

Chapter 3· A Party at the Embassy

Elkin and Scratchit are determined to find some answers at the Sylvaniaian embassy. But what is lurking behind the curtain? They'll need to move quickly!

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 poem about a character in the story
- **Punctuation worksheet:** proofread – find and correct mistakes



TALK!

- **Voting options:** discussion points for each voting option
- **Discussion activity:** talk about the characters and speculate on what will happen next



EXPLORE!

- **Art activity:** name and draw characters



Name: _____

1

What do Elkin and Scratchit wear to the party?

- A. Cheese costumes
- B. Waiter costumes
- C. Tuxedos

2

What name does Elkin give to the man on the door?

- A. Sir Peanut Butter of York
- B. Lord Cheeseburger the Third
- C. Elkin the Wise and Mighty

3

What is the party like?

- A. Very posh
- B. Very loud
- C. Very dark

4

What food is Elkin offered?

- A. Cheese and pineapple sticks
- B. Peanut butter on crackers
- C. Mini sausage rolls

5

What is Ivor Stilton doing when Elkin sees him?

- A. Pretending to be a waiter
- B. Talking to the ambassador
- C. Eating a peanut butter sandwich



Name: _____

6

Why does Elkin want to look at the curtain?

- A. To see who is coming up the road
- B. To see what is behind it
- C. To let in some light

7

Who arrives at the party?

- A. Red Lester
- B. The president of Freedonia
- C. The king of Sylvania

8

Why does Scratchit's nose start to twitch?

- A. He can smell something fishy
- B. He is running out of power
- C. He is about to sneeze

9

Why is Elkin surprised by the cheese?

- A. It seems to be making a beeping noise
- B. It looks like cheese but smells like toffee
- C. It is huge and there is a cheese shortage

10

Why does the cheese fall over?

- A. The stage beneath it begins to crack
- B. The Freedonians are fighting over it
- C. Someone cuts the wire holding it up



1

Ask: What name does Elkin use to get into the party? (Lord Cheeseburger the Third and his dogservant, Poochytops). Enjoy the names together. Ask: Why does Scratchit glare at Elkin? (Because Elkin has called him a servant and given him a silly name.) Together, make up silly names that the children would like to use to get into the party, for example: Lady Cheese Soufflé the younger, Cheesey Bites, Duke of Goo, Little Miss Cheese Puffs.

2

Ask: What is the party like? Locate the words 'tuxedo', 'grand', 'ballroom', 'marble pillars' and 'posh'. Explain the meaning of tuxedo and speculate on what the women might be wearing. Ask: How has Ivor Stilton got into the party? (He has got a job as a waiter at the party, or has come in a waiter's costume and sneaked in.) Ensure the children remember who Ivor Stilton is. (Elkin's boss) Explain the meaning of 'spectacles' and 'reveal'.

3

Ask: Why does Elkin say, "These Sylvanians are revolting"? (Because they eat peanut butter) Remind the children of the difference between the Freedomians who eat cheese and the Sylvanians who eat peanut butter. Ask: Do you think these are important differences between people? Do you have friends who like different foods? Is this a problem? Agree that Elkin should probably not call the Sylvanians 'revolting' for eating something he doesn't like.

4

Find the verbs 'mingling', 'hobbled' and 'gasped'. Explain that 'mingling' is a posh way of chatting to different people at a party. Ask: What does the word 'hobbled' tell us about Ivor? (He is old and finds it hard to walk.) Ask: Why do the partygoers gasp when they see Red Lester? (He is a film star and everyone is excited to see him.) Locate other verbs to discuss such as 'twiddled (his ears)', 'licked (their lips)', 'glimpsed' and 'thundered'.

5

Ask: Why do you think the Sylvanians have given the Freedomians a block of cheese? Ask the children to decide if they think the cheese is a kind gesture or a trick. Share the children's views. Ask: Do you think the Sylvanians are responsible for the cheese shortage? If it is a trick, what do you think the trick is? Find the description of Rupert Peanut-Butter. What makes him sound untrustworthy? (Perhaps the slicked-back hair, the wild laughing)

6

Ask: What clues do we have in this chapter? (Scratchit detects something fishy, a hand cuts the wire, the strange gift of a huge wheel of cheese, the ambassador's wild laughter.) Ask: What does 'something fishy' mean? Agree it means 'to do with fish', or it could mean 'something not quite right'. Ask: Which meaning do you think it is going to be? (Possibly the second meaning but we will have to wait to find out.)



Name: _____

1 What names does Elkin use to get into the party? Why are they funny?

2 How has Ivor Stilton disguised himself at the party?

3 Why does Elkin say, "These Sylvanians are revolting"?



Name: _____

4 _____

What does the word 'hobbled' tell us about Ivor?

5 _____

How does the Sylvaniaian ambassador look? How does he behave?

6 _____

What strange things happen in this chapter?



Here is some of the challenging or potentially unfamiliar vocabulary used in Chapter 3 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.

bellowed

booming

glared

hobbled

shrugged

suspicious



Find these words in chapter 3. Use the definition to check that you understand the meaning of the sentences you find them in.

