



Chapter 4· A Bump on the Head

Elkin and Scratchit are led to the fishing wharf... but what will they find there? And who is lurking in Oscar Brie's warehouse?

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 report about events in the story
- **Grammar worksheet:** using homophones



TALK!

- **Voting options:** discussion points for each voting option
- **Discussion activity:** present your report



EXPLORE!

- **Wordsearch:** story vocabulary wordsearch



Name: _____

1

Why does Scratchit think that the Sylvanian ambassador did not make the cheese fall?

- A. The ambassador is allergic to cheese
- B. The ambassador is asleep in the corner
- C. The ambassador seems shocked

2

Why do Scratchit and Elkin go to the fishing wharf?

- A. Elkin finds a map for the wharf in his pocket
- B. Scratchit finds a fishy footprint at the party
- C. Elkin has tracked the van to the wharf

3

Who does the warehouse belong to?

- A. Oscar Brie – Cheese Exporter
- B. Finlay Camembert – Cheese Taster
- C. Gabriel Edam – Cheese Master

4

How do Elkin and Scratchit get into the warehouse?

- A. Elkin finds the key
- B. Scratchit uses his nose
- C. They climb in through an open window

5

Why does it suddenly get darker for Elkin?

- A. Elkin is hit over the head and knocked out
- B. A large figure stands in front of the window
- C. Scratchit accidentally turns the lights out



Name: _____

6

Where is Elkin when he wakes up?

- A. Locked in a cupboard
- B. Tied to a chair
- C. On the roof

7

What does Elkin see in the warehouse?

- A. Every type of cheese
- B. A few cheese cracker crumbs
- C. Jars and jars of peanut butter

8

Where does the voice come from?

- A. A loudspeaker on the wall
- B. The room next door
- C. Just outside the window

9

Who is speaking?

- A. Oscar Brie
- B. Ivor Stilton
- C. Red Lester

10

What weapon does Elkin have on him?

- A. A cheese board
- B. Extra stinky cheese
- C. A spud gun



1

Agree that this is an action-packed chapter. Ask the children to remember what happened: Elkin jumps over the cheese, Scratchit finds the fishy smell, Elkin and Scratchit go into the warehouse, Elkin is knocked out and they wake up tied to a chair, listening to Red Lester on the speakers. Ask: What is the situation for Scratchit and Elkin at the end of the chapter? (They are tied up next to some dynamite.)

2

Ask: What clues and answers do we have in this chapter? Ask: Why do you think someone cut the cheese loose? (To hurt Elkin and stop him investigating.) How does Scratchit know that the ambassador had nothing to do with it? (He turns white and trembles with shock.) How do we know that the person from the cheese warehouse was at the party? (Scratchit smells the fishy footprint) Where has all the cheese gone? (It is in the warehouse.)

3

Explain the meaning of 'Exporter', clarifying that a Cheese Exporter is someone who sells cheese abroad: so, it seems like the cheese will be sold abroad. Find and explain other tricky words and phrases: 'scent trail' (a path of the same smell that can be followed), 'a miracle of engineering' (designed and built amazingly well), 'wharf' (an area beside the sea or river with warehouses), 'rafters' (roof beams), 'fire bucket' (a bucket of sand), 'fuse' (the part of dynamite you light).

4

Ask: How does the author create the setting of the warehouse? Ask the children to look for details of the inside and the outside of the warehouse: 'fog', 'the narrow, deserted wharf streets', 'packed to the rafters with cheese'. Ask: Why does the author describe the cheese twice? (This is done for emphasis.) Ask: What is the weather like? (It is dark and foggy.) Ask: How does this add to the setting? (This makes it seem scarier.)

5

Ask: Why is the story not scary? Ask the children to find the parts of the chapter that they find funny. (For example: the sarcastic way Elkin and Scratchit talk to each other, the silly cheese names, Elkin's rumbling stomach, the silly movie titles.) Ask: In what ways is Scratchit like a dog? (He sniffs the floor, he pants and wags his tongue.) In what ways is he not? (He is very proud of his talents, he is sarcastic and unfriendly.)

6

Ask: How is Elkin not as silly as he first seemed? (He has a secret, if silly, weapon; he recognises Red Lester's voice.) Ask: What weapon does Elkin have? (a spud gun) Ask: What can you predict is going to happen? Do you think that Scratchit and Elkin are about to be blown up? (Probably not.) How do you know? (Because this is a funny book and Scratchit and Elkin are the main characters.)



Name: _____

1 What is the situation for Scratchit and Elkin at the end of the chapter?

2 Where has all the cheese been taken?

3 What is a scent trail and how does Scratchit follow it?



Name: _____

4 _____

What is the warehouse like?

5 _____

How is Scratchit like a dog? How is he not?

6 _____

What weapon does Elkin have and does this make him seem scary?



Here is some of the challenging or potentially unfamiliar vocabulary used in Chapter 4 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.

deserted

gazed

hugging

trembling

twiddled

whirled



Find these words in chapter 4. 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

brie – a soft French cheese

burst out – came out suddenly

deserted – empty, no people around

dynamite – a kind of explosive for blowing things up

engineering – machinery design

exporter – someone who sells things to other countries

fire bucket – a bucket filled with sand to put out fire

fizzling – making a weak hissing sound

footprint – a mark left by a foot or shoe

fromage – the French word for cheese

fuse – a long cord that is joined to an explosive, which is lit to make it explode

gazed – looked at for a long time

grunted – made a short, low sound

hugging – (here) keeping close to

iron – a strong metal

leapfrogged – jumped over, using the hands to push yourself up

loudspeaker – a machine used to make sound louder

miracle – a surprising and amazing thing that should not be possible

narrow – not wide

panic – fear and confusion

pitch black – very, very dark

rafters – supports for the ceiling of a building

raw – uncooked

rumbling – making a growling noise

scent trail – a trail of a smell to follow

solid – very strong

spud gun – a play gun that shoots out pieces of potato

steaming – hot and giving off steam

supply – the amount of something you can have or use

touch – (here) a little bit

trembling – shaking slightly

twiddled – fiddled, turned

vast – huge, enormous

warehouse – a large building where goods are stored

waste – not making good use of

wedged – fixed in position

wharf – a place where boats can load and unload

whirled – spun round very fast

worry – thing to be afraid of



Name: _____

Imagine you are Elkin. Write a report about your evening at the embassy party and at the fishing wharf. Use the questions below to help you write your report.

