

Chapter 2 · A Chase in the Streets

Elkin and Scratchit are in hot pursuit of the escaping truck, while eating some cheese of course! But who is the driver? And where might they look for the missing cheese?

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:** write a postcard about the events in the chapter
- **Punctuation worksheet:** insert commas, full stops and question marks



TALK!

- **Voting options:** discussion points for each voting option
- **Discussion activity:** formal or informal? discussing the language used for writing a postcard



EXPLORE!

- **Art activity:** cartoon strip



Name: _____

1

What did Elkin do with the piece of cheese thrown at him?

- A. Put it in an evidence bag
- B. Put it in his pocket
- C. Started to eat it

2

What sort of car does Elkin drive?

- A. A red Ferrari
- B. A bubble car
- C. A camper van

3

Where does the car chase take them?

- A. Down the coast road to Rocketford
- B. Through the city and into Parmesan Square
- C. Up a mountain road to Cathedral City

4

How does the truck driver try to distract Elkin?

- A. By throwing pieces of cheese at him
- B. By shouting rude comments out of the window
- C. By dropping pins on to the road in front of them

5

Why does the truck suddenly stop?

- A. They reach the end of the road
- B. It crashes into a billboard
- C. The police have closed the road



Name: _____

6

Who gets out of the truck?

- A. A stocky man in a brown coat
- B. Two men with stripy jumpers
- C. A beautiful lady with a white dog

7

How does Elkin get covered in melted cheese?

- A. The truck full of cheese explodes
- B. The cheese in his pocket melts
- C. Red Lester splats him with a cheese gun

8

Why does Elkin not mind that the truck driver has got away?

- A. He knows who the truck driver is
- B. He has put a tracker in their pocket
- C. He is really working for the other side

9

What is Red Lester?

- A. A superhero in a red cape and mask
- B. A woman with a bright red coat
- C. A man with red hair and beard

10

What is the piece of paper that falls out of Red Lester's pocket?

- A. A shopping list
- B. A list of warehouses
- C. An invitation to a party



1

Ask: What happens in this chapter? Ask the children to locate and list the key events: Elkin and Scratchit chase the truck through the streets of the town; the truck crashes and the suspect gets out and runs away; the truck explodes and Elkin discovers the party invitation. Ask: Who gets out of the truck? (a film star called Red Lester) What does he look like? (crimson hair and goatee) Clarify the meaning of 'crimson' and 'goatee'.

2

Ask: Where do the car and the truck go? (through cobbled lanes, through winding streets, over the bridge, round the square, round a bend) Ask: What makes the chase exciting? Ask the children to find all the verbs that describe the driving, for example: veered, raced, hurtled, screeched. Ask: What else is happening to create the sense of drama? (Cheese is being thrown.) Ask: What verbs are associated with this? (lobbing, splodged, scraped)

3

Ask: How many names of cheeses can you find in this chapter? Help the children to find: Cheddar, Edam, Parmesan, Brie, red Leicester (writing out the correct spelling for the children) and ricotta. Explain that Brie can become quite soft and squidgy and might well 'splodge' if thrown on a windscreen. Allow time for the children to talk about the types of cheese that they like to eat. Ask: What sort of cheese does Elkin like to eat? Agree that he is happy to eat any sort of cheese enthusiastically.

4

Remind the children of discussions about Elkin from the last chapter. (He misunderstands his boss, he continually thinks about cheese, he falls over and so on.) Ask: What funny things does Elkin do in this chapter? Agree he is always thinking about cheese and eating cheese (even the evidence), he gets covered in melted cheese. Ask: Does he do anything clever in this chapter? (He chases the truck one-handed; he recognises the film star.)

5

Ask: How does Scratchit feel when Elkin says he knows who the suspect is? (He is annoyed.) Why is that? (He likes to think that only he can solve the cases.) Locate descriptions of Scratchit. (robot voice, droned) Ask: What is Scratchit like? What helpful things does he do? (He puts Elkin's seatbelt on for him and he runs a scan of the truck and finds out where it comes from.)

6

Ask: What clues do we have in this chapter? (Red Lester, 'Rick Otta's Warehouse' and the invitation to the party at the Sylvanian embassy.) Ask: Who did Elkin's boss say was the main suspect? (the people of Sylvania) Remind the children that Elkin was told to talk to the ambassador, Rupert Peanut-Butter. Ask: What settings might we have in the next chapter? (Perhaps a warehouse or a glamorous party with an ambassador and film stars.)



Name: _____

1

Who gets out of the truck after it crashes?

2

Where do the car and truck go on the chase?

3

Write down the name of two types of cheese that you can find in this chapter.



Name: _____

4 _____

What funny things does Elkin do in this chapter?

