



Chapter 4 · The Frost Giant

When the frost giant leads Zara to Marcia, the sisters are reunited at last. Now someone else wants to meet them and she has a message. But Hector is not at all happy...

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 to the author via the blog
- **Grammar worksheet:** correctly spell commonly misspelt words



TALK!

- **Voting options:** discussion points for each voting option
- **Discussion activity:** suggest a different ending for chapter 4 that is not one of the voting options



EXPLORE!

- **Activity:** word bingo



Name: _____

1

What is sticking out of the frost giant's side?

- A. Twigs and leaves
- B. Bottles and rubbish
- C. An ice spear

2

Where does Zara see a patch of oil?

- A. On the frost giant's arm
- B. On the stairs to the cavern
- C. On the floor of the cavern

3

What is Marcia playing with when Zara sees her?

- A. Wisps of light
- B. Her toy penguin
- C. The water in the fountain

4

How does Marcia react to seeing Zara?

- A. She cries with relief
- B. She laughs with happiness
- C. She reaches for the penguin

5

What is strange about the water in the ice vase?

- A. It is flowing up into the air
- B. It is not freezing
- C. It is boiling hot



Name: _____

6

What does the strange girl say to Zara?

- A. "You are in danger."
- B. "I am glad you came."
- C. "You have destroyed me."

7

Why is Hector angry?

- A. He doesn't understand what the girl is saying
- B. He thinks Marcia is too young for the message
- C. He thinks the message should have been for him

8

Which of these names is not one of the girl's names?

- A. Mav
- B. Fairy Queen
- C. Titania

9

Why does the girl not give Zara her message?

- A. She realises that Zara will not understand
- B. Hector attacks Zara and Marcia
- C. The ice giant stops her

10

What was the purpose of the magic iceberg?

- A. To make Marcia and Zara happy
- B. To make the world look
- C. To give a message to Zara and Marcia



1

Recap on the end of Chapter 3. (Zara and Hector have gone into the centre of the iceberg, following the sound of Marcia's laughter; they have met a monster-like frost giant.) Read up to *...giant's piercing gaze*. Ask the children to work together to describe the giant. Ask: What is his crown made of? (ice and branches) What does he have coming out of his side? (rubbish) How is he like the iceberg? (He has plants on his head but rubbish inside.)

2

Ask the children to find two phrases that describe the frost giant's eyes. (*cold, glassy eyes, piercing gaze*) What impression does this give? (That he is watching them, that he is frightening.) Ask: What is his skin like? (*gnarled and rutted like an old oak tree*) Clarify the meaning of *gnarled* and discuss the spelling. Explain that oak trees can live for hundreds of years and are often associated with fairies. Ask: How do they get past the giant? (He lets them go.)

3

Read up to *"...Hello."* Ask: Why is Zara surprised by Marcia's reaction to seeing her? (She thought Marcia would be relieved to be found, but she is just happy to see her sister.) How has Marcia reacted to the iceberg? (with joy and wonder) Point out that Marcia enjoys the wonders of the iceberg without worrying about anything else. Ask a volunteer to explain what is magical about the ice vase. (the lights, water moving up, the girl's face)

4

Read up to *...bitter rage, not of sadness*. Ask: Why is Hector so upset here? (He can't hear the girl's voice, he is being excluded.) Find phrases that describe the build up of Hector's despair, for example: *his brow creased, His face sank, cast away his cane, he slumped on to a block of ice, he yelled, desperately, eyes welled with tears, tears of bitterness, not of sadness*. Ask: Do you feel sorry for Hector here? (Encourage the children to expand on their answers.)

5

Read up to *"...Why them? Why them and not me?"* Ask the children to find further descriptions of Hector: *Hector was ranting, his fists clenched white, barged, glare*. Ask: Do you still feel sorry for Hector? Ask: Why do you think the Fairy Queen won't talk to him? (Perhaps his heart is not in the right place, he is more interested in himself than appreciating the wonder of the iceberg.) Ask: Who is the girl in the water? (the Fairy Queen, Mav, the guardian of nature)

6

Read up to the end. Ask: What is the Fairy Queen like? Find phrases that describe her, for example: *large ice-blue eyes, half-smile, soft, calm voice, something spellbinding, fresh and new, and yet ancient and wise, rippled*. Discuss ways in which nature is both *fresh* and *new* and *ancient* and *wise*. Ask: What do you think the Fairy Queen's message is going to be? (Perhaps 'look after the planet' or 'the planet is in danger' or 'stop polluting my world.')



Name: _____

1

Describe the frost giant.

2

**Find and copy a phrase that describes the frost giant's eyes.
Find and copy a phrase that describes his skin.**

3

How does Marcia react to being in the cavern?



Name: _____

4

Why is Hector so upset?

5

Who is the girl in the water?

6

What do you think the message is going to be?



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

bitter

defied

emotion

hopes

nudged

ranting

spellbinding

wisps



Name: _____

A character's personality, actions, thoughts and emotions affect the plot of any story. Post a message to David Macphail on the book forum for *The Ice Garden* about your favourite character and how his or her actions are affecting this chapter. Use these questions to help you decide what to say. Fill in the boxes then choose the elements you are most interested in to write your message.

