnomes in the story would look?
3. What's the first question you would ask a gnome if you had the chance?
4. This gnome looks like the little men that appeared in a famous cartoon film from Disney. Do you know the name of the film?



Picture Resources

This picture shows a leprechaun.

Look at the other things in the picture.

1. What is a four-leaved clover (or shamrock) supposed to bring anyone who finds one?
2. Where do leprechauns keep their pots of gold?
3. Do you know what happens if you catch a leprechaun?
4. How can you tell how small the leprechaun is in the picture?



Picture Resources

This picture shows lots of Will o' the Wisps in a wood.



1. Is this what you thought a Will o' the Wisp might look like?
2. Are there really Will o' the Wisps?
3. Why are some people called a Will o' the Wisp?
4. What is the name of the tiny insects that can glow in the dark and fly around?

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Picture resources answers

Picture 1

Question 4: Snow White and the Seven Dwarves.

Picture 2

Question 1: Good luck.

Question 2: At the end of a rainbow.

Question 3: He grants you three wishes.

Picture 3

Question 2: Yes, they are a name given to the lights that sometimes appear over marshland, caused by escaping gases.

Question 3: Because they are always flitting from place to place and never standing still.

Question 4: Fireflies glow as they fly, but glow-worms also glow in the dark.

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Resources

There are lots of leprechaun websites on the Internet. Here are a couple:

www.leprechaunmuseum.ie/irish-folklore-mythology/the-leprechaun/

www.altananam.freemove.co.uk/Leprechauns.htm

Books:

Mr Skip, by Michael Morpurgo, HarperCollins, 2002

Revenge of the Garden Gnomes (Goosebumps Collection 11), by R. L. Stine, Scholastic, 1996

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.