



Chapter 1 · A Rumble in the Tummy

Elkin Fromage is Freedonia's greatest spy and he has an important mission. He must find out who is buying all of Freedonia's cheese before the kingdom runs out! But where should he begin?

SPY AND CHEESE

David MacPhail

CONTENT



READ!

- **Reading comprehension questions:** 10 multiple choice questions to test text retrieval and reading comprehension. These questions may also be completed online at www.fictionexpress.co.uk
- **Guided reading:** teacher's notes and a written response worksheet comprising 6 questions which allow for deeper response to the story, looking at personal response, inference and prediction



WRITE!

- **"Inspire!" words** to encourage children to include them in their own writing
- **"Spotlight!" word list** of the words highlighted and defined online
- **Writing worksheet:** draw and describe the setting using noun phrases
- **Punctuation worksheet:** common exception words



TALK!

- **Voting options:** discussion points for each voting option
- **Discussion activity:** asking questions about the book's setting (link to writing)



EXPLORE!

- **Cheese game:** match the cheese to the description



Name: _____

1

Why does everyone stare at Elkin Fromage?

- A. He's wearing a silver and gold suit
- B. He's famous and they recognise him
- C. He is carrying a bunch of balloons

2

Why did Elkin Fromage fall over?

- A. He slipped on some cheese
- B. He tripped on his laces
- C. He fell over a bucket

3

What do the people of Freedonia call cheese?

- A. The yellow creaminess
- B. The golden yumminess
- C. The creamy goodness

4

What is the name of the chief spymaster?

- A. Ivor Stilton
- B. Charles Cheddar
- C. Josh Parmesan

5

Why is Elkin so hungry?

- A. He hasn't eaten for three hours
- B. He hasn't eaten for three days
- C. He hasn't eaten for 33 minutes



Name: _____

6

What does Elkin like to think about?

- A. Football
- B. Cheese
- C. Chocolate

7

What does the spymaster want Elkin to investigate?

- A. Why someone is buying up all the cheese
- B. Why all the cheese has started to taste bad
- C. Why no one wants to buy cheese any more

8

Who does Stilton tell Elkin to talk to?

- A. The Sylvaniaian ambassador
- B. The Ruritaniaian King
- C. The local supermarket

9

What is Scratchit?

- A. Elkin's robot dog
- B. Stilton's pet mouse
- C. Elkin's favourite game

10

What is written on the wedge-shaped object?

- A. HELP
- B. CRACKERS
- C. CHEESE



1

Ask: What sort of story is this? Agree that it is a funny story and a detective story. Ask: What did you find funny in this chapter? (For example: the silly names, the obsession with cheese.) Ask the children to picture the opening scene as if it were a dramatic detective story: the famous Elkin walks into the hall and everyone stares at him in awe – and then he falls over a bucket.

2

Point out the elements of a detective story. Ask: Who is the detective? (Elkin Fromage) What is the case he is given? (To find out who is buying all the cheese and why.) Who is the main suspect? (Rupert Peanut-Butter, the Sylvanian Ambassador, their enemy) Ask: Where does Elkin think he might start? (At the food depot.) Why? (Because he's hungry.) What clue turns up at the end of the story? (A flying piece of cheese.)

3

Ask: What sort of character is Elkin Fromage? Do you think he is going to be a good detective? Why not? (He falls over, he's always thinking about food.) Read the sentences: *'One day, you'll be sitting right here.'* He jabbed his thumb down on the desk. Ask: What does Stilton mean? (That Elkin will be the spymaster one day.) What does Elkin think he means? (That he'll be sitting on the desk.) Agree that Elkin does not seem to be very clever.

4

Ask: Who is Scratchit? (Fromage's sidekick; a robot dog) Discuss other sidekicks such as Dr Watson (Sherlock Holmes) or Robin (Batman). Ask: What is Scratchit doing when we first meet him? (Pretending to be a dog.) Ask: Is this Scratchit's true character? Discuss Elkin's reaction to Scratchit's behaviour and Scratchit's reply. Ask: What sort of character is Scratchit? (Perhaps sarcastic, perhaps irritated by Elkin, perhaps clever.) Ponder whether Scratchit might be better at solving crimes than Elkin.

5

Discuss some of the trickier words in this chapter. Ask the children to turn to a partner and discuss the meanings before sharing ideas, for example: Stilton (a strong blue cheese), Fromage (French for cheese), trilby (a hat popular with 1950s detectives), jabbed (poked), revolved (is all about), case (something a detective must investigate), kingdom (country ruled by a king or queen), depot (warehouse), lead (idea for solving a clue), wedge (shape of a piece of cake), suspect (the person thought to be responsible for a crime).

6

Ask: What do you think is going to happen next? Who has thrown the piece of cheese at Elkin? Ask: Do you think that Rupert Peanut-Butter is going to be responsible? Discuss other options. Do you expect Elkin to be able to solve the crime? Remind the children of the characters of Elkin and Scratchit and wonder who will be able to work out what is going on.



Name: _____

1

What did you find funny in this chapter?

2

Who is the detective? What is the case he is given?

3

Will Elkin be a good detective? Why not?



