



Chapter 3 · The Fall

The ancient man is convinced that he and Zara must explore the depths of the iceberg to solve its mysteries and find Marcia. But the iceberg is melting fast...

THE ICE GARDEN

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
- **Writing worksheet:** write a scene with clues as to how the plot might develop
- **Grammar worksheet:** conjunctions to express time and cause



TALK!

- **Voting options:** discussion points for each voting option
- **Discussion activity:** role play your written scene



EXPLORE!

- **Activity:** retrieval and inference picture activity



Name: _____

1 When Zara is in the ice tunnel, how does she know she's not alone?

- A. She hears footsteps
- B. She hears music
- C. She sees a bird

2 What does Hector give Zara to warm her up?

- A. His torch
- B. His jumper
- C. A cup of tea

3 Why did the ancient man come to the iceberg?

- A. To find his father
- B. To make his father proud
- C. To get back at his father

4 How did Hector get into the ice tunnel?

- A. He fell through a hole in the ice
- B. He was pushed in
- C. He came through a secret entrance

5 What does Zara see trapped in the ice?

- A. Cans and old fishing nets
- B. A toy whale
- C. A polar bear



Name: _____

6

What does Zara see inside the bird skeleton?

- A. A message
- B. Pieces of plastic
- C. Baby bird skeletons

7

Where does the water in the tunnel come from?

- A. The tide has come in
- B. A magic waterfall
- C. Melting ice

8

Why doesn't Zara climb up to her father?

- A. The ancient man says Zara must go the other way to find her sister
- B. Zara is cross with her father for always being on the telephone
- C. She can see that the hole is about to break apart

9

What is the dark shape on the floor of the tunnel?

- A. Marcia's shoe
- B. Marcia's toy penguin
- C. Marcia's coat

10

Why does Zara want to go down the icy steps?

- A. To get out of the iceberg
- B. To escape the frost giant
- C. She hears Marcia laughing



1

Recap on the end of Chapter 2. (After experiencing the wonder of the secret garden, Zara falls through a hole in the ice as the iceberg starts to break.) Read up to *...I came to a halt*. Ask: How does the author create the sense that Zara falls for a long time? (For example, repetition of *falling*; *falling* turns to *sliding*; she has time to think; her life flashes before her eyes.) Ask: Who else falls down a hole in another classic story? (Alice in Wonderland)

2

Read up to *...the surface where I longed to be*. Ask the children to find words and phrases that capture the underground world, for example: *dim blue light*, *like being deep under the ocean*, *the sparkle of tiny ice crystals as far as the eye could see*, *the space seemed to stretch on endlessly*, *other tunnels leading off*. Ask: What makes the situation scary? (It seems endless, dark and with no way out.) How does Zara feel? (*a desperate whirl of panic*)

3

Read up to *...that way,* *Hector replied*. Ask: What makes Hector's arrival so dramatic? (He comes out of the dark, stumbling; the sound of urgent footsteps and a light precedes him; Zara is desperate to see someone... anyone.) Encourage the children to ask questions about the man, for example: Is his name really Hector? How did he get the scars on his hands? Why does he still want to make his father proud? Why does he keep turning up? Is he a good or bad character?

4

Together, speculate on answers to the children's questions. (For example: He got his scars in an expedition long ago. His father's disappointment has ruined his belief in himself.) Discuss how going to the iceberg could make his father proud and whether his father is likely to still be alive. Ask: What do you think Zara wants from her father? (Perhaps some attention, perhaps not having to always look after her little sister.) Ask: Why do Hector and Zara decide to go towards the light?

5

Read up to *"It's very dangerous."* Ask: Why is the rubbish in the ice and the bird so shocking? (The iceberg has been natural and beautiful up until now.) Ask: What message do you think the author is giving us? (Perhaps that we should be just as shocked and disgusted about plastics in our oceans.) Ask: How might the meltwater also be a message? (If global warming melts the polar ice much of the planet will be flooded and this is dangerous.)

6

Read to the end. Ask: What different feelings might Zara have when she hears her father's voice? (She wants to go to him, but she wants to find Marcia; he's off the phone, but he might be cross with her.) What makes the reader feel that nothing too terrible has happened to Marcia? (She is giggling.) Ask: Is Hector right to make Zara keep searching? Ask the children to describe the giant. Speculate on whether he is a force for good or evil.



Name: _____

1

Describe Zara's fall in one sentence.

2

Why does the underground tunnel make Zara feel as if she's under the ocean?

3

How does the author make the arrival of Hector so dramatic?



Name: _____

4 _____

Why does Hector want to do something to make his father proud?

5 _____

How did you feel when you read the description of the dead bird with plastic in its ribcage?

6 _____

What makes the reader feel that nothing too terrible has happened to Marcia?



Here is some of the challenging or potentially unfamiliar vocabulary used in chapter 3 of *The Ice Garden*.

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.

curving

deadly

grasp

loomed

numb

serious

trapped

wrung



Name: _____

Write a scene with clues for the reader that will show how the plot might develop in chapter 4 of *The Ice Garden*. Use the scenario below to help with your writing. Remember to *show* rather than *tell* the reader what might happen...

Situation: Someone is trying to destroy the ice garden.

