

Pants on Fire!

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.
- **Starter Vocabulary List:** Students might find this list useful for their writing and drama exercises.
- **Art and Drama Activities:** Some ideas and inspiration for extension activities in the subjects of art and drama are provided in this 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 websites that students might find useful.

Text Questions

Chapter 4: Double Trouble

1. Did you enjoy reading chapter 4 of *Pants on Fire*? Did you find this chapter entertaining and amusing? Which parts of the story did you find surprising?
2. How does Alfie react when he sees Alfie number 2? Do the two Alfies seem the same? Do they talk in a similar way?
3. Nisa wonders why she is friends with Alfie. Can you understand why she is? Think of 3 reasons why Nisa stays friends with Alfie.
4. Who created the Alfie and Nisa doubles? How long are the doubles going to last? Go back to the story to find out.
5. Why did the shopkeeper create the Alfie and Nisa doubles?
6. Who first mentions the 'challenge' that Alfie has got to go through?
7. Nisa's double says, "*We have to lead Chuck Dingle on a wild goose chase.*". What does the phrase *wild goose chase* mean? Explain.
8. How do Alfie and Nisa's doubles get Chuck Dingle and his team away from the real Alfie and Nisa?
9. What does Chuck Dingle say that makes one of the cameramen cross?
10. What does the shopkeeper do to Nisa? Did you think this was fair?
11. What does the old man tell Alfie is the purpose of the challenge? Do you think Alfie needs to do this challenge? Why?

12. How does Nisa communicate with Alfie when she cannot speak?
Does Alfie understand her? Go back to the story to find out.
13. Does Alfie think his teacher is an important person? Find the phrase in the text that will answer this question.
14. Why does Nisa roll her eyes and silently groan when the shopkeeper says, *“Beyond this door is your challenge, Alfie Richards. A test of your honesty and intelligence!”*
15. Who do you think slams the door behind Alfie and Nisa? What noise does it make? Go back to the story to find out. What do we call these sorts of words?
TEACHER NOTE: Onomatopoeia
16. Why does the noise of the door echo much more than Alfie expects it to?
17. Find the phrase in the text that tells us what it is like beyond the door. What does the word ‘pitch’ mean in the phrase ‘pitch black’? Find out.
18. What happens to Nisa when she gets beyond the door?
19. Go back to the story and look at all the times Alfie pokes fun at Nisa. Do you think Nisa takes Alfie’s remarks seriously?
20. How does Nisa create light inside the cavern?
21. From memory try to make a list of all the things Alfie and Nisa see inside the cavern. What was the most surprising thing that Alfie and Nisa saw in the cavern?

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22. Were you surprised to see Miss Hayve suspended over the pool of sharks? What did you think at this point in the story?
23. How does the author create tension and suspense as Miss Hayve slowly drops from the ceiling to the shark-infested pool below?
24. Who do you think the booming voice belongs to?
25. Why did Alfie have to close his eyes and grit his teeth? Go back to the story to find out.
26. Why was Alfie surprised by Miss Hayve's reaction when he answered question one? What reaction would he have expected at school?
27. How do you think Alfie was feeling as *beads of sweat formed on his brow*?
28. Why do you think Alfie lied again about the unicorn in this chapter?
29. Can you find other examples of onomatopoeia at the end of the story? What are they?

Making the Choice and Voting

How does Alfie reply?

Choice 1: He admits that he cannot save Miss Hayve (the truth)

Choice 2: He says that he has super powers and can save his teacher (a lie)

Would you want to be in Alfie's shoes at this point in the story? Alfie only has a split second to make the right choice. But which is the right one? If he tells the truth, will Miss Hayve be eaten by sharks? Is this the one time when a lie might be the right thing to do? If he tells this lie will he get super powers and save Miss Hayve from certain death? Could this all be a trick to test Alfie? Is this a risk worth taking? You have to help Alfie make the right decision. What do you think he should say?

Writing Activities

Can you imagine how strange it would be if you actually met another person exactly like you! What would you say to this person? Would you discuss your hair, like Alfie does in the story, or would you ask more important questions? Write an account of a strange incident where you meet another person exactly like you. Describe what happens, how you feel and what you say to each other.

