

Pants on Fire!

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 and Art Activities:** Fiction Express for Schools provides a brilliant springboard into writing and some ideas and inspiration are provided in this section, along with some great ideas for art projects.
- **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 2: Liar! Liar!

1. What did you think of chapter 2 of *Pants on Fire*? Did you enjoy reading it? Did you find any parts of the story amusing or surprising? Which bits did you enjoy most?
2. How does the author show us that Alfie is shocked when he tells the story about the unicorn? Look back at the chapter to find out.
3. What was the *CLICK! CLICK! CLICK!* that Alfie didn't want to hear?
4. What words does the author use to show how angry Miss Hayve is when she hears Alfie's ridiculous excuse? Go back to the story to find out.
5. *Why was he saying these things?!* Why did the author put this sentence into italics, and why is there a question mark and an exclamation mark at the end of it?
6. What causes Mr Bassett's finger to tremble?
7. Look at the author's description of the unicorn. Make a note of the interesting adjectives and verbs he uses in this description.
8. Alfie is speechless when he sees the unicorn out of the window. How does the author describe this? Go back to the story to find out. Did you like this description? Why?
9. What does Nisa think Alfie has done to get out of doing his homework?
10. Is Alfie able to tell his friend Nisa the truth? What happens?
11. *Nisa said nothing. She just stared.* Why does Nisa do this? What do these short sentences tell us about how Nisa is feeling at this moment?

12. Were you surprised when the kittens appeared? Did you find this part of the story amusing?
13. *“Alfie!” Nisa breathed.* What does this short sentence tell us about how Nisa is feeling at this moment? Why does the word *breathed* tell us?
14. What does Alfie do with the kittens?
15. What do you think happened to the unicorn?
16. *“Now it seems that any tall tale you tell somehow becomes reality.”* What does Nisa mean by the words *tall tale* and *reality*?
17. Nisa tells Alfie *“You always tell lies!”* Why does this making it difficult for Alfie to convince Nisa that he didn’t mean to lie to Miss Hayve?
18. What is the title of this chapter? Can you say the well-known phrase that starts with those words? Why do you think the author gave this title to the chapter? Have you read the author’s blog post of the same name?
19. Does Nisa have a bottle of *Mind Slap*? Why not?
20. What does Nisa say that leads Alfie to make the connection between the drink he had from the green bottle and the strange things that are happening to him?
21. Why do you think Chuck Dingle’s face is a *startling shade of orange*? Look at the description of Chuck Dingle. Would you be able to draw a good likeness of him from the author’s description?
22. What simile does the author use to describe Chuck Dingle’s teeth? Do you know what porcelain is? Find out.

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23. What was the award that Chuck won from the local newspaper? What sort of a person do you think Chuck is?

24. Who does Chuck want to interview? What does he say to try to persuade Alfie to talk to him? How does he qualify this statement? Did you find this amusing?

Making the Choice and Voting

What happens next?

Choice 1: Alfie gives an interview to Chuck Dingle.

Can you predict what Alfie will say? Do you think he will be able to tell the truth to Chuck? What do you think will happen if he is still under the influence of the mysterious 'energy drink'? What sort of answers do you think Alfie will give to Chuck Dingle's questions? Do you trust Chuck Dingle? How do you think Nisa will react if Alfie decides to give an interview? Do you think that fame and fortune really beckon for Alfie if he does this interview?

Choice 2: Alfie and Nisa dodge the news crew and race back to the weird shop.

Do you think this would be the most sensible thing for Alfie to do? If he gets back to the shop can you predict what might happen? Do you think Nisa would prefer this option? Do you think Alfie would be missing out on fame and fortune?

Choice 3: Miss Hayve comes to see what the commotion is about and catches Alfie.

If Miss Hayve catches Alfie, what do you think she will do to him? Will Alfie be forced to tell more fantastic lies? What do you think the cameraman and Chuck Dingle will do? How will Miss Hayve react to Alfie's royal robes? Do you think she will believe that he is the King of France?

Writing and Art Activities

Look at the voting options at the end of chapter 2. Write down your own ideas of how you think the story will develop in chapter 3 for each of these options. Then write the first paragraph of chapter 3 based on your favourite option or idea.

Write a summary of chapter 2. Make sure you include all the main events. Give your summary to one of your classmates to read. Ask them to tell you about any parts of your summary that aren't clear. Then improve your summary.

Devise some questions that can be answered by reading chapter 2 of *Pants on Fire*. Make sure you can show where and how to find the answers. Then give your questions to a classmate or friend.

Can you imagine other lies or tall tales that Alfie might be forced to tell. Think of some lies that Alfie could tell in chapter 3 that would be entertaining if they came true. Write down your best ideas.

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Draw a picture of your favourite scene in chapter 2 of *Pants on Fire!* Use speech bubbles and an extended caption to explain what is happening in your picture.

Re-read the author's description of Chuck Dingle in chapter 2 of *Pants on Fire!* Then draw a caricature of this character. Make sure you know what a caricature is before you start!

Imagine you are a pupil at Alfie's school. You were a witness to everything that happened during assembly that morning. Write down the conversation that you might have with your mum or dad, or older brother or sister, when you get home from school. Don't forget to use quotation marks to show when each person is speaking.

Imagine you are Chuck Dingle. Write down the interview questions that you are planning to ask the following people:

- Alfie
- Miss Hayve (Alfie's teacher)
- The unicorn

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Write down 3 questions you would like to ask the author about the story so far. Then post your questions on the Fiction Express blog for Tommy to answer.

What do you know about the 'Scream Street' books mentioned in chapter 2? Who wrote the books? Why do you think the author mentions them in *Pants on Fire!*? Does your school library have any of these books? Read one of the 'Scream Street' books and write a review of it. Write a report comparing the 'Scream Street' story to *Pants on Fire!*

The words listed below were used in chapter 2 of *Pants on Fire!*. Do you know what they mean? Find out and then write your own interesting sentences using each of these words:

cautiously, regally, stowed, bizarre, porcelain, exclusive

Worksheet

There are 6 capital letters, 5 full stops, 2 commas, 2 apostrophes and 1 question mark missing in the following excerpt from chapter 2 of *Pants on Fire!* See if you can find them.

“This can’t be real...” Nisa mumbled. she turned back to Alfie again. “tell me the truth. Why were you late for school And no making stuff up!”

alfie nodded After all, he didnt need to lie to Nisa “I was in paris, rescuing kittens in danger I did such a good job that the locals named me the new king of france.”

There was another blinding flash of light

When Alfie could see properly again and his brain had stopped fizzing he opened his eyes to find Nisa staring at him. “Whats wrong...” he asked cautiously

Worksheet ANSWERS

“This can’t be real...” Nisa mumbled. She turned back to Alfie again. “Tell me the truth. Why were you late for school? ? And no making stuff up!”

Alfie nodded. . After all, he didn’t need to lie to Nisa. . “I was in Paris, rescuing kittens in danger. . I did such a good job that the locals named me the new King of France.”

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Picture Resources

This is a portrait of the French King, Louis XIV.



When was Louis XIV born?

Louis XIV was a child when he became King of France. How old was he?

How long did Louis XIV reign?

What did Louis XIV call himself?

Who succeeded Louis XV to the throne?

What words would you use to describe Louis XIV in this portrait?

Picture Resources

This picture shows Queen Elizabeth I in her coronation robes.



What does 'coronation' mean?

What are the names of the objects that she is holding in her left hand and her right hand?

What do you think the precious stones around her neck and in her crown are?

When did Queen Elizabeth I's coronation take place?

When did Queen Elizabeth II's coronation take place?

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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.