

The Tooth Fairy Murders

Teacher Resources, Week 5

This pdf contains:

- **Text Comprehension 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.
- **Writing and Art Activities:** Fiction Express for Schools provides a brilliant springboard into writing and some ideas and inspiration are provided in this section.
- **Starter Vocabulary List:** Students might find this list useful for their writing and drama exercises.
- **ICT, Drama and Storytelling Activities:** This section provides examples of follow-up activities in the areas of art and ICT.
- **Puzzles:** This section contains a fun puzzle to finish off the last chapter of the story. 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 books and relevant websites that students might find useful.

Text Comprehension Questions

Chapter 5 Case Closed

1. What did you think when you read the first line of the final chapter of *The Tooth Fairy Murders*? Were you surprised? What do you think Connor thought when Troy said he had killed the tooth fairies?
2. Could you imagine how Connor felt when Suzie said, *He thwacked them with a shoe*? Describe how you think he was feeling at this moment.
3. What reason does Troy give for murdering the tooth fairies? What did you think about Troy at this point? Describe how you felt about him. What do you think Troy should have done?
4. What does Connor mean when he says, *You killed them for glory?* Why is there a question mark at the end of this phrase? Try saying this phrase in the way that Connor said it.
5. Why was Suzie willing to take the blame for the fairy murders? There are two reasons. Go back to the story to find out.
6. *Yes! Absolutely. Completely forgotten. A good joke. Now I'll probably just be getting off home,* says Connor. How do you think Connor is feeling at this point in the story? Why do you think he is feeling this way?
7. Why does Troy feel that he has to kill Connor?
8. How did you feel when Troy said, *Sorry it had to come to this lad. It's nothing personal. Suzie, take care of him?* What did Troy really mean by 'take care' of him?

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9. How does Suzie make the wall collapse? What do you think would have happened if Connor hadn't thrown himself on the floor?
10. What does Connor find when he stumbles through the hole in the wall? Go back to the story and find the description of the goblin in the bath. What do you like about this part of the story?
11. Did you like the description of Connor's escape out into the forest? How do we know how Connor is feeling at this point in the story?
12. Go back to the story and find the part where Connor is rushing through the forest. Make a note of any descriptive phrases or words that you like. How does the author create atmosphere, tension and excitement in this part of the story?
13. How does the author describe the mist. (The mist became marshmallow thick.) Did you like this phrase? Why?
14. There is a lot of tension and excitement in the last chapter of this story, but there is lots of humour too. Go back to the story and find the parts that you found amusing. Think about why they are funny. Were you ever shocked by some of the humour? Why?
15. Who rescues Connor from the grips of Troy and Suzie?
16. When did you realize the unicorn was coming to help Connor? Find the description the author uses to announce the arrival of the unicorn.
17. What word does the author use to describe the way the Thumb Fairy is snipping her tiny scissors? (furiously) Why was this a good word to use here? What does it also tell us about how the Thumb Fairy was feeling at this time?

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18. How does the unicorn stop Suzie from screaming?
19. What does Troy do to try to kill the Thumb Fairy? Does it work?
20. Troy tries to escape but is *confronted by a wall of fairies, gnomes, leprechauns, and a slightly damp, very annoyed-looking goblin wearing only a towel*. Why is the goblin only wearing a towel? Why is he very annoyed?
21. Who is the Thumb Fairy working for? What is her job? How do you think an *undercover agent* operates?
22. What does Troy throw to Connor as he is led away by one of the leprechauns? How did you feel at this part of the story?
23. What is the unicorn's name?
24. What does Connor think when he wakes up at home in his bed?
25. What causes the dead tooth fairy, under Connor's pillow, to come back to life? (Connor's mother's clapping.) What is the first thing the tooth fairy says to Connor?
26. How does Connor's dad react when he opens the door to Brian the unicorn? How would you react, if a unicorn knocked on your door?
27. How do you think the fairies in this story differ from fairies in traditional fairy stories? Look at the way the fairies speak in *The Tooth Fairy Murders*. How has the author made the fairies seem more modern? Did you like this?

Writing and Art Activities

Find five 'movement' words the author uses to describe Connor's escape from Troy and Suzie, for example, *stumbled*. Try to think of some movement words of your own. Then imagine you have to run through a forest avoiding lots of obstacles, like fallen branches, spindly trees, old logs, etc. Write a few exciting sentences describing your journey and the way you get round all the obstacles.

Have you ever been lost in mist and fog? We get a lot of mist and fog at this time of year. Go back to the story and look at how the author describes mist and fog.

Read this poem on mist and fog by Carl Sandburg. What is interesting about this poem? Why is it a good way to describe mist and fog?