5 _____

How does Scratchit feel when Elkin knows who the man from the truck is?

6 _____

What clues do Scratchit and Elkin find in this chapter?



Here is some of the challenging or potentially unfamiliar vocabulary used in Chapter 2 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.

bounded

droned

fluttered

hurtled

stocky

veered



Find these words in chapter 2. Use the definition to check that you understand the meaning of the sentences you find them in.

annoyed – slightly angry

beetle – an insect

billboard – a large outdoor board for advertising or selling something

bounded – ran up

brie – a soft French cheese

cheddar – a hard yellow British cheese

cobbled – made of small stones set together

crimson – a deep, bright red

dreamy – like you are in a happy dream

droned – went on in a boring voice

ducked – crouched down

Edam – a Dutch cheese

embassy – a building that represents a country, in a different country

evidence – proof of something

figure – the outline shape

fleeing – running away

fluttered – flew here and there

fortunately – luckily

glanced – looked quickly

glimpse – a quick sight of something

goatee beard – a small, pointed beard

hurtled – moved very fast

lobbing – throwing something without care

melted – in a liquid form

narrow – not wide

nibbling – taking little bites

papery – thin and dry, like paper

Parmesan – a hard Italian cheese

pursuit – chase

red-tiled – covered in red tiles

scooped – picked up quickly

screeched – made a loud, high sound

seatbelt – safety belt in a car or plane

sidekick – assistant, helper

snapped – said in a cross way

splodged – made a sticky mess

sprinted – ran fast

stocky – broad and sturdy

unwrapped – took off the wrapper

veered – turned very sharply

wharf – a place where boats can load and unload

winding – twisting different ways

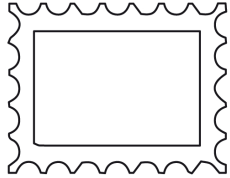
wipers – blades that wipe off rain

windscreen – the glass window at the front of a car



Name: _____

Imagine you are Elkin Fromage. Write a postcard to your best friend describing what happened at work today. Write your message on the left and make up an address for Elkin's friend on the lines on the right. Design a funny Freedonia stamp to go with it!





Name: _____

Here are some sentences from chapter 2 of *Spy and Cheese*, each with punctuation missing. Write in the missing punctuation – it could be a full stop, comma or question mark.

1

“I can’t help it __ I’m hungry!” snapped Elkin __

2

Suddenly __ the truck took a bend too quickly __

3

“Are you alright __” asked Scratchit __

4

Then who is he __

5

That hair __ that beard – there’s no mistake __

6

That’s what fell out of Red Lester’s pocket __ but what is it __



What clue should Elkin follow now?

A

Go after Red Lester

Do you think that Red Lester will be able to help? It seems strange that someone threw the cheese at Elkin and Scratchit, but then tried to put them off following them. Could there have been two people in the truck?

B

Go to Rick Otta's Warehouse

This is where the truck Red Lester was driving comes from and it is by the fishing wharf, where boats can load and unload. So perhaps this could be a good place for hiding cheese, or even for shipping it off to somewhere else.

C

Go to the party at the Sylvaniaian embassy

Red Lester has dropped this invitation to the Sylvaniaian embassy so he could be going to the party. Ivor Stilton, the spymaster, also suspected the Sylvaniaians of buying up all the cheese. Perhaps Elkin could find out more information there?