Name: _____

4 _____

Who is Scratchit?

5 _____

In this story, what is a 'case', a 'lead' and a 'suspect'?

6 _____

What do you think is going to happen next?



Here is some of the challenging or potentially unfamiliar vocabulary used in Chapter 1 of *Spy and Cheese*.

You may wish to explore this vocabulary, to improve children's understanding of the chapter, and inspire and enhance the quality of their own writing. You might like to display the words in the classroom, and encourage children to use new vocabulary as part of the Write! worksheet tasks.

awe

chaos

gaped

jabbed

revolves

strode



Find these words in chapter 1. Use the definition to check that you understand the meaning of the sentences you find them in.

actual – real

ambassador – a person from another country, sent to represent that country

assistant – helper

awe – wonder

bureau – office

case – a crime to investigate

chaos – without order

chucked – threw out

confused – not knowing what is going on

deadly – very dangerous

depot – warehouse for storing things

enemy – opposite of friend

figured out – worked out, decided

Fromage – the French word for cheese

gaped – stared

grinding – rubbing hard against

hind – back

ignored – paid no attention to

jabbed – poked, pointed

kingdom – country ruled by a king or queen

lead – a clue to follow

metallic – made of metal

mission – an important job

paying attention – concentrating

plastered – covered with

revolves – turns around

shortage – lack of something

shudder – shake in disgust

spluttered – made choking noises

sparamaster – the boss of the spies

starving – very, very hungry

Stilton – a strong blue cheese

strode – walked with great purpose

suspect – somebody you believe has done something wrong

swiftly – quickly

trilby hat – a hat that used to be worn by detectives

twitched – made little jerking movements

vital – very, very important

wedge-shaped – shaped like a slice of cake

yumminess – a made up word for something that is delicious



Name: _____

Draw a picture of how you imagine the setting of Freedonia – it could be inside the spy bureau or outside on the street. Write four noun phrases that you could use as labels below your picture



Name: _____

Here are some sentences from chapter 1 of *Spy and Cheese*, each with words missing. Write in the missing words - but be careful. They might be tricky to spell!

1

They recognised him as Elkin Fromage, Freedonia's _____ spy.

2

The _____ to the spy bureau creaked open.

3

_____ inside the grand hall stopped and stared.

4

What else _____ you eat pasta with?

5

But _____ are _____ to find out.

6

This was _____ because the food depot contained food.



What should Elkin do (apart from duck FAST)?

A

Chase the truck

Do you think the cheese being chucked at him is the best lead that Elkin has? Perhaps someone in the truck is trying to give him a clue. But will Elkin see it this way, or will he think that it is just time for him to eat some cheese? Will Scratchit be able to help him out?

B

Bound across to the Sylvaniaian Embassy

Ivor Stilton thinks that Sylvania is responsible but he has not said that he has any proof. Do you think this is the best option for Elkin to find out who is buying up all the cheese?

C

Sniff around at the food depot

We know that Elkin has a big appetite and that he is always thinking about food. If he goes to the food depot, will he be able to investigate the case, or will he be too busy thinking about food? Do you think Scratchit might be able to help him concentrate?

→ Which option do you think would be the most exciting one for the next chapter of *Spy and Cheese*?

Discussion Activity

In pairs or a small group, discuss the book's setting. Do you think Freedonia and Sylvania are real places? Do you think they are on this planet? Is there anything you don't recognise from planet Earth? Can you imagine other things we might find later in the story that don't seem likely on planet Earth or real life?



Name: _____

Cheese is popular all around the world, as well as in Freedonia.
Look at these cheeses, and match them up with their descriptions.



Paneer

A type of milk curd cheese used in Indian, Iranian, and Afghan cooking.



Brie

A soft, mild, creamy cheese originally made in France.



Feta

A white salty Greek cheese made from the milk of sheep or goats, often used in salads.



Stilton

A strong rich cheese from England, often with blue veins.

READ! Comprehension Questions

1. Why does everyone stare at Elkin Fromage?
B. He's famous and they recognise him
2. Why did Elkin Fromage fall over?
C. He fell over a bucket
3. What do the people of Freedonia call cheese?
B. The golden yumminess
4. What is the name of the chief spymaster?
A. Ivor Stilton
5. Why is Elkin so hungry?
C. He hasn't eaten for 33 minutes
6. What does Elkin like to think about?
B. Cheese
7. What does the spymaster want Elkin to investigate?
A. Why someone is buying up all the cheese
8. Who does Stilton tell Elkin to talk to?
A. The Sylvanian ambassador
9. What is Scratchit?
A. Elkin's robot dog
10. What is written on the wedge-shaped object?
C. CHEESE

WRITE! Worksheet: Tricky words

1. They recognised him as Elkin Fromage, Freedonia's **greatest** spy.
2. The **door** to the spy bureau creaked open.
3. **Everybody** inside the grand hall stopped and stared.
4. What else **could** you eat pasta with?
5. But **people** are **sure** to find out.
6. This was **only** because the food depot contained food.

EXPLORE! Cheese Game

1. Feta
2. Stilton
3. Paneer
4. Brie

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