

# Pants on Fire!

## Teacher Resources Week 5

### 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.
- **Writing and Art Activities:** Fiction Express for Schools provides a brilliant springboard into writing and some ideas and inspiration are provided in this section. Some ideas for art extension activities are also provided.
- **Templates:** This section provides printable templates for one, or some, of the exercises suggested in the 'Writing and Art Activities' section.
- **Puzzles:** This section provides printable puzzles for students to complete. 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 relevant websites that students might find useful.

## Text Questions

### Chapter 5: The Whole Truth

1. What did you think of the last chapter *Pants on Fire*? Which scenes did you most enjoy reading?
2. Which parts of the story made you laugh or amused you most? Describe them.
3. What was your favourite part of chapter 5? Describe it and say why you liked it so much.
4. Would you like to read another story by this author? Explain your answer.
5. Do you think Alfie was right to tell a lie in order to save his teacher's life?
6. Whose voice is written in capital letters in chapter 5? Why do you think the author wrote it like this?
7. Who does Alfie turn into in order to save Miss Hayve, and what does he look like? What does the word 'emblazoned' mean? Have a guess before you check the word in a dictionary.
8. What are the benefits of telling lies according to Alfie? Which lie has made him look ridiculous?
9. What does Alfie mean when he says "*It would mean less homework...*"? Do you think he is being serious? Go back to the story to find out.

10. Why is Alfie surprised when he gets wet? Go back to the story to find out.
11. Explain how Alfie and Nisa get Miss Hayve down from her position dangling above the pool.
12. What isn't Alfie keen to do that leads him to tell another lie? Go back to the story to find out.
13. What has Alfie turned into as he finds himself wobbling on a unicycle? Why does this seem to be appropriate for Alfie?  
TEACHER NOTE: In real life he is a bit of a clown.
14. How does Miss Hayve respond when Alfie tells her to trust him?
15. What else happens inside the cavern as Alfie starts to ride the unicycle across the floorboard? Did you enjoy this description?
16. Why does Miss Hayve suddenly tell Alfie that she believes in him?
17. What does Alfie do to try to keep his balance on the unicycle? Do you think this is a good idea?
18. What is Alfie's brilliant idea and does it work? Go back to the story to find out.
19. How does Nisa react when they find themselves back in the shopping precinct? How do you think she is feeling at this moment?
20. Why does Miss Hayve burst into tears? Do you think you might have burst into tears if you had been Miss Hayve that day?
21. How does Miss Hayve's sobbing affect Alfie? What does it make him realize?

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22. Who congratulates Alfie on making his promise? Go back to the story to find out.
23. Why does Alfie say “*Yuck*”?
24. Who has recorded the moment when Miss Hayve kisses Alfie? Who else is going to get to see it?
25. Why does Chuck Dingle want to make a story out of this kiss.
26. What is the punch line at the end of the story?

## Writing and Art Activities

Design a new front cover for *Pants on Fire!* Make it as fun and as interesting as you can. Remember to add the title of the book and the author's name. Then design the back cover. Write a piece of blurb for your back cover to give readers an idea of what the story is about and why you think others will enjoy reading it.

Try to summarise the whole story of *Pants on Fire!* in fewer than 100 words. You will need to practise editing your summary until you have just an outline of the story without too many details.

Can you invent an alternative title for this story? Write down your best ideas and explain why you have chosen them. Then give them to another classmate to read and comment on.

Imagine you are Miss Hayve. Write an account of how you found yourself trapped in a cave above a pool of sharks, and how your most annoying pupil rescues you. Don't forget to use lots of emotion words to describe your feelings throughout this ordeal.

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Using the Internet, find out about unicycles. Then write down at least 6 interesting facts about these unusual vehicles. Make sure that each fact is written as a sentence with a capital letter at the beginning and a full stop at the end.

Illustrate the scene where Alfie turns into a clown on a unicycle. Make your picture as colourful and as exciting as you can. Add speech bubbles and an extended caption to explain what is happening in your picture.

Can you think of any other circus artist that Alfie might have turned into that would have helped him rescue Miss Hayve? How about a trapeze artist? Write your own account of this scene, only this time making Alfie a different circus performer.

The following words all appear in chapter 5.

**Vanquished, queried, sarcastically, churning, precarious**

Do you know what they mean? Using a dictionary or the Internet, find out the meanings of each of these words. Practise writing these words, so you train your memory to spell them correctly. Then write five fun and exciting or interesting sentences using each of these words.

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Imagine you are Chuck Dingle giving the evening bulletin about Alfie and Miss Hayve. Can you imagine the sort of thing he might say to accompany the footage of Miss Hayve hugging and kissing Alfie? Write a script for Chuck to read.

Write a review of *Pants on Fire!* Write a short summary of the plot. Think about the characters in the story (What were they like? Did you like them? What sort of things did they do? Do you know what they look like?). Then write down your thoughts about the book (Did you enjoy it? Would you recommend it to other people? What was your favourite part?). Think about the star rating you would give this book. Then draw an illustration to accompany your review.

