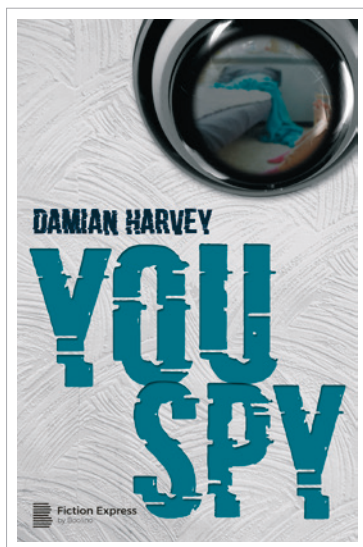


# Activities



LEVEL 2

## You Spy

by Damian Harvey

**Genre** Mystery and thriller

**Values** overcoming adversity, teamwork, family, cooperation, autonomy

## Chapter 1. The Letter

When Zane fails to do his homework yet again, he is given a letter for his parents. He dreads their reaction, but is soon swept up in his computer game and forgets the letter. Has he got away with it?

### Skills addressed



Language and literacy



Digital skills and behaviour



Critical thinking and resilience



Maths, science and technology skills



Cultural awareness and understanding



Personal, social and health awareness and citizenship



Organisation and evaluation skills

# INDEX

You can tick off the activities that you are working on in class

## READ Reading lab



*Obtain and interpret information within the text*

- Guided reading notes
- Reading comprehension questions

## WRITE Writing workshop



*Develop the art of creative writing*

- Inspire words
- In chronological order
- Subjects and objects

## TALK Space for debate



*Reflect and construct your opinion, individually and working in a group*

- Discuss the options
- Class debate

## EXPLORE Creative study



*Dig deeper into the content in a fun way, using different methods of research*

- Instant message chat

## ANSWERS

Exercise answers and suggestions for the teacher



Name: .....

## Guided reading notes

Here you can find some tips to help you in your reading sessions in class.

1

Ask: What is the opening story setting? (school) What is Mr Gambol waiting for? (homework, an explanation) Point out that the story starts in the middle of things to get readers interested. Ask: What can you tell me about Zane? (He is not organised or conscientious but he doesn't mean to be naughty.)

2

Read to the end of the section up to "Yes, sir," he replied. Ask: What do the following words and phrases tell us about Zane's feelings: *sinking feeling, colour draining, glowing with embarrassment, lowered his head, admitted?* Ask: How does Zane feel in this section? (disappointed, worried etc.)

3

Read up to the break at "I'm all set." Ask: What do we learn about Zane? (He's rich, his parents are out a lot, he likes computer games, he doesn't notice what the housekeeper does for him.) Ask: Why does Zane keep forgetting to do his homework? (He is too busy playing computer games.)

4

Read the next section up to ...beneath Zane's mattress. Ask: Do you think Zane's parents are meeting his needs? Discuss things the children feel the parents should do, for example, limit his screen time, check he's done his homework, spend some time with him. Ask: Was Zane wrong to hide the letter?

5

Read to the end of the story. Ask: Why does Zane say that his parents agreed with the letter? (He guesses that Mr Orwell suggested Zane should do his homework.) What phrases tell you that Mr Gambol knows that the letter was about something else? What else suggests strange things are happening?

6

Ask: What sort of story do you think this is going to be? Agree that it sounds as if it is going to be a spy adventure. Ask: Why might Zane not make a good spy? (He's disorganised, easily distracted and he doesn't notice things.) Challenge the children to draw up a list of questions they would like to know the answer to.



Name: .....

## Reading comprehension

Answer the following questions about the chapter and explain your answers.

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1 Find and copy three different words for 'said' in the first section.

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2 Why doesn't Zane do his homework?

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3 Why does the letter seem to make Zane's school bag feel heavy?

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**READ**

Reading lab

Name: .....

4

Write down three things you have learned about Zane in this chapter.

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5

Find and copy one phrase that tells you Mr Gambol is surprised that Zane's parents agreed with what was written in the letter.

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6

Write one question you would like to know the answer to in the next chapter.

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.....

 **WRITE**  
Writing workshop

Name: .....

## Inspire words

Explore some of the challenging or potentially unfamiliar vocabulary in this chapter to improve children's understanding and enhance the quality of their own writing.

**admitted**

**glowing**

**invaders**

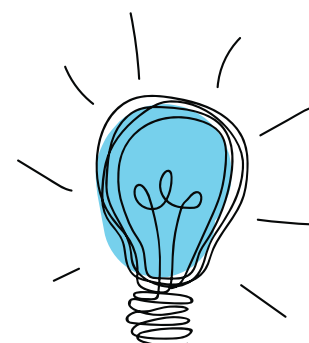
**muffled shout**

**relieved**

**secretly**

**warned**

**whispering**



 **WRITE**  
Writing workshop

Name: .....