We all have different personalities with good points and bad points. Maybe you are funny or serious, quiet and thoughtful or active and energetic? Are you kind? Are you friendly? Do you like to help other people? Do you like to spend time on your own, or do you always want to be with friends. Do you get angry easily or are you good at staying calm? All these things and more help to make us the people we are. Write an honest assessment of your own personality. The **vocabulary list** at the end of this section will help you.

Train your memory. Find 6 difficult words in chapter 4 that you would like to learn to spell. Practise writing these words, and try to write them on your own from memory until you get them right.

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Go back to the story, and find all the parts you thought were funny or amusing. Think about why these are funny. Do you think it is easy or difficult to write funny things in a story? Have a go at writing your own amusing story, so that you can find out. You might like to think about a funny situation that has actually happened to you and try to describe it in an amusing way.

Could you be a better person? Write down three things that you would need to change about yourself to become a better person.

Look at the 2 options at the end of chapter 4. With a partner, discuss what you think the author will do in the final chapter next week for each of these options. Predict what you think will happen to Alfie, Nisa and Miss Hayve. Make notes about your ideas.

Write the first sentence of chapter 5 based on each of the two options at the end of chapter 4. Make your sentences exciting and dramatic.

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Starter Vocabulary List

Here is a list of words to help you with your writing, but be sure to add some of your own. Find out what all of the words mean before you use them.

Friendly, humorous, quiet, kind, quick-tempered, angry, sulky, shy, thoughtful, funny, jolly, happy, truthful, honest, naughty, annoying, helpful, tidy, messy, generous, amusing, silly, cheeky

Art and Drama Activities

In one scene in chapter 4, Nisa finds she cannot speak and has to use gestures and mimes to make herself understood. Try to do a mime to a friend and see if they can work out what you are trying to tell them.

Illustrate your favourite scene in chapter 4. Write an extended caption to summarize what is happening in your picture.

You can see yourself in photographs or by looking in a mirror. In the past, before cameras were invented, people had their portraits painted. Look at yourself in a mirror and try to draw a picture of yourself – a self-portrait.

Try to make your picture as honest as you can. Then write a caption to go with your picture that tells the reader a bit more about the sort of person you are. Make sure you put the date on your self-portrait, so that you can remember how you looked at this time.

Draw a picture of your best friend. Then write an account of why you like this person and why you get on so well.

Worksheet (page 1 of 4)

Below is a list of words that were used in chapter 4 of *Pants on Fire!*:

**complete, temporary, appear, weird, bellowed, truth, important,
opened, cried, correct, conquer, revealed.**

1. Write these words in alphabetical order:

2. In the spaces below, write the antonym (opposite) of each of these

words:

complete _____

temporary _____

appear _____

weird _____

bellowed _____

truth _____

important _____

Worksheet (page 2 of 4)

opened _____

cried _____

correct _____

conquer _____

revealed _____

3. In the spaces below write a synonym (a word with a similar meaning) or two for each of the words:

complete _____

temporary _____

appear _____

weird _____

bellowed _____

truth _____

important _____

opened _____

cried _____

correct _____

conquer _____

revealed _____

Worksheet (page 3 of 4)

4. Write an exciting or interesting sentence of your own using each of these words.

complete _____

temporary _____

appear _____

weird _____

bellowed _____

truth _____

Worksheet (page 4 of 4)

Important _____

opened _____

cried _____

correct _____

conquer _____

revealed _____

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Picture Resources

How do you think you would feel if you met yourself?



How do you think the girl on the left of this picture is feeling? How do you think the girl on the right of this picture is feeling?

If you met a version of yourself from the future, what questions do you think you might ask?

If you met a version of yourself from the past, what advice would you give yourself?

Picture Resources

In this chapter of *Pants on Fire!*, Alfie lies about having a tea party with some monkeys. There is a famous tea party in the book called *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland* (often shortened to *Alice in Wonderland*), by Lewis Carroll.

Do you know the story of *Alice in Wonderland*? Have you read the book or seen



a film version of the story?

Can you name the characters shown in this picture?

What was Lewis Carroll's real name?

When was the book written?

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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.