



Chapter 5· A Cheese in the Air

The fuse is lit, and the dynamite is set to blow! How will Elkin and Scratchit escape from the warehouse? Can they bring Red Lester to justice and save the 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 book review
- **Grammar worksheet:** past and present tense



TALK!

- **Discussion activity:** discuss the story



EXPLORE!

- **Art activity:** design your own robo-pet



Name: _____

1

How does Elkin knock over the dynamite?

- A. He shoots it with his spud gun
- B. He kicks a wedge of cheese at it
- C. Scratchit uses his extendable arm

2

How did Scratchit cut himself free?

- A. His teeth are razor sharp
- B. His eyes are metal cutting lasers
- C. He has scissors in his paw

3

What did Scratchit do with the dynamite?

- A. He cuts off the fuse and stamps it out
- B. He throws it out of the window
- C. He puts it out in the bucket of sand

4

How do Scratchit and Elkin find Red Lester?

- A. They follow wires from the speakers to his van
- B. Scratchit follows the smell of fishy footprints
- C. Elkin follows a trail of red hairs

5

How do Scratchit and Elkin discover Stilton is the cheese thief?

- A. Red Lester tells them
- B. Scratchit smells his footprint
- C. Elkin finds one of his gloves



Name: _____

6

Who do Elkin and Scratchit hope to find at the spy bureau?

- A. The Sylvaniaian ambassador
- B. Ivor Stilton
- C. Red Lester's agent

7

What does Stilton say to Elkin?

- A. "One day, you'll be sitting right here."
- B. "You're just in time for lunch."
- C. "I have a new job for you to investigate."

8

Why did Stilton ask Elkin to investigate his crime?

- A. He knew that Elkin was the best and would solve it
- B. He wanted to be caught and have a rest in jail
- C. He didn't think Elkin would solve the mystery

9

What was Stilton's great plan?

- A. To make everyone love peanut butter
- B. To make everyone allergic to cheese
- C. To destroy all the cheese in Freedonia

10

What is Red Lester's great secret?

- A. He hates cheese
- B. He loves peanut butter
- C. He hates films



1

Ask: How do Elkin and Scratchit escape from the warehouse? Together, remember the events in order: Elkin kicks the cheese, Scratchit cuts himself free and puts out the dynamite and they follow the leads from the loudspeaker to Red Lester. Ask: Was Red Lester responsible for stealing all the cheese? (No, he's been blackmailed by the real villain: Ivor Stilton.) Ask: What is Red Lester's secret? (He doesn't like cheese.)

2

Ask: How does Scratchit free himself? (He has strong scissors in a secret compartment in his paw.) Remember other gadgets that Scratchit has, such as: access to a database, the ability to track smells and open doors with his nose. Ask: If you were the author, what other gadgets would you give Scratchit? Discuss ideas, such as helicopter wings that come out of his back, a fingerprint testing kit, x-ray vision and so on.

3

Ask: Now that we know that Ivor Stilton is the cheese thief, can you work out why he was at the ambassador's party? (He was there to cut down the cheese and try to crush Elkin.) What else has he done to put Elkin off the scent? (Made him think that the Sylvanians were to blame.) Ask: Why did Ivor Stilton want to blow up the cheese warehouse? (He hates cheese and he wanted to destroy all the cheese he had stolen.)

4

Ask the children to locate the phrases 'exploded with rage' and 'cackled crazily'. Ask: What do these tell us about Ivor Stilton? Agree that Ivor Stilton seems to be behaving in a very strange way – one minute he is angry and the next he is laughing. Ask: Why did Stilton ask Elkin to investigate the missing cheese when he stole it himself? (He didn't think that Elkin was clever enough to solve the mystery.) Ask: Do you think that Elkin is clever or not?

5

Ask: Do you like the ending of the story? Are you happy with the solution? Point out to the children how Elkin's arrival at the spy bureau mirrors the opening of the story. Ask: Why does the cleaner hurry out of the way? (Elkin tripped over the bucket and landed on top of her last time.) Ask: Why does Elkin say 'It might be sooner than you think, boss' this time? (He is going to arrest Stilton.)

6

Ask: Who was your favourite character in this story? Why? Discuss each of the main characters in turn, encouraging the children to articulate what they like, or find funny, about each. For example: Scratchit is sarcastic and jealous of Elkin (ask a volunteer to say "Ta-daah!" in a sarcastic robotic monotone); Elkin is always thinking about cheese; Red Lester is always thinking about his hair.