*The fog comes
on little cat feet.*

*It sits looking
over harbour and city
on silent haunches
and then moves on.*

Write your own poem about mist and fog. There are a few words in the vocabulary list to help you, but try to think of your own unusual way to describe mist or fog. **(Starter Vocabulary List)**

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Re-write the story of *The Tooth Fairy Murders* as a picture book for younger children. Make the story simple, but keep all the interesting characters and some funny bits. You could divide the story between all the members in your group or class. Decide who is going to write and illustrate each part of the story. You might want to divide it up like this:

Page 1-2: Connor is in his bedroom, standing by the window looking at the fairy man shouting at him through the glass.

Page 3-4: A swarm of fairies have burst into the room, surrounding Connor, who is shouting for his mum. The pillow has been removed from Connor's bed to reveal the dead tooth fairy.

Page 4-5: Connor is in an interrogation room with his hands tied to the table. Troy Thunder is there, wearing his bobble hat.

Page 6-7: Troy and Connor escape from the room, but are soon confronted by all sorts of fairies and other strange creatures.

Page 8-9: Connor and Troy escape on a tandem, though Connor was expecting to go in the fancy black car.

Page 10-11: Connor and Troy are in Connor's dad's shed talking to the gnomes.

Page 12-13: Troy and Connor get a lift from the unicorn to the house of the Thumb Fairy.

Page 14-15: Troy and Connor are in the underground house of the Thumb Fairy. The Thumb Fairy is talking to Troy and Connor, who are stuck to their chairs. She is holding a tiny pair of scissors. There are a giant pair of scissors hanging from the ceiling. She is explaining the choices they have.

Page 16-17: Troy and Connor are in the house of Suzie, the banshee. She is preparing tea and biscuits for her guests.

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Page 17-18: Connor accuses Suzie of killing the tooth fairies. Troy reveals that he was the real killer.

Page 19-20: Troy tells Suzie to take care of Connor. Suzie screams and a large hole appears in the wall. Connor has thrown himself on the floor.

Page 21-22: In a bathroom there is a goblin taking a bath. Troy and Suzie are rushing through this room. In the room beyond, Connor is scrambling up a rope ladder and is almost out into the forest.

Page 23-24: Connor is rushing through the forest with Troy and Suzie close behind. A unicorn is about to explode from the fog.

Page 24-25: Troy has just captured Connor, but is crying out in pain as the Thumb Fairy is attacking him with a pair of tiny scissors. Suzie has just been kicked by the unicorn and is lying on the floor. A pair of leprechauns are approaching to take Troy away.

Page 26-27: Connor's house the next morning. Connor has woken up and is trying to work out if he has just had a bad dream. His mother is coming into his room clapping her hands. Downstairs, Connor's Dad has fainted by the front door. Brian the unicorn is waiting outside.

You could add more pages for other parts of the story if you want. Make sure that the writing follows on from one page to the next. Go back to the story to check that you have all the details correct.

Design a front cover for the picture book. Include the title and the name of the author. Then design the back cover. Add some information about the story and why people should read it.

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Starter Vocabulary List

Vapour, haze, film, cloud, damp, low, murky, wisp, blur, dim, veil, shroud, invisible, disappear, confuse, obscure, hide, quiet, silent, muffle, swirling, fog, vague, shapes, mysterious, weird

ICT, Drama and Storytelling Activities

Start a conversation by commenting on our blog. Say what you thought about the story of *The Tooth Fairy Murders*. Read what others have to say about the story. Do you agree or disagree with them? Always be polite if you want to disagree with someone.

In a group, act out the last scene in *The Tooth Fairy Murders*. Connor is waking up. His mother is coming into the room clapping, the tooth fairy is suddenly coming alive and wants questions answered. There is a unicorn at the front door asking for Connor, and Dad is calling up to Connor before fainting on the doorstep. Practise this scene and then act it out in front of your class.

Would you make a good storyteller? Could you tell the story of *The Tooth Fairy Murders* to someone else. In a group, tell the story in-the-round. The first person starts the story, speaks for a while, then stops, and the next person has to carry on. Each person must tell one part of the story that follows on from what the last person said. Try it out.

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Then you could make up a completely new story in-the-round. The first person sets the scene and starts the action. For example, the first person says something like this:

(First person)

It was a cold, dark winter's evening, Sophie and her brother Jack were sitting in front of the fire doing their school homework. Jack was munching on an apple and talking to himself as he tried to work things out. "Eleven plus four equals...."

(Next person)

There was a quiet knock at the door. Sophie and Jack looked up in surprise. Their Mum had just gone out to visit their next door neighbour. She wouldn't knock on the door before she came in. They weren't expecting anyone else that night.