WHERE did the events happen?

WHAT happened?

WHO was involved?

WHAT action should be taken?



Name: _____

Homophones are words which sound the same, but have different spellings and meanings. Underline the correct homophone in the sentences below. The first one has been done for you.

1. The scent trail led to the fishing wharf, so Elkin and Scratchit headed straight **their** / **there**.

2. They could **hear** / **here** the **see** / **sea**, but they could not **sea** / **see** it.

3. The warehouse was not **bear** / **bare** – it was filled with cheese.

4. The **won** / **one** loudspeaker made a crackling sound.

5. The wind **blew** / **blue** fiercely around the deserted streets.

6. The **two** / **to** / **too** of them were tied up and unable **two** / **to** / **too** move.

7. “The **knight** / **night** will soon be over,” laughed Red Lester.

8. “The **sun** / **son** will **bee** / **be** rising soon,” Scratchit agreed.

9. Scratchit and Elkin tried to wriggle **their** / **there** hands and paws free.

10. “This warehouse is **two** / **to** / **too** cheesy for me!” said Scratchit.



What happens now?

A

Elkin uses his football skills to kick cheese at the dynamite

Do you think that Elkin's football skills will be good enough? And will cheese put out the fuse of the dynamite and stop it from blowing up the warehouse? What kind of cheese would it have to be for this to work?

B

Scratchit uses his twiddly nose to try and put out the fuse

We didn't know that Scratchit's nose could undo locks like a key until this chapter – perhaps it can do all sorts of other things too, like stretching and pinching! Would you like to find out?

C

Elkin shoots the fire bucket with his spud gun

We know that Elkin's hands are tied behind him and that his spud gun is kept behind his back. Do you think he will be able to knock the fire bucket over by shooting it? Will the sand in the bucket fall on the fuse and put it out?

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

Discussion Activity

In pairs or a small group, present your report of the evening as if you were Elkin Fromage. Start with your visit to the party at the Sylvanian Embassy and finish in the warehouse. Make recommendations on what should happen next to solve the mystery. You could use the report writing activity in *WRITE!* to help you.



Name: _____

Complete the wordsearch below containing names and words from *Spy and Cheese*.

W	A	R	E	H	O	U	S	E	C	D	H
R	H	U	Q	V	A	S	D	F	H	Y	K
E	S	W	F	R	O	M	A	G	E	A	S
D	K	S	X	V	B	G	O	K	E	L	P
L	D	T	C	W	E	M	B	A	S	S	Y
E	A	I	M	H	N	F	V	B	E	X	S
S	Y	L	V	A	N	I	A	J	B	F	H
T	C	T	F	R	E	E	D	O	N	I	A
E	X	O	B	F	N	G	H	M	V	Z	W
R	I	N	S	C	R	A	T	C	H	I	T

CHEESE

EMBASSY

FREEDONIA

FROMAGE

RED LESTER

SCRATCHIT

SPY

STILTON

SYLVANIA

WAREHOUSE

WHARF

ANSWERS

READ! Comprehension Questions

1. Why does Scratchit think that the Sylvanian ambassador did not make the cheese fall?
C. The ambassador seems shocked
2. Why do Scratchit and Elkin go to the fishing wharf?
B. Scratchit finds a fishy footprint at the party
3. Who does the warehouse belong to?
A. Oscar Brie – Cheese Exporter
4. How do Elkin and Scratchit get into the warehouse?
B. Scratchit uses his nose
5. Why does it suddenly get darker for Elkin?
A. Elkin is hit over the head and knocked out
6. Where is Elkin when he wakes up?
B. Tied to a chair
7. What does Elkin see in the warehouse?
A. Every type of cheese
8. Where does the voice come from?
A. A loudspeaker on the wall
9. Who is speaking?
C. Red Lester
10. What weapon does Elkin have on him?
C. A spud gun

WRITE! Worksheet: Using homophones

1. The scent trail led to the fishing wharf, so Elkin and Scratchit headed straight their / there.
2. They could hear / here the see / sea, but they could not sea / see it.
3. The warehouse was not bear / bare – it was filled with cheese.
4. The won / one loudspeaker made a crackling sound.
5. The wind blew / blue fiercely around the deserted streets.
6. The two / to / too of them were tied up and unable two / to / too move.
7. “The knight / night will soon be over,” laughed Red Lester.
8. “The sun / son will bee / be rising soon,” Scratchit agreed.
9. Scratchit and Elkin tried to wriggle their / there hands and paws free.
10. “This warehouse is two / to / too cheesy for me!” said Scratchit.

EXPLORE! Wordsearch

W	A	R	E	H	O	U	S	E	C		
R									H		
E			F	R	O	M	A	G	E		S
D		S							E		P
L		T		W	E	M	B	A	S	S	Y
E		I		H					E		
S	Y	L	V	A	N	I	A				
T		T	F	R	E	E	D	O	N	I	A
E		O		F							
R		N	S	C	R	A	T	C	H	I	T