

The Tooth Fairy Murders

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 Activities:** Fiction Express for Schools provides a brilliant springboard into writing and some ideas and inspiration are provided in this section.
- **Art and Drama Activities:** This section provides examples of follow-up activities in the areas of art and drama.
- **Worksheets:** This section provides printable worksheets for student use.
- **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 4 Tea party of Terror

1. Did you enjoy chapter 4 of *The Tooth Fairy Murders*. Did it make you laugh? Did you stay entertained all the way through the chapter? What was your favourite part of the story?
2. What did you think was going to happen when Troy said, *Of course I have a plan. You want to see how to escape from giant death scissors?* What tone of voice do you think Troy had when he said this?
3. How close do the giant scissors get to Troy's head? What is Troy in danger of losing, if he doesn't make up his mind soon?
4. Troy is always joking. What was the first joke he made to Connor? How do you think Connor felt when Troy told him *I'm only kidding?* What does Troy say after this?
5. How do Troy and Connor escape from the Thumb Fairy? Who escorts them along the tunnel to the banshee's home?
6. What two things make Connor shiver so much, when he arrives in the banshee's home?
7. Describe how Suzie the banshee looked when Connor first saw her. How does the author describe her hair? What would you call this sort of description?
8. The author sometimes tricks the reader into thinking one thing is going to happen, then writes something completely different. Can you find an example of this in chapter four?
9. What did you think about Suzie when she first started speaking?

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10. What do you think Suzie's home is like?
11. What sort of biscuits does Suzie have? Why has she got these biscuits to go with their tea? Suzie says, *Your favourite. That's what I told the woman in the shop.....Of course, she didn't hear me with all the screaming, but it's the thought that counts, innit.* Who do you think was doing the screaming and why? What does *innit* really mean?
12. Does Suzie kiss Troy? How does the author describe Suzie's hand when Troy is shaking it?
13. How did Troy repay Suzie after she saved him from an alligator? What does Suzie keep on these shelves?
14. What tone of voice do you think Suzie was using when she said, *They're jam...my dodg...ers.* What effect does this have on Troy and Connor? What do think about Suzie now?
15. Why does Troy say, *Oh, I wouldn't say I'm good-looking?*
16. What does Suzie say that makes Connor realize that she is involved in the Tooth Fairy murders? What did you think about the way Connor worked this out? What did you think about Troy at this point?
17. What do you think about Suzie? What sort of a character is she?
18. How does Suzie say she has killed the fairies? Does she have anything against the fairies? What is her reason for killing them?
19. The author describes Suzie as a *wrinkled crone*. Using the dictionary find out what *crone* means.

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20. What has Troy worked out that Connor hasn't? How can banshees get into people's houses?
21. What word does Connor use to describe the person who has helped Suzie in killing the Tooth Fairies?
22. What did you think about the little speech that Troy gives at the end of chapter 4? Do you think that Troy is really an *investigative genius*?

Making the choice and voting

Who does Troy think Suzie's accomplices are?

1. The Thumb Fairy?

Suzie lives very close to the Thumb Fairy, so would make a convenient accomplice. We already know that the Thumb Fairy has a violent streak. She enjoyed thinking about the different ways of killing off Troy and Connor. As she is old and doesn't have much work to do, perhaps she is jealous of her cousins the Tooth Fairies? Maybe she thought that by killing a few of them for Suzie and then accusing someone else of the murders, she might become a heroine herself?

2. The Gnomes?

The gnomes were certainly around at the time of the murders. They are large compared to a tooth fairy. Probably they get bored standing still in people's gardens with no protection from the weather. Perhaps they are jealous, because tooth fairies are loved and can fly. Maybe Suzie bribed them to kill a few fairies for her. Still they are quite slow, so it would be easy for fairies to get away. Of course trickery could be involved here, and maybe Troy knows something we don't.

3. Troy himself?

It is hard to believe that Troy might have done this. Do you want to believe he might be the killer? However, we mustn't forget that he was on the scene soon after the fairies arrived in Connor's room. Perhaps his joking and teasing is a cover-up to hide a more sinister and dangerous character?

Writing, Drama and Art Activities

Make a list of interesting words from chapter 4 that the author uses to describe Suzie, the banshee. Write your own detailed description of Suzie. You can use some of the words the author uses, but think of some words of your own to make your description interesting. Illustrate your writing with a drawing of Suzie based on your written description. **(Picture frame templates are provided in TR1 on pages 8, 9 and 10.)**

Re-write the meeting between Suzie and Troy as if YOU are Troy Thunder. You could start your writing with something like this.