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

applauded – clapped

ballroom – a grand room for dancing and parties

bellowed – shouted loudly

booming – very loud

butler – the chief man servant

cord – a rope

crimson – a deep, bright red

detecting – discovering or feeling like something is there

dogservant – a servant that is a dog

ducked – crouched down

embarrassed – feeling ashamed

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

frowned – made a face showing you are cross or confused

gasped – breathed in quickly

gigantic – huge, enormous

glared – stared angrily

glimpsed – got a quick look at

hobbled – walked with a limp

lined – with something on all sides

marble – an expensive stone

mingling – mixing together

nasty – mean, horrible

pillars – tall, stone supports on a building

platter – a large plate

posh – smart, rich

recognised – known, identified

reveal – show or tell a secret

revolting – disgusting

rumbling – making a growling noise

scent – a trail of a smell

scout – look around

shortage – lack of something

shrugged – raised his shoulders

silent – making no noise at all

slicked-back – styled with hair grease

spectacles – glasses

suspicious – something you don't trust

thundered – made a lot of noise

twiddled – fiddled, turned

twitching – making little jerking movements

tuxedos – smart dinner jackets

whisked – pulled back quickly

wildly – with no control

yanked – pulled something hard



Name: _____

Write a poem about one of the characters in the story. You could create a good rhythm that makes your poem easy to remember. You could use imagery to help your reader form a picture. You could use alliteration (where the first two letters are the same, as in perfect Peter) to make your writing interesting.

A large rectangular area enclosed by a dashed blue border, containing ten horizontal solid black lines for writing a poem.



Name: _____

Here is a passage from chapter 3 of *Spy and Cheese*, with 6 mistakes in it!
Can you correct the mistakes? Think about full stops, commas, question marks or capital letters.

Scratchit was sniffing at something on the floor.

“What are you picking up ” asked Elkin. “A clue?”

Scratchit’s nose was twitching extra hard.

“something fishy!”

A tall thin man with slicked-back hair stepped
up on to the stage

“That’s the Sylvanian ambassador,” whispered
scratchit.

The man laughed, a great booming laugh.

“Tonight, I have a little present for our Freedomian
friends.” He laughed again, this time a bit too
wildly. “Oh yes, a tiny little surprise. Hee hee hee.”

“Probably a bomb!” said Elkin. “Get ready ”



How does Elkin avoid the cheese and investigate further?

A

Leapfrogs the rolling cheese to follow Scratchit's fishy smell

Do you think that Elkin will be able to leapfrog the cheese? He seems very clumsy but he is Freedonia's greatest spy! Do you think that Scratchit will be able to find the smell now that the cheese has rolled into the crowd?

B

Somersaults on stage to go after the gloved hand

Do you think Elkin can do a somersault? The gloved hand is what he saw just as one of the wires holding up the enormous cheese snapped. So if he finds the owner of the gloved hand, might this lead to solving the case? But how many people at the party might be wearing gloves?

C

Swings from the curtains to find the ambassador

Rupert Peanut-Butter did seem to be acting strangely with his wild laugh, even though he did say the cheese was a gift of peace. Do you think he has something to hide, or was he just nervous? And could he lead Elkin and Scratchit to the cheesemaker, and even to the missing cheese?

→ 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, talk about what has happened so far in the story and speculate on what might happen next. It seems difficult to work out who the good and bad characters are. Make a list of the characters we have met and try to decide together whether they are good or bad. Remember to give each other time to speak, and to listen to each other's opinions.



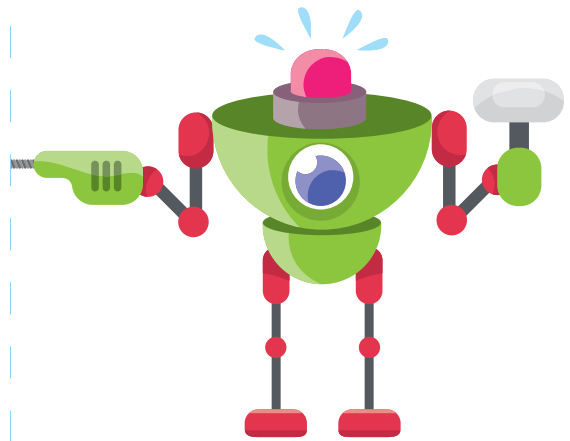
Name: _____

The author gives his characters brilliant names to give us a clue about them, or just because they are cheesy and funny (for example, Scratchit, Ivor Stilton and Red Lester). Invent a name for each character in these pictures. Then draw and name your own character!

Character name:



Character name:



Character name:



Character name:

READ! Comprehension Questions

1. What do Elkin and Scratchit wear to the party?
C. Tuxedos
2. What name does Elkin give to the man on the door?
B. Lord Cheeseburger the Third
3. What is the party like?
A. Very posh
4. What food is Elkin offered?
B. Peanut butter on crackers
5. What is Ivor Stilton doing when Elkin sees him?
A. Pretending to be a waiter
6. Why does Elkin want to look at the curtain?
B. To see what is behind it
7. Who arrives at the party?
A. Red Lester
8. Why does Scratchit's nose start to twitch?
A. He can smell something fishy
9. Why is Elkin surprised by the cheese?
C. It is huge and there is a cheese shortage
10. Why does the cheese fall over?
C. Someone cuts the wire holding it up

WRITE! Worksheet: Proofread – find and correct mistakes

Scratchit was sniffing at something on the floor.

“What are you picking up?” asked Elkin. “A clue?”

Scratchit's nose was twitching extra hard.

“Something fishy!”

A tall, thin man with slicked-back hair stepped up on to the stage.

“That's the Sylvaniaian ambassador,” whispered

Scratchit.

The man laughed, a great booming laugh.

“Tonight, I have a little present for our Freedomian friends.” He laughed again, this time a bit too

wildly. “Oh yes, a tiny little surprise. Hee hee hee.”

“Probably a bomb!” said Elkin. “Get ready!”