1. Who is your favourite character? _____

Explain why: _____

Write a question that you would like to ask David Macphail about this character.

2. What two questions would you like to ask the author about what might happen to your favourite character in the upcoming final chapter?

1. _____

2. _____

3. How do you think your favourite character thinks or feels by the end of chapter 4? Would he or she have liked a different ending? What could that ending be?



Name: _____

Some words are tricky to spell. Choose the correct spelling of these commonly misspelt words and write it on the line. Remember to try and sound out the words and look for relationships between letters and sounds, even if they are unusual.

answer	arnser	unswer	_____
breeth	breath	breah	_____
senter	sentre	centre	_____
caught	cort	kaught	_____
continue	continew	kontinue	_____
garding	guarding	garrding	_____
heard	herde	hurd	_____
thort	thought	thawt	_____
through	throo	thru	_____
although	althow	although	_____
beleved	believed	beleeved	_____
certainly	sertainly	certainlee	_____

**How will Zara and Marcia escape Hector's clutches?****A****Zara calls to the frost giant to help**

Do you think the giant will step forward to help the sisters or will he stay by the Fairy Queen's side? How might the creature be able to help the sisters and stop Hector? What do you think will happen in chapter 5 if this is the winning option?

B**Zara snatches up Hector's cane to defend herself**

How could Zara use Hector's cane as a weapon? Will it be enough to stop Hector and escape his clutches? Do you think Hector wants to help Zara anymore or is he going to stand in her way? Did you suspect him all along?

C**A giant hole opens up in the ice nearby**

How could Zara get away from Hector and reach the giant hole to escape? Perhaps the Fairy Queen could help her escape? Predict what will happen in the final chapter if this is the winning option.

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

Discussion Activity

In pairs or a small group, come up with a different ending to chapter 4 that was not given as one of the voting options. Think about how this new ending could change the direction of the plot in chapter 5. What might it mean for your favourite character? Why do you think the author selected the voting options that he did for the end of this chapter? Are there any clues in the characters' actions, thoughts and feelings that reveal what might happen in the final chapter of *The Ice Garden*?

An underlying theme of this story is the environment and the dangerous impact humans are having on the planet. Find out more about pollution and climate change and, as a class, discuss ideas to reduce your own impact on the world.



Name: _____

In groups of five, play word bingo. Cut out the sentences on the next page and put them in a hat. Then cut out the bingo cards below.

One person in the group reads out each sentence. The others in the group look at their bingo cards and cross off a word if it is used in the sentence. As soon as you have crossed out all your words on your bingo card shout, "Bingo!"

answer	breath
thought	believed
centre	guarding

guarding	caught
heard	certainly
centre	answer

heard	certainly
although	caught
believed	breath

thought	guarding
answer	believed
although	breath



answer: There was her answer, but the ancient man shook his head bitterly.

breath: The giant blinked and I held my breath, waiting for its response.

thought: It was the thought of Marcia that held me back.

believed: Back in the tunnel, Hector had asked me if I believed in magic.

centre: A glowing ice formation jutted out of the centre of it.

guarding: I turned to see the frost giant standing at the foot of the steps like a soldier, guarding, watching.

caught: Yet his brow creased as he caught my glance.

heard: "Hear her?" His face sank. "No, I heard nothing. What did she say?"

certainly: I didn't know what to believe back then but I certainly believed in it now.

although: Although I was heading even deeper under the ice...

READ! Comprehension

1. What is sticking out of the frost giant's side?
B. Bottles and rubbish
2. Where does Zara see a patch of oil?
A. On the frost giant's arm
3. What is Marcia playing with when Zara sees her?
A. Wisps of light
4. How does Marcia react to seeing Zara?
B. She laughs with happiness
5. What is strange about the water in the ice vase?
A. It is flowing up into the air
6. What does the strange girl say to Zara?
B. "I am glad you came."
7. Why is Hector angry?
C. He thinks the message should have been for him
8. Which of these names is not one of the girl's names?
C. Titania
9. Why does the girl not give Zara her message?
B. Hector attacks Zara and Marcia
10. What was the purpose of the magic iceberg?
C. To give a message to Zara and Marcia

READ! Guided reading response answers

1. The giant is huge with a crown made of ice sprouting leaves; he has bottles coming out of his side and oil on his arm; he has cold eyes that watch Zara and Hector.
2. eyes: *cold, glassy eyes or piercing gaze.*
skin: *gnarled and rutted like an old oak tree.*
3. She is filled with joy, wonder and happiness. She is totally caught up in the situation.
4. He cannot hear the girl speaking and he thought the message would be for him.
5. The Fairy Queen or Mav.
6. Children's own ideas, such as *Look after the planet.* or *The planet is in danger.* or *Stop polluting my world.*

WRITE! Worksheet: Commonly misspelt words

1. answer
2. breath
3. centre
4. caught
5. continue
6. guarding
7. heard
8. thought
9. through
10. although