Name: _____

1

How do Elkin and Scratchit escape from the warehouse?

2

If you were the author, what other gadgets would you give Scratchit?

3

Why did Ivor Stilton want to blow up the cheese warehouse?



Name: _____

4 _____

What does 'cackled crazily' mean?

5 _____

Why does the cleaner get out of the way when she sees Elkin?

6 _____

Who was your favourite character in this story? Why?



Here is some of the challenging or potentially unfamiliar vocabulary used in Chapter 5 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.

cackled

calmly

dodged

hoofed

snivelled

wailed



Find these words in chapter 5. Use the definition to check that you understand the meaning of the sentences you find them in.

blame – to say that somebody has done something wrong

bounding – running up

bureau – office

cackled – laughed in a nasty way

calmly – in a quiet way

crazily – wildly, with no control

dodged – got out of the way of

drone – a boring voice or sound

dull – not bright, not very clever

dynamite – a kind of explosive for blowing things up

edging – moving little by little

exploded – blew apart

fired – (a look) shot, gave quickly

fizzling – making a weak hissing sound

forced – made someone do something

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

gazed – looked for a long time

glance – a quick look

gone up with – been destroyed, gone up in smoke with

handcuffed – having metal hoops locked around your wrists to stop you escaping

hoofed – kicked hard

loudspeaker – a machine used to make sounds louder

microphone – something you speak into to make your voice heard from far away

peckish – a bit hungry

prison – a place where people who have broken the law may be kept as a punishment

puzzled – confused, not understanding

rage – great anger

ruin – destroy, mess up

scooped – picked up quickly

sharply – in a cross way

snivelled – moaned and sniffed as if you are crying

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

sparamaster – the boss of the spies

trembling – shaking slightly

wailed – cried loudly

wrapped up – finished with, solved



Name: _____

Now that the story *Spy and Cheese* has come to an end, write your own review of the book. Don't forget to give it a star rating!

Book title: _____

Author: _____

Plot (What was the story about? Was it fun?)

Characters (What were their names? Did you like them?)

Your opinion (What did you think of the book? Would you recommend it to others?)

Star rating (colour in how many stars you would give the story)





Name: _____

Put the sentences below into the past tense, by changing the verbs from the present tense into the past. The first one has been done for you.

1

Elkin stretches his leg towards the wedge of cheese.

Elkin stretched his leg towards the wedge of cheese.

2

He scoops it up with one foot.

3

But the fuse is still fizzling.

4

Scratchit held up one metal paw.

5

Elkin nodded at the fuse.

6

Stilton sank back into his chair and sighed.



Discussion Activity

- ▶ Discuss the story *Spy and Cheese* with two classmates.
Consider different questions about the story, for example:

What did you like best about the story?
What was the funniest part?
Did you think any of the story was scary?
Who was your favourite character?

- ▶ As a class, share the book reviews you have done using the Write! activity sheet, and justify your opinions on the book. Do you all agree?



Name: _____

What kind of robo-pet would you like to have? Design your own robo-pet – it could be a dog like Scratchit, or it could be based on a different animal. What gadgets would your robo-pet have? Label them on your picture below.

A large dashed-line rectangular box intended for drawing a custom robo-pet.



ANSWERS

READ! Comprehension Questions

1. How does Elkin knock over the dynamite?
B. He kicks a wedge of cheese at it
2. How did Scratchit cut himself free?
C. He has scissors in his paw
3. What did Scratchit do with the dynamite?
A. He cuts off the fuse and stamps it out
4. How do Scratchit and Elkin find Red Lester?
A. They follow wires from the speakers to his van
5. How do Scratchit and Elkin discover Stilton is the cheese thief?
B. Scratchit smells his footprint
6. Who do Elkin and Scratchit hope to find at the spy bureau?
B. Ivor Stilton
7. What does Stilton say to Elkin?
A. "One day, you'll be sitting right here."
8. Why did Stilton ask Elkin to investigate his crime?
C. He didn't think Elkin would solve the mystery
9. What was Stilton's great plan?
C. To destroy all the cheese in Freedonia
10. What is Red Lester's great secret?
A. He hates cheese

WRITE! Worksheet: Past and present tense

1. Elkin **stretched** his leg towards the wedge of cheese.
2. He **scooped** it up with one foot.
3. But the fuse **was** still fizzling.
4. Scratchit **holds** up one metal paw.
5. Elkin **nods** at the fuse.
6. Stilton **sinks** back into his chair and **sighs**.

Picture credit: robot cat - NotionPic / Bigstock