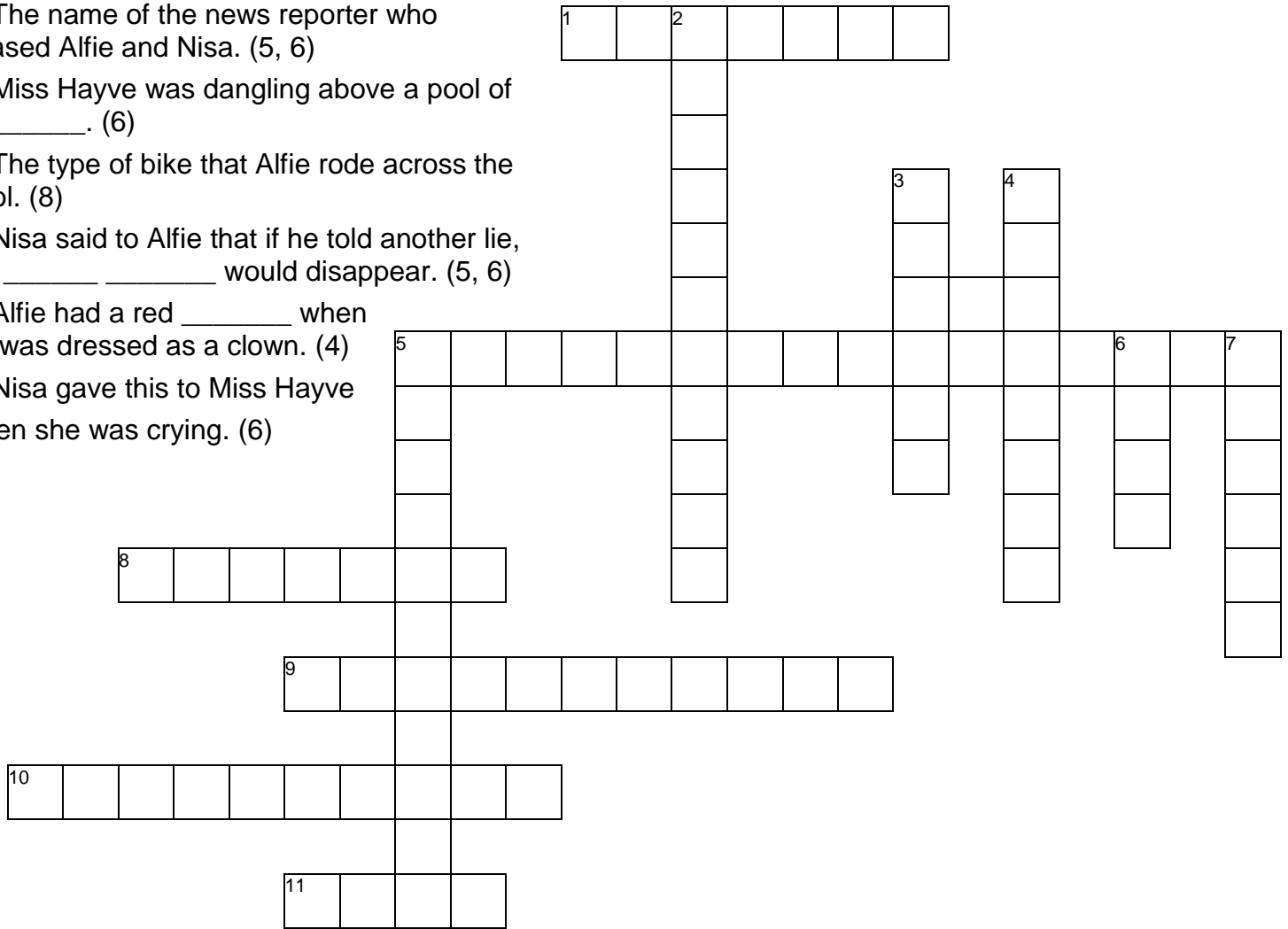
**(Book Review template provided on page 8.)**

**Puzzles**

Complete this crossword puzzle using the clues below.

**CLUES: Down**

- 2. The name of the news reporter who chased Alfie and Nisa. (5, 6)
- 3. Miss Hayve was dangling above a pool of \_\_\_\_\_. (6)
- 4. The type of bike that Alfie rode across the pool. (8)
- 5. Nisa said to Alfie that if he told another lie, his \_\_\_\_\_ would disappear. (5, 6)
- 6. Alfie had a red \_\_\_\_\_ when he was dressed as a clown. (4)
- 7. Nisa gave this to Miss Hayve when she was crying. (6)