## In chronological order

Put the following statements in chronological order, according to events that happened as the chapter developed:



- Mr Gambol gives Zane a letter to take home to his parents.
- Zane hides the letter under his mattress.
- Zane discovers the letter is from his headteacher and he decides he should read it.
- Zane's parents are not at home. He is going to do his homework but gets distracted by a computer game instead.
- Zane is in trouble. He has forgotten to do his homework.
- The letter has disappeared from Zane's bedroom and he can hear a noise in his house.

 **WRITE**  
Writing workshop

Name: .....

## Subjects and objects

Read the following sentences. Circle the subject and underline the object in each one:

1 I've got some cheese sandwiches.

2 Zane grabbed his school bag.

3 There was a message waiting for him.

4 Zane started the game.

5 Later that evening, Mum came into the bedroom.

6 Mr Gambol didn't mention the letter either.

7 Macie leaned over towards him.

8 He'd forgotten all about his homework.





Name: .....

## Discuss the options

Discuss in class which of the three options you find most interesting to continue the story and why. Here's a reminder of the options and some key points of each one:

What did Zane hear?

A

A bleeping sound coming from the burglar alarm control box

What might the sound from the burglar alarm control box signal? Do you think Zane should be worried at this point? What do you think will happen in chapter 2 if this is the winning option?

B

A message has popped up on his computer screen

Consider if you think Zane would be curious about the message on his computer screen. Who could it be from? Do you think someone we have already met might have sent it? If so, who could it be?

C

The sound of his bedroom door being locked

Look for clues in the chapter to see who might be in the house and locking Zane in his bedroom. Who do you think he should trust in the next chapter? Who should Zane be wary of?

## Discussion activity

In pairs or small groups, discuss the different settings the author uses in chapter 1, for example the school classroom, the route to Zane's house through the streets, Zane's home environment and his bedroom. What atmosphere has the author created? Do you as a reader feel scared, curious or happy for Zane?

Zane is often left to his own devices by his parents. How might this make him feel? Come up with three adjectives that describe Zane. For example, you might choose to describe him as independent, lonely and distracted.



 **EXPLORE**  
Creative studio

Name: .....

## Instant message chat

Zane Archer spends a lot of time talking to his online gamer friends. Imagine that he is having an instant message chat with Dino08 about the missing letter. Write their conversation in the boxes below.

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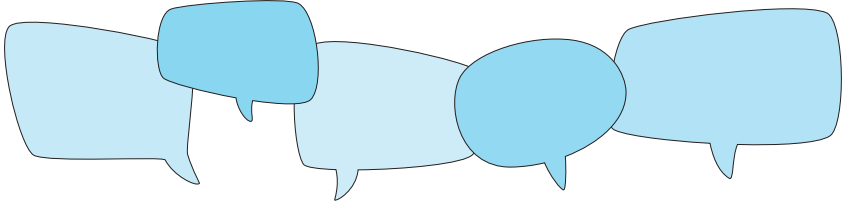


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## ANSWERS

Document for the teacher

### Reading comprehension (pp. 4–5)

1. For example: *offered, hissed, began, admitted, whispered, moaned, replied*
2. He spends too much time playing computer games; he is easily distracted by his computer.
3. Zane knows the letter is in his bag and is thinking about how bad it is going to be when he gives the letter to his parents.
4. For example: he is forgetful, he is easily distracted, he likes playing computer games, he is rich, he doesn't notice the things people do for him, he spends a lot of time on his own, he has a skateboard, he has friends online
5. For example: *looking shocked* or *raising his eyebrows*
6. Child's own answer

### In chronological order (p. 7)

1. Zane is in trouble. He has forgotten to do his homework.
2. Mr Gambol gives Zane a letter to take home to his parents.
3. Zane's parents are not at home. He is going to do his homework but gets distracted by a computer game instead.
4. Zane hides the letter under his mattress.
5. Zane discovers the letter is from his headteacher and he decides he should read it.
6. The letter has disappeared from Zane's bedroom and he can hear a noise in his house.

### Subjects and objects (p. 8)

1. I've got some cheese sandwiches.
2. Zane grabbed his school bag.
3. There was a message waiting for him.
4. Zane started the game.
5. Later that evening, Mum came into the bedroom.
6. Mr Gambol didn't mention the letter either.
7. Macie leaned over towards him.
8. He'd forgotten all about his homework.