(Next person)

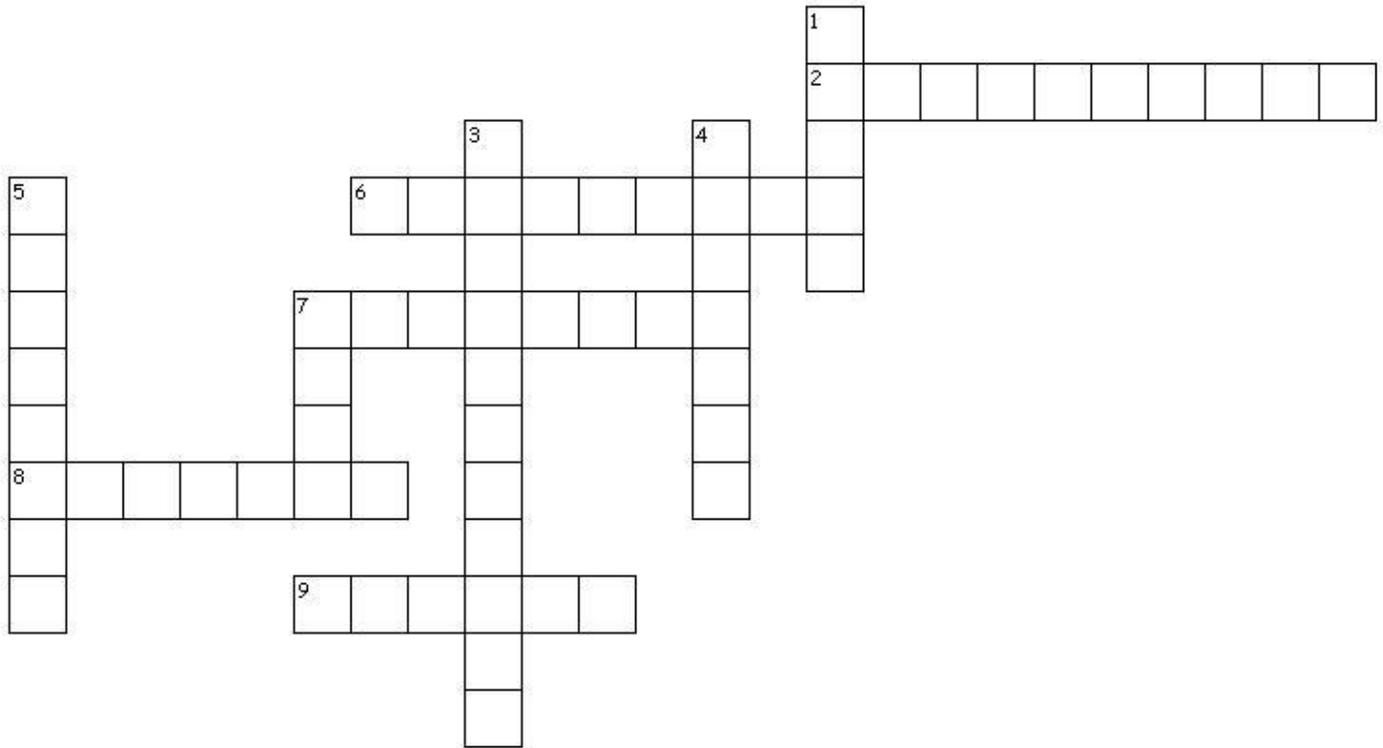
The knocking started again, only louder this time. Sophie walked cautiously towards the door unsure whether or not to open it.....

The story can be taken anywhere. It can be scary one minute and funny the next. Have a go and see where your story takes you, but remember it must be surprising, exciting and entertaining. Remember also that the story must finish with the last person in the group, though you could go round the group again.

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Puzzle

Do this crossword to see how much of chapter 5 of *The Tooth Fairy Murders* you can remember.



CLUES

Across

2. Connor scrambled up this. (2 words)
6. The Thumb Fairy worked under cover for this organization.
7. These were stuck in Troy's thumb.
8. Suzie's fingers felt like these.
9. Who did Connor see in the bath?

Down

1. The unicorn's name.
3. The mist was as thick as this.
4. Suzie was one of these.
5. Troy said "KARMA was a _____ stock."
7. Troy thwacked the tooth fairies with one of these.

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Puzzle Answers (for teachers only)

CLUES

Across

2. Connor scrambled up this. ROPE LADDER
6. The Thumb Fairy worked under cover for this organization. PFAMFDAPA
7. These were stuck in Troy's thumb. SCISSORS
8. Suzie's fingers felt like these. ICICLES
9. Who did Connor see in the bath? GOBLIN

Down

1. The unicorn's name. BRIAN
3. The mist was as thick as this. MARSHMALLOW
4. Suzie was one of these. BANSHEE
5. Troy said "KARMA was a _____ stock." LAUGHING
7. Troy thwacked the tooth fairies with one of these. SHOE

Picture Resources

Look at this picture of a misty forest at night.



1. Is this what you imagined Connor's forest might have looked like?
2. How would you feel if you were trying to find your way in the dark and murk like this? Describe your feelings.
3. How do the trees look in the dark?
4. How different do you think this scene would look on a sunny summer's day?

Resources

Websites

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)

Books

Drawing Legendary Monsters series, Steve Beaumont, Franklin Watts, 2011

Monsters by Annabel Savery, Franklin Watts, 2011

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.