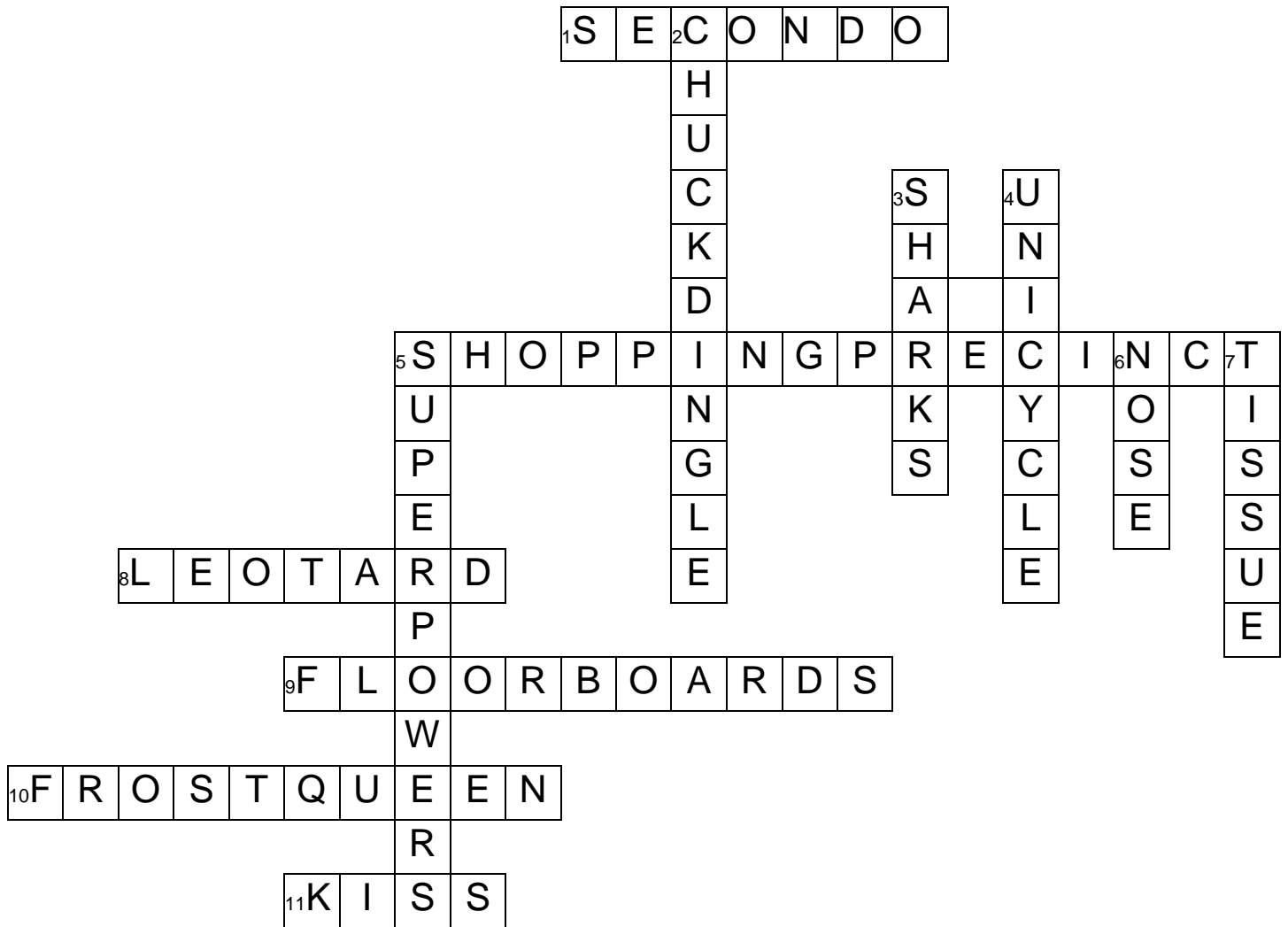


**CLUES: Across**

- 1. What was the superhero Time Weaver's name? (7)
- 5. Alfie, Nisa and Miss Hayve appeared back here at the end of the chapter. (8, 8)
- 8. Alfie was wearing a blue \_\_\_\_\_ when he was dressed as the Time Weaver. (7)
- 9. Nisa and Alfie discovered a stack of these in the cave. (11)
- 10. Who did Alfie say he had to vanquish in the magical land of ice and snow? (5, 5)
- 11. What did Miss Hayve give Alfie when he promised not to lie to her again? (4)



Puzzle ANSWERS



**Picture Resources**

This is a picture of a shark.



Name five different types of shark.

Which is the largest species of shark?

What do whale sharks eat?

What are baby sharks called?

Two thirds of a shark's brain is dedicated to which sense?

Which is the deadliest species of shark?

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## Picture Resource ANSWERS

Name five different types of shark. Examples: Great white, whale, hammerhead, bull, tiger, mako, blue

Which is the largest species of shark? Whale shark

What do whale sharks eat? Plankton, small fish

What are baby sharks called? Pups

Two thirds of a shark's brain is dedicated to which sense? Smell

Which is the deadliest species of shark? Great white

## Picture Resources



How do you feel when you look at this picture?

How do you think the woman is feeling?

How do you think Alfie felt when Miss Hayve burst into tears?

Did this teach Alfie a lesson?

How would you react if you saw someone at school crying?

Think of five emotion words to describe the woman in this picture. Think of five emotion words to describe the opposite of these feelings.

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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](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.