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

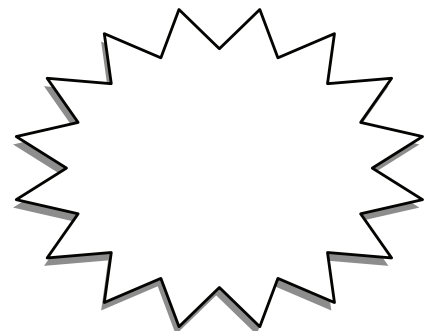
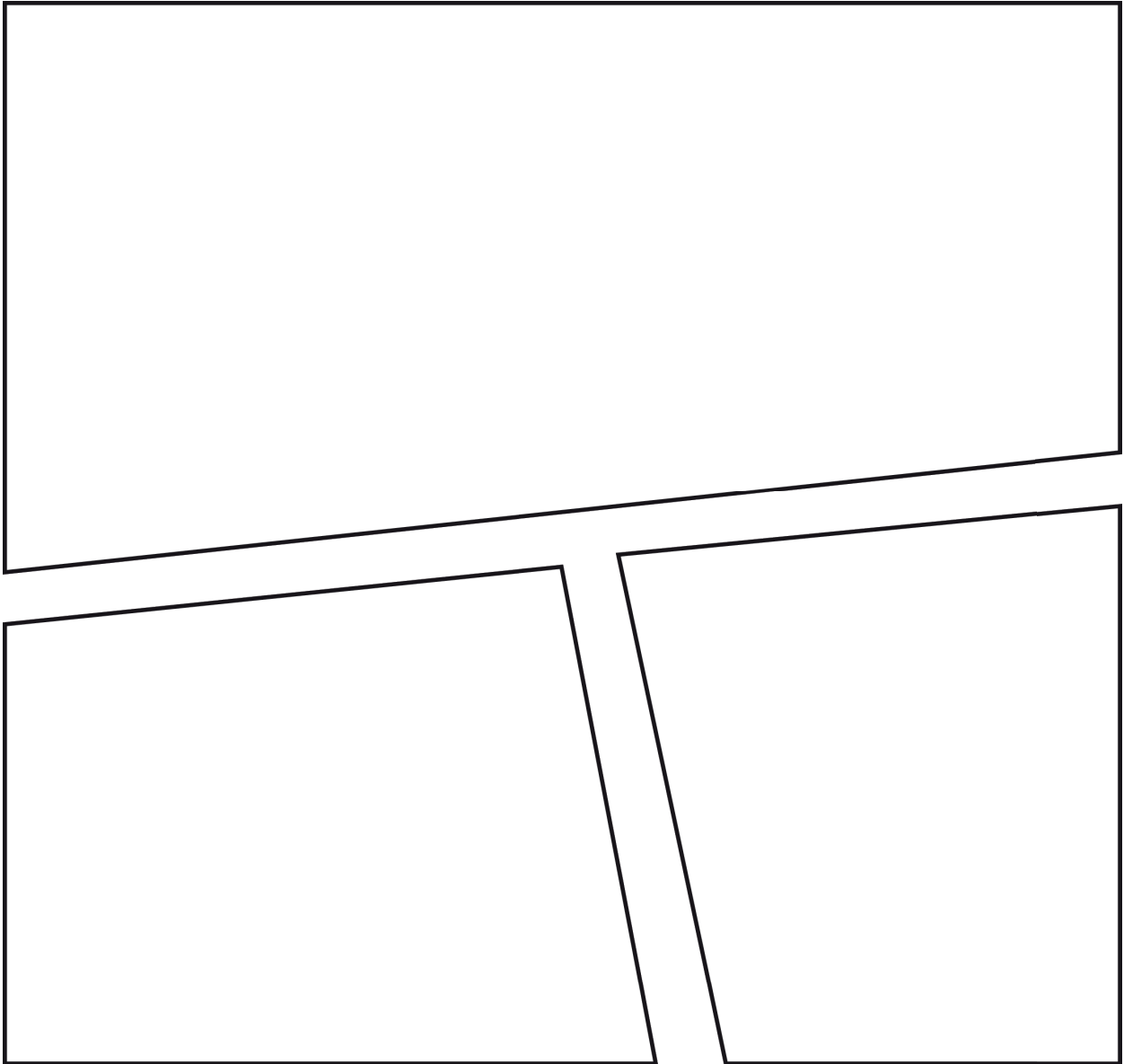
Discussion Activity

In pairs or a small group, discuss writing postcards. If you have done the WRITE! activity, you could read out the postcard you have written as if you were Elkin. What do you notice about the language? Would you say that this was formal or informal language? Would you use different language if you were writing a newspaper report?



Name: _____

Draw a cartoon strip of this chapter. Use captions, and sound effects, thought bubbles and speech bubbles like the ones at the bottom of the page to help you tell the story of what happened.



ANSWERS

READ! Comprehension Questions

1. What did Elkin do with the piece of cheese thrown at him?
C. Started to eat it
2. What sort of car does Elkin drive?
B. A bubble car
3. Where does the car chase take them?
B. Through the city and into Parmesan Square
4. How does the truck driver try to distract Elkin?
A. By throwing pieces of cheese at him
5. Why does the truck suddenly stop?
B. It crashes into a billboard
6. Who gets out of the truck?
A. A stocky man in a brown coat
7. How does Elkin get covered in melted cheese?
A. The truck full of cheese explodes
8. Why does Elkin not mind that the truck driver has got away?
A. He knows who the truck driver is
9. Who is Red Lester?
C. A man with red hair and beard
10. What is the piece of paper that falls out of Red Lester's pocket?
C. An invitation to a party

WRITE! Worksheet: Tricky words

1. "I can't help it, I'm hungry!" snapped Elkin.
2. Suddenly, the truck took a bend too quickly.
3. "Are you alright?" asked Scratchit.
4. Then who is he?
5. That hair, that beard - there's no mistake.
6. That's what fell out of Red Lester's pocket, but what is it?