

Pants on Fire!

Teacher Resources Week 1

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 and Art Activities:** Fiction Express for Schools provides a brilliant springboard into writing and some ideas and inspiration are provided in this section. Ideas for extension activities in Art are also provided.
- **Starter Vocabulary List:** Students might find this list useful for their writing exercises.
- **Templates:** This section provides printable templates for one, or some, of the exercises suggested in the 'Writing Activities' section.
- **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 books and websites that students might find useful.

Text Questions

Chapter 1: Vanished!

1. What did you think of the first chapter of *Pants on Fire*? Do you think you are going to enjoy this story? What do you think you are going to like about it?
2. How would you describe the first chapter of this new story? What type of story do you think this is going to be?
3. Did you find any parts of chapter 1 amusing? Which parts?
4. Have you ever been late for school? How did you feel about arriving late? Did you think of excuses to tell your teacher or did you just tell the truth?
5. What did you think of Alfie's excuses for being late for school? Are they the normal excuses people use for being late? What does this tell us about Alfie?
6. Do you think anyone would believe Alfie's excuses? Why not?
7. What do you think most annoys Miss Hayve, Alfie's lateness or his excuses?
8. Why does Alfie think that Miss Hayve would *like it better if he was a brainless walking monster*?
9. Where does Alfie think Miss Hayve would like to see him *stuck*? Go back to the story to find out.
10. What famous real-life footballer does the name 'Barry Deckham' make you think of?

11. What is funny about the name of Alfie's teacher?
TEACHER ANSWER: Miss Bea Hayve – misbehave
12. Why does Alfie think an energy drink might help him? Why can't he get one from the newsagent's?
13. What does the newsagent offer Alfie instead of an energy drink? Does he think this is going to help?
14. What was unusual about the shop called *The Truth Within*? Would you buy something from this shop? Have you ever seen or been inside a shop like this?
15. What did Alfie see in the shop window? Try to remember before you look back at the story.
16. What sign does Alfie see that changes his life?
17. Can you remember what Alfie sees inside the shop? Make a list of the things you remember.
18. Describe the man in the shop. What simile does the author use to describe the man's beard? Go back to the story to find out. Do you like this simile?
19. The man in the shop doesn't ask Alfie what he wants. Instead he asks to know his 'greatest'? What word does he use here? Go back to the story to find out.
20. Would you have drunk from an *old green bottle* like Alfie?
21. How many people are annoyed with Alfie when he gets to school? Go back to the story to find out.

22. How do we know that Nisa is cross with Alfie?
23. Miss Hayve tells Alfie “*Everyone knew you would be late – as usual. What we’re all wondering now is why you’re late this time? We can’t wait to hear...*” Can you imagine the tone of voice Miss Hayve uses when she says this? Can you say these sentences like her? Go back to the story to find these sentences. How else does the author indicate the way Miss Hayve speaks?
TEACHER NOTE: Author uses italics on the words ‘usual’ and ‘why’.
24. What does Alfie resolve to tell this time, and why? Go back to the story to find out. Do you think he is going to tell the truth? What do you think might be happening here?
25. Why was Alfie really late for school?
26. Why do you think Alfie feels *his brain tingle again...*?

Making the Choice and Voting

What excuses did Alfie give for being late?

Choice 1: An angry unicorn had blocked his front door.

Can you imagine the story Alfie would tell if you voted for this option? Do unicorns really exist? Is this the sort of excuse anyone is going to believe? How do you think Miss Hayve will react to this story? What will Alfie's friend Nisa think? What will the rest of the school think?

Choice 2: A lion gobbled his homework.

Can you imagine the story Alfie would tell if you voted for this option? Where do lions usually live? How could one have got to Alfie's house? Why do you think Alfie would tell a story like this? Could Alfie tell this story in any way that might at least stop his audience from feeling irritated or angry? Why do you think people would or wouldn't believe this story?

Choice 3: A dinosaur had stomped on his school bag.

Can you imagine the story Alfie would tell if you voted for this option? Do you think he is going to '*compose a tale*' that will entertain his audience? Do you think Miss Hayve will be entertained? Can you imagine the punishment she will give Alfie for coming up with such a ridiculous excuse. Why do you think people would or wouldn't believe this story?

Think about which choice would make for the most entertaining chapter 2.

Writing and Art Activities

Look at all the voting options at the end of chapter 1. Jot down your own ideas for an entertaining excuse based on each of these options. Then choose your best idea and write the first part of chapter 2 where Alfie gives his excuse for being late. Use words from the vocabulary list to help you.

Do you have a memorable experience of being late for school or for another appointment? How did you feel? What did you do? Write your own account of being late. Have any of your friends ever been late for a meeting with you? How did that make you feel?