What you need to show but not tell: Zara is determined to save it.

Clues: Who do you think this person could be?
How might Zara be talking to this person?
How might they respond?
What emotions can you show through the characters' dialogue?
What would their different body language be like?



Name: _____

A **conjunction** is a word that links other words, phrases or clauses together. Conjunctions create fluid sentences and can help give an understanding of time and reason – when and why something happens.

Complete these sentences from chapter 3 by drawing a line to join the sentence to its missing conjunction.

1. My eyes cracked open _____ all I could see around me was a dim blue light.

until

2. . Then, _____ I pushed further, it cracked.

yet

3. “Dad!” I made to climb through the hole _____ Hector gripped my arm.

and

4. Sliding, fast at first, and then slower and slower, _____ at last I came to a halt.

as

5. Dim, _____ it was just about light enough to see, once my eyes became used to it.

but

6. I could still hear Dad’s voice calling my name above the din, _____ there was something else.

and

7. The enormous cracking sounds were getting worse now _____ the ice was changing.

but

**What should Zara and Hector do?****A****Try to run towards Dad's voice and escape**

Do you think Zara will want to leave her sister and run back to her dad? Will Hector be able to persuade her to stay and fight? What would make this the most exciting option? What do you think will happen in chapter 4 if this is the winning option?

B**Try to talk to the strange giant creature**

How could Zara and Hector try to communicate with the frost giant? Do you think he is as sinister as he looks or might he be able to help them on their quest to solve the mystery of the iceberg? Predict what will happen in chapter 4 if this is the winning option.

C**Smash a hole in the ice to cause a flood**

If Zara manages to cause a great flood, what might happen to her, Hector, Marcia and the frost giant? Do you think Zara should trust Hector at this point? He seems as mysterious as the iceberg itself! What do you think will happen in chapter 4 if this is the winning option?

→ Which option do you think would be the most exciting one for the next chapter of *The Ice Garden*?

Discussion Activity

Inference is an important tool for writers. *Inference* means trying to work out what hasn't been explained in a story. You need to look for written clues! In pairs or a small group, role play the scene from your writing activity and discuss what might happen next, thinking about any clues within your writing, such as the characters' body language and expressions. Do they give anything away?

The characters we have met so far each experience the iceberg differently. The ancient man is curious, Zara is in awe of its natural beauty and Marcia sees it as an adventure playground. Our different personalities help us approach different situations in different ways. Think about a recent event at school – it could be a test or a school concert, for example. Talk as a class about how you approached it.



Name: _____

Look at these four pictures below. Come up with two retrieval questions and two inference questions for each image. A retrieval question is one where the answer is in the story or image. An inference question is one where the answer is found using reason and evidence. For example, for the first picture you could ask:
Retrieval question – What is the girl doing? (She is looking out to sea.)
Inference question – Where might she go next? (She might go down to the beach.)









READ! Comprehension

1. When Zara is in the ice tunnel, how does she know she's not alone?
A. She hears footsteps
2. What does Hector give Zara to warm her up?
C. A cup of tea
3. Why did the ancient man come to the iceberg?
B. To make his father proud
4. How did Hector get into the ice tunnel?
A. He fell through a hole in the ice
5. What does Zara see trapped in the ice?
A. Cans and old rope
6. What does Zara see inside the bird skeleton?
B. Pieces of plastic
7. Where does the water in the tunnel come from?
C. Melting ice
8. Why doesn't Zara climb up to her father?
A. The ancient man says Zara must go the other way to find her sister
9. What is the dark shape on the floor of the tunnel?
B. Marcia's toy penguin
10. Why does Zara want to go down the icy steps?
C. She hears Marcia laughing

READ! Guided reading response answers

1. Zara falls through the hole and finds herself sliding down an icy tunnel until she comes to a stop in the dim light.
2. Zara knows that there is lots of ice (water) above her and the light around her is a dim blue - the colour of the ocean.
3. First Zara hears 'urgent' footsteps, then she sees a light and a dark figure stumbling towards her; finally she see's Hector's face lit up by torchlight.
4. Hector's father always made him feel as if he was a disappointment and he still wants to show his father this isn't true.
5. It was a shock after the beautiful descriptions; it made me feel disgusted about all the plastic in the world's oceans.
6. The author describes Marcia as 'giggling', which suggests that she is happy.

WRITE! Worksheet: Conjunctions to express time and cause

<p>1. My eyes cracked open _____ all I could see around me was a dim blue light.</p>	<div style="display: flex; flex-direction: column; align-items: center;"> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;">until</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;">yet</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;">and</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;">as</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;">but</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;">and</div> <div style="margin-bottom: 10px;">but</div> </div>
<p>2. . Then, _____ I pushed further, it cracked.</p>	
<p>3. "Dad!" I made to climb through the hole _____ Hector gripped my arm.</p>	
<p>4. Sliding, fast at first, and then slower and slower, _____ at last I came to a halt.</p>	
<p>5. Dim, _____ it was just about light enough to see, once my eyes became used to it.</p>	
<p>6. I could still hear Dad's voice calling my name above the din, _____ there was something else.</p>	
<p>7. The enormous cracking sounds were getting worse now _____ the ice was changing.</p>	

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