

Activities



LEVEL 1

Tricks

by Cethan Leahy

Genre Humour

Values autonomy, initiative, ingenuity, self-esteem, overcoming adversity

Chapter 5. The Spectacular Finish

It's the final showdown between Colin and Grimdok. The villagers have a plan to defeat the evil wizard and his undead army, but will it work? Or will they all face a future of being slugs and snails?

Skills addressed



Language and literacy



Digital skills and behaviour



Critical thinking and resilience



Maths, science and technology skills



Cultural awareness and understanding



Personal, social and health awareness and citizenship



Organisation and evaluation skills

CONTENTS

You can tick off the activities that you are working on in class.



READ

Reading lab



Obtain and interpret information within the text

- Guided reading notes
- Reading comprehension questions



WRITE

Writing workshop



Develop the art of creative writing

- Inspire words
- Your opinion of the story
- Synonyms



TALK

Space for debate



Reflect and construct your opinion, individually and working in a group

- Discussion activity



EXPLORE

Creative studio



Dig deeper into the content in a fun way, using different methods of research

- Name that character!

ANSWERS

Exercise answers and suggestions for the teacher

**READ**

Reading lab

Guided reading notes

Here you can find some tips to help you in your reading sessions in class.

1

Ask: Will Grimdok be defeated? Read up to *I hope it works*. Ask: Why does Grimdok laugh? (He feels powerful.) Ask: Is he really in a good mood? (No, he is teasing the villagers.) What makes the villagers look easy to defeat? (*homemade weapons and brooms versus axes and flaming swords*)

2

Find the phrase *struck a pose* and remember together how important appearance is in magic. Ask: What does Grimdok want? (Colin) Why? (He thinks that Colin is a real threat to him.) Why is Colin worried? (The word 'murmured' suggests that they are considering it.) What impression does 'clutches' give?

3

Would the villagers have handed Colin over in chapter 4? (probably not) Clarify the meaning of 'readied'. Read up to *"...all into snails!"* Ask: Why are the villagers *untouched by flaming swords*? Ask a volunteer to explain the trick. Ask: Which phrase tells us that the army is hurt? (*moans and groans*)

4

Read to the end of the story. How does Colin end up with Grimdok's wand? (Debbie swaps Grimdok's wand for a toy one - probably when Logan knocked him over!) How does the author make Grimdok look ridiculous? (the flowers coming out of his wand)

5

How does Colin turn Grimdok into a rabbit? (He has Grimdok's wand.) How do you know it was an accident? (*accidental, escaped*) What are Colin's plans? (to take Grimdok home and use him in a magic trick where he pulls a rabbit from a hat) How do the villagers feel about Grimdok the Cuddly?

6

Speculate on what might happen in a sequel. (Grimdok could turn back into a wizard and try to do something evil, perhaps.) Share final thoughts about the book. Ask the children to remember favourite parts, using some of the key vocabulary: *illusion, magic, trick, confusion, wizard*.



READ

Reading lab

Name:

Reading comprehension

Answer the following questions about the chapter and explain your answers.

1 What will the villagers use to fight the axes and flaming swords?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

2 Why is Colin worried when the villagers start murmuring?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

3 How do the villagers defeat the army of the undead?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....



READ

Reading lab

Name:

.....

4 Why does Grimdok look ridiculous when he is holding the toy wand?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

5 What are Colin's plans for Grimdok?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

6 What was your favourite part of the book?

.....
.....
.....
.....
.....

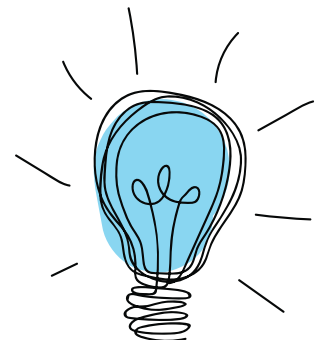
**WRITE**

Writing workshop

Name:

Inspire words

Explore some of the challenging or potentially unfamiliar vocabulary in this chapter to improve children's understanding and enhance the quality of their own writing.

abandon**fury****glee****intimidating****murmured****sinister**

 **WRITE**
Writing workshop

Name:

Your opinion of the story

Now that you have finished *Tricks*, it's time to give your opinion of the story.
Fill in the boxes and then give your overall rating.

The book title

Author

Main plot

What's the story about?

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

Characters

Which characters did you like the most?
Why?

.....

.....

.....

.....


.....

.....

.....

Overall rating

Rate the book from 1 to 5 by filling in the stars and explain your rating.



.....

.....

.....

**WRITE**

Writing workshop

Name:

Synonyms

The author uses some brilliant adjectives, which help us picture the story. Can you match each word on the left with its synonym on the right by drawing a line between them?

confident

unbelievable

powerful

loud

evil

superb

incredible

destructive

spindly

sure

booming

sinister

impressive

strong

devastating

thin



Name:

Discussion activity

In pairs or a small group, talk about the story the author, Cethan Leahy, has written and its ending. You could use your Write worksheet to help you.

Were you pleased with the ending or disappointed?

Did the way the story end come as a surprise or had you already guessed what would happen?

Who was your favourite character in the story?

Which was the funniest moment of the story in your opinion?

Give reasons for your answers.



 **EXPLORE**
Creative studio

Name:

Name that character!

The author gives his characters great names to give us a clue about what they are like or just because they are funny (for example Grimdok the Devastating and Grimdok the Cuddly). Invent a name for the characters in these pictures. Then write a short description of each.



Image © GB Art on fotolia.com

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

.....

ANSWERS

Document for the teacher

Reading comprehension (pp. 4–5)

1. homemade weapons
2. He worries that they are thinking about handing him over.
3. They use mirrors to trick them and a huge hole to trap them.
4. Flowers come out of it.
5. He plans to pull him out of a hat in a magic trick.
6. children's own answer

Synonyms (p. 8)

confident	sure
powerful	strong
evil	sinister
incredible	unbelievable
spindly	thin
booming	loud
impressive	superb
devastating	destructive