Draw a picture of the shop *The Truth Within*. You could draw the shop window or a scene from inside the shop with the strange shopkeeper. Write an extended caption to go with your picture to explain what is going on in your illustration.

Do you have a favourite shop you like to visit? Write a description of this shop and explain why you like to visit it. You might like to come up with your own vocabulary list to describe this shop before you start your writing.

Draw a picture of one of the following characters from chapter 1, for example:

- Alfie rushing to school
- Miss Hayve waiting for Alfie
- the man in the strange shop talking to Alfie
- Nisa glaring at Alfie and tapping her watch.

You can add speech or thought bubbles to your illustration to show what the characters are thinking, feeling or saying.

Do you know what the following words from chapter 1 mean?

crave, precinct, elixirs, potions, compose, parchment

Using the Internet or a dictionary, find out what these words mean and then write an interesting sentence of your own using each of these words.

Write a Alfie's diary for the week before this story starts. He might make a note of the reasons why he was late to school, the excuses that he gave and Miss Hayve's reaction. He might also write about the day when Miss Hayve gave him his punishment.

(Template provided on page 9)

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Starter Vocabulary List

Here are some words to help you with your writing. Use a dictionary to find the meanings of any words you do not know.

strange, weird, mystical, astounding, fantastic, unbelievable, disbelief,
rampaging, unexplained, potion, elixir, fable, prehistoric, imaginary,
furious, punishment, hilarious, smashing, thumping, crashing, gnashing,
charging

Writing template: Weekly Diary

	Diary entry
Monday Date:	
Tuesday Date:	
Wednesday Date:	
Thursday Date:	
Friday Date:	

Worksheet (page 1 of 3)

Find the evidence in chapter 1 to answer the following questions. Use quotes from the text to answer your questions.

1. How does Alfie's appearance show that he was in a rush to get ready for school?

2. What does Alfie hope an energy drink will do for him?

3. Why does Miss Hayve not want her children to have energy drinks?

Worksheet (page 2 of 3)

4. What sign does Alfie see in the shop window that makes him think he will get an energy drink there?

5. How does Alfie know that the drink from the green bottle is having an affect on him?

6. What words does the author use to describe the way Miss Hayve shouts at Alfie when he arrives in the school hall?

Worksheet (page 3 of 3)

7. How does Alfie react when Miss Hayve says that she cannot wait to hear Alfie's reason for being late for school?

8. What words does the author use to show the feelings of the teachers and of Nisa just before Alfie tells his story?

Worksheet ANSWERS

1. His thick hair was an un-combed mess, his almost-white shirt was crumpled
2. Give his brain a boost and deliver speed to his legs.
3. Mind Slap and drinks like it were causing problems with concentration in class.
4. Lacking energy? Look within ...
5. Alfie had the strangest sensation that his brain was fizzing!
6. bellowing, screeching tones
7. his cheeks flush and his shoulders sag.
8. disapproving, frustrated

Worksheet 2 Alliteration

Early in chapter 1 the author describes Alfie jumping over ‘a pensioner’s pekinese dog’. Why does this sound better than it would have if the author had just written that Alfie had jumped over ‘an old lady’s pekinese dog’?

Phrases like ‘pensioner’s pekinese’ or ‘pretty, pink parrot’ use alliteration.

Alliteration makes your writing more interesting.

Try to think of alliterative adjectives to describe these nouns:

Noun	Adjective(s)
Cat	
Wind	
Beard	
Potion	
Magician	
Sea	
Poppy	
Room	

Picture Resources

This picture, painted by John Tenniel, shows a scene from a famous book where a child drank a strange liquid, just like Alfie.



What was the book called?

Who was it written by?

What was the girl's name?

What happened to her when she drank the strange liquid?

What does the label on the bottle say? Would you drink a strange liquid just because the label told you to? Give reasons for your answer.

Picture Resources

The man in the mysterious shop was dressed all in black and had long white hair and a flowing beard.



This is an illustration by N. C. Wyeth from a book about King Arthur called *The Boy's King Arthur* (1922). It shows Merlin carrying the infant Arthur.

Who was Merlin?

Is the story of King Arthur and Merlin truth or a legend?

Do you think the man in the mysterious shop might have looked something like this?

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Resources

Websites:

BBC Learning Zone: Lara's Little Lie

<http://www.bbc.co.uk/learningzone/clips/ask-lara-laras-little-lie/13486.html>

Ithink: This website contains a range of free interactive and digital resources to encourage discussion between children on the issues of Citizenship and PSHE.

<http://www.ithink.org.uk/>

Kids' Health: Telling Lies

<http://www.cyh.com/HealthTopics/HealthTopicDetailsKids.aspx?p=335&np=287&id=1485>

BBC Ethics Guide: Lying

http://www.bbc.co.uk/ethics/lying/lying_1.shtml

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.