Something strong grabbed me and pulled me through a hatch. I felt battered and bruised I can tell you, and I don't know what had happened to my hat! When the dust settled, well I had a real surprise. There...

Re-write part of chapter 4 as a play script. Don't forget to include all the important features of a script, such as setting, characters' names and stage directions. You could act out your script with some of your friends.

Add a bit of extra text to chapter four. It might be about how the Thumb Fairy felt after Troy and Connor plunged into the tunnel below her floor. What does the Thumb Fairy do after they have gone? You might want to write an extra description of Suzie, or more description of her home. Maybe you could tell us how Suzie saved Troy from the alligator? Then illustrate your extra part of the story.

What does a person need to be a good detective? What skills must they have to be able to discover things? Discuss this with a friend or classmate, then together come up with a list of good detection skills.

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Draw a detailed picture of Suzie, the banshees' home. Imagine the rooms nestled deep underground among the roots of the oak tree. Don't forget to include the shelves that Troy put up and the couch and the kitchen. You might like to draw Suzie in the kitchen making the tea and Troy and Connor sitting uncomfortably on the couch eating jammy dodgers. When you have finished your drawing write a caption to go with it.

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Worksheet (page 1 of 2)

1. Fill in the gaps in the sentences below:

The Thumb Fairy's giant _____ snipped closer and closer.

The floor beneath them slid open and their chairs _____ down into the darkness.

He began to shiver inside his _____.

Her clawed fingers looked like _____ blades around his.

They are lovely shelves just right for displaying my _____ collection.

She knew you couldn't stand by and see an _____ person get the _____.

Suzie began advancing on Connor. His courage _____ as the _____ crone drew closer.

Worksheet (page 2 of 2)

2. Remember how to spell

Fill in the gaps with the missing letters. Then write out the whole word at the end.

scissors s _ _ ss _ _ s scis _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _ sors

plunged _ _ ung _ _ pl _ _ _ ed _____

pyjamas p _ _ am _ _ py _ _ m _ _ _ _ jam _ _

knife kn _ f _ _ _ ife _ ni _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

skull sk _ ll s _ u _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

innocent in _ _ cent _ _ _ oc _ _ t i _ _ o _ _ _ t

blame b _ a _ e _ _ a _ _ bl _ _ _ _ _ _ _ _

evaporate _ _ ap _ _ at _ _ ev _ _ orat _ _ e _ ap _ ra _ _

wrinkled wr _ _ kl _ _ _ _ in _ _ ed wri _ _ led

Now turn over the paper and try to spell the words from memory.

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Worksheet Answers (for teachers ONLY)

1. Fill in the gaps.

The Thumb Fairy's giant **scissors** snipped closer and closer.

The floor beneath them slid open and their chairs **plunged** down into the darkness.

He began to shiver inside his **pyjamas**.

Her clawed fingers looked like **knife** blades around his.

They are lovely shelves just right for displaying my **skull** collection.

She knew you couldn't stand by and see an **innocent** person get the **blame**.

Suzie began advancing on Connor. His courage **evaporated** as the **wrinkled** crone drew closer.

Picture 1

Did you wonder what the bugs were that carried Troy and Connor underground?

Perhaps they were soldier ants like these:



Find out where soldier ants live. Do they live in your country?

How many soldier ants live in a colony?

How would you like to be carried along by thousands of ants? What would be the great disadvantage of being carried along by ants?

Find out about how strong ants are. Do you think thousands of ants could carry a person along?

Picture Resources

The banshee in chapter 4 lives underground. This picture shows an underground house in Coober Pedy in Australia.



Find Coober Pedy in an atlas or look it up on the internet.

Where is it in Australia?

Why do you think people live under the ground in Coober Pedy?

Would you like to live in an underground house?

What would be nice about living underground? What would you not like about it?

What film, just released, features a creature that lives underground?

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Resources

Animal Planet – Top 10 Mythical Creatures

<http://animal.discovery.com/tv/a-list/creature-countdowns/mythical/mythical.html>

Mythical creature teacher ideas from The Crafty Classroom

<http://www.thecraftyclassroom.com/CraftHistoryMythCreature.html>

TES Resources for Greek myths and monsters

<http://www.tes.co.uk/teaching-resource/Ancient-Greece-Myths-monsters-and-heroes-6087870/>

(note you need to be a TES subscriber